

The United Church of Canada
Bathurst Pastoral Charge
First United Church, Bathurst
www.firstunited-bathurst.ca

June 23, 2019

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Organist** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Isabel Clouston **Greeters** Chesley Eddy
Custodian Steve White Nora McLean

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Lectionary for today	Lectionary for next Sunday
<i>1 Kings 19:1-4, 5-7, 8-15a</i> <i>Psalm 42 & 43</i> <i>Galatians 3:23-29</i> <i>Luke 8:26-39</i>	<i>2 Kings 2:1-2,6-14</i> <i>Psalm 77:1-2,11-20</i> <i>Galatians 5:1,13-25</i> <i>Luke 9:51-62</i>

*The asterisk * identifies those times in the service where the congregation is invited to stand as able.*

GATHERING

MUSICAL PRELUDE

***CHORAL OPENING** – “Praise to the Lord” – VU #835 (Verse 1)
Praise to the Lord, all of you, God’s servants.
Blessed be the name of our God now and ever.
From the rising up of the sun—may the Lord be praised,
praise to the name of the Lord!

WELCOME (including our friends worshipping by CD)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)
Holy One, we wait,
and our waiting is for you.
Holy One, we long,
and our longing is for you.
Holy One, we yearn,
and our yearning is for you.

And in silence,
we listen for your Spirit.
And in silence,
we hear our names.
And in silence,
we are found.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** –
“Come and Find the Quiet Centre” – VU #374

PRAYER OF HUMILITY (*a meditation to reflect and to find space*)

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

CHORAL RESPONSE – “How Deep the Peace” – MV #95
How deep the peace, the confidence,
of those whose wrongs are forgiven.
How deep the peace, the confidence,
of those whose hearts are healed.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** (responsively)
The Peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

SHARING A STORY (with children of all ages)

***SINGING A SONG** –
“As the Deer Pants for the Water” – VU #766

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS
[Based on] 1 Kings 19:1-15a
Luke 8:26-39

Anne Brooks

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

ANTHEM – “Bring Many Names”

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE OFFERING IS GATHERED

(in support of the ministry and mission of the church)

***CHORAL RESPONSE –**

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” – VU #541

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.***

***OFFERING PRAYER** (responsively)

As we acknowledge the gifts of money
placed in the plates today,
the gifts of money given through PAR,
and the gifts of time and talent
given throughout the week, we pray:
**We offer these gifts, Holy One,
as a sign of our love.
Amen.**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS –

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” – VU #400

***Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Ecumenical Version) – VU #921 (in unison)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever.
Amen.**

GOING OUT (as God’s people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN –**

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” – VU #651

***BLESSING** (responsively)

...Go now in silence, always listening for God in the world.

Our ears are open to God.

Go now in silence, always listening for love in our neighbourhoods.

Our hearts are open to God.

Go now in silence, always listening for grace in our living.

Our lives are open to God.

Amen.

***CHORAL CLOSING –** “When You Walk from Here” – VU #298

***When you walk from here,
when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy,
and with God’s humble care.***

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Church News

This Week at First United –June 24-June 29

Wednesday	3pm	Office Closed
Friday	Office Closed	Summer Hours

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2019 **900**

Total Collected **418**

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect 17-18 jars of peanut butter per week.

The Volunteer Center supplies, on average, 500 households monthly.



The Upper Room for July and Aug. are in the Narthex. Please feel free to take one. A container for donations is located with the publication.

Notice from the Property Management Team For security reasons, all doors to the sanctuary will be kept locked except the one closest to the office. To enter the church during business hours, please use the St. Patrick Street entrance.

Summer Hours: Starting June 7 until the end of August the church office hours will be Monday - Thursday, 8-4. Closed 12-1.

*Love is to the heart
what the summer is
to the farmer's year —
it brings to harvest
all the loveliest flowers of the soul.
~Author Unknown~*

Community Events

Hospitality Days Breakfast

Saturday, July 20, 2019 \8:00 – 10:30 am

Saint George's Church Hall\432 King Avenue

Tickets: Adults – \$ 7.50, Children 12 and under – \$ 4.00, Family of 4 – \$ 20.00 Tickets available in advance by calling the Church Office at 546-3225 and at the door on July 20th

Chantez Toujours June 24, 2019 7pm First United Church Bathurst. Inspired by the Congrès Mondial Acadien which is taking place in both of their hometowns this year, Prince Edward Island born soprano Robyn Perry and pianist Christine Gollan of Dieppe, New Brunswick are paying homage to their French ancestry through music. The pair have prepared an entirely french program, featuring art songs from France, Québec and Acadie. This light and refreshing program is equally inspired by the flora and fauna of the spring and summer months, and the promise of new and exciting love stories that these seasons bring. Admission : Free will offering.

2019 Quilt Tea @ Central United Clifton, NB

Saturday, July 6th 10 am – 4 pm

Tickets are 10\$ each and include entry to quilt display; sweetbreads & beverages.

Door prizes to be won! Draw of Quilt Raffle to take place (tickets available at Tea)

For tickets for Tea please contact;

Elan Dempsey 548-9160; Debbie Hachey 546-2926,

Shirley Scott 546-8285, Isabel Clouston 548-1500

Warm Thoughts

Love is a quilt

A quilt is love

Both love and a quilt should be:

Soft enough to comfort you

Bright enough to cheer you

Generous enough to enfold you

Light enough to let you move freely

Strong enough to withstand adversity

Durable enough to last a lifetime

And given gladly from the heart.

(Based on] 1 Kings 19:1-15a

Elijah the prophet was well known for obeying God. And, as a prophet, he made it his job to tell others how God wanted them to live. Like other prophets, Elijah sometimes had to tell people in power that they had strayed away from doing what God wanted. That never made the prophets popular in the eyes of those in charge, and Elijah was no exception.

Queen Jezebel was very angry with what Elijah had been saying and vowed that she would not rest until she killed him. Elijah got word of this and ran away.

Elijah did not like being on the run, and said to God, "I might as well give up; I have no future."

I wonder if you have had days like that?

While he was lying there feeling sorry for himself, Elijah had a dream. He heard a voice say, "Get up and eat and drink; you have a long journey ahead of you." When he awoke, he saw bread and a jar of fresh, cool water.

It didn't take too much convincing for Elijah to eat the bread and drink the water because he was very hungry.

Elijah travelled for a long time – many days and nights – and he ended up at Mt. Horeb, a special mountain where the Hebrew people believed God lived. Elijah went into a cave to spend the night.

During the night, while he was asleep, Elijah felt God calling to him.

"What are you doing here, Elijah?" God asked.

"I've been doing just what I thought you wanted me to do," Elijah said. "I have tried to be a good prophet. The people have done some terrible things, and I have challenged them and told them they needed to change their ways. But what do I get for it? No one will have anything to do with me – that is, except those who want to kill me."

"Go stand on the mountain," God said, and so Elijah did.

A huge wind came – a wind so great it sent rocks tumbling down the hill.

Elijah thought God might be in the wind, but Elijah did not find God in the wind.

After the wind, Elijah felt an earthquake. Elijah thought for sure God would be in the earthquake, but Elijah did not find God in the earthquake.

"God *must* be in the fire," Elijah thought. But Elijah did not find God in the fire.

Then everything calmed down. There was not a sound. Elijah listened and heard absolute nothingness. And in the midst of that, Elijah heard God's voice again.

"What are you doing here, Elijah?" God asked again.

"I've been doing just what I thought you wanted," Elijah said, "but all I have gotten for it is people who want to kill me. I'm all alone."

God didn't answer Elijah directly. God simply said, "Go, Elijah, continue on."

Elijah was not sure what lay ahead of him, but somehow he knew that God would be with him and that somehow things would work out. So he got up and headed down the mountain.

Luke 8:26-39 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Jesus Heals the Gerasene Demoniac

²⁶ Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes,^[a] which is opposite Galilee.

²⁷ As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn^[b] no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs.

²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me"—

²⁹ for Jesus^[c] had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.)

³⁰ Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him.

³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons^[d] begged Jesus^[e] to let them enter these. So he gave them permission.

³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country.

³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.

³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed.

³⁷ Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes^[f] asked Jesus^[g] to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned.

³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus^[h] sent him away, saying,

³⁹ "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

