

*The United Church of Canada*  
*Bathurst Pastoral Charge*  
**First United Church, Bathurst**  
[www.firstunited-bathurst.ca](http://www.firstunited-bathurst.ca)

**August 25, 2019**

<b>Minister</b>	Rev. Neal Palmer	<b>Organist</b>	Martha Vickers
<b>Office Adm.</b>	Isabel Clouston	<b>Greeters</b>	Anne Brooks
<b>Custodian</b>	Steve White		Chesley Eddy

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<b>Lectionary for today</b>	<b>Lectionary for next Sunday</b>
<i>Jeremiah 1:4-10</i> <i>Psalm 71:1-6</i> <i>Hebrews 12:18-29</i> <i>Luke 13:10-17</i>	<i>Job 38:1-18</i> <i>Psalm 104:1-9,24-26</i> <i>Ephesians 1:3-10</i> <i>Luke 5:1-11</i>

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

*We welcome Rev. Blair Lewis and thank him for leading our service this morning.*

*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)

**Welcoming:** (responsively)  
 Behold, God is doing a new thing.  
**Here and now,**  
**in the midst of daily life.**  
 God who created heaven and earth  
 forms us afresh today.

**Let our spirits rise to greet our Maker.**

*Isaiah 43:19*

**Lighting of the Christ Candle:** (responsively)  
 Come, let us worship God  
 with the passion and joy of Jeremiah and all the people  
 who sang and danced before the ark of the covenant.

**Let us worship our Savior  
 with the songs of praise  
 and thanksgiving of Luke  
 and all who are blessed  
 with every spiritual blessing.**

As we light the Christ candle ,  
 we celebrate God's blessing in our Lord Jesus Christ.  
 He freed us to be children of God;  
 God's love is sealed by the Holy Spirit.

**Let us worship God.**

**Call to Worship:**

Sculpting God,  
 you give galaxies their form, shape granite mountains,  
 and design butterfly wings.  
 Dancing God,  
 you choreograph the paths of stars  
 and the flight of Canada geese.  
 Singing God,  
 your divine song is sung by sparrows, flowing streams,  
 and the rushing winds.  
 Wonderful God,  
 we rejoice to be a part of the divine world  
 which you love and sustain.

**Prayer of Approach:** (unison)

**O God,**  
**where hearts are fearful and confined,**  
**grant freedom and daring;**  
**where anxiety is infectious and widening,**  
**grant peace and reassurance;**  
**where impossibilities close every door and window,**  
**grant imagination and resiliance.**  
**Where distrust reshapes every understanding,**  
**grant healing and transformation;**  
**where spirits are daunted and dimmed,**  
**grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. Amen.**

ENGAGING

**Hymn:** *'There's a Wideness in God's Mercy'* #271 VU

**Prayer of Confession:** (unison)  
Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
you are the God of glory.  
We confess that we often forget  
that your holiness is challenging.  
We take our insecurities for granted.  
We make excuses for the sins we commit,  
and expect you to overlook the harm we cause  
while still demanding justice from others.  
We do not deserve your mercy.  
Forgive us, and return us  
to a right relationship with you  
for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ.  
You made us for the purpose of praising you;  
enliven us with the Holy Spirit  
so that we can fulfill our calling  
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Words of Assurance:**

According to the riches of His grace  
which God has lavished upon us  
and sealed for us by the Holy Spirit,  
hear this good news, in Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

**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.*

**Sharing a Story:**

**Hymn:** *'Let All Things Now Living'* #242 VU

**Prayer for Understanding:** (unison)  
God, the words you speak have power:  
power to create,  
power to disturb,  
power to heal.  
Help us to hear your Word for us today. Amen.

**Scripture Readings:** Gary Branch  
Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Psalm 71 Part 1, Page 789 VU  
Luke 13:10-17

**Reflection:** "The power of Healing is greater  
than the power of Fear"

**Moment of Silent Reflection:**

**Anthem:** *'I Have Called You by Your Name'*

RESPONDING

**Minute for Mission** Catherine Eddy

**Invitation to the Offering:**

**The Offering is Gathered:**

**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.*

**Prayer of Dedication:**

Gracious triune God,  
we thank you for the suffering love of Jesus Christ,  
and for your presence with us

**in times of joy and of sorrow,  
sickness and health,  
faithfulness and brokenness.  
We bring these offerings  
as a sign of our gratitude  
and as tools in the Ministry of the church.  
Use them and us to make known the good news  
of your healing love and renewing power,  
in the name of Jesus Christ. 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!***

### **Pastoral Prayer:**

(responsively)

Holy God you are the beginning and the end of all that is;  
you are the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
You sent the Holy Spirit to help us in our praying.  
Open our senses to your creation  
and our hearts to the needs of others.

**Grant us faith, hope, and imagination  
to see your vision of the fullness of time  
when weapons will be crushed by peace,  
and stomachs will be filled  
by abundant harvests generously shared.**

**Thirst is quenched by pure rain  
falling from clean skies;  
diseases will be healed, minds made clear,  
and bodies made new,  
so that all things reveal oneness in Christ.**

**O God you know us better than we know ourselves;  
in our prayers this morning  
we share our concerns for our loved ones,  
our friends and neighbors.  
May all who are experiencing  
a challenging time in their lives  
know the experience of hope and peace  
which comes from you.**

Even now, Abba, Father,  
empower us by the Spirit  
to serve Christ and experience love.  
May we share your vision and work in the world  
for which Christ died and rose  
and brought forward completeness in his resurrection.  
We pray these things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer:** - VU #921 (in unison)

*GOING OUT (as God's people)*

### **Announcements:**

**\*Closing Hymn:** 'In Christ There Is No East or West' **#606 VU**

**Commissioning:** (unison)

**Hear our prayers, God of grace.  
Help us to fulfill them  
working according to your purpose  
in peace, justice, and mercy in all we do;  
through Jesus Christ to whom  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all power and glory  
now and forever.**

### **Blessing:**

May the love of God,  
The power of Christ,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
dwell richly in you forever.

**\*Choral Sending Forth – "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 –August 26 – 31, 2019

Monday	3:30	Office Closed
Friday	Office Closed	Summer Hours

### **Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre**

Commitment December 31, 2019 **900**  
Total Collected **537**

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.



**For Pastoral Care Emergencies** during Rev. Palmer's vacation please contact the church office and you will be directed to the replacing personnel.

**The Upper Room** for September and October 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.

### **Broadview** (*Observer*)

Would you like to receive Broadview, a United Church of Canada publication? For a new subscription, please contact the church office at 546-3532 before Monday, Oct 7, 2019. The annual subscription rate is \$25 (Tax included) Renewals are also payable at the office.

### **Sound System Survey:**

Located in the Narthex and available from the greeters is a survey available to be taken over the next four Sundays. Please take one and return when completed to the greeters or drop it into the offering plate. If you notice differences in sound on different Sundays please feel free to complete a survey on more than one Sunday indicating the date the survey is for. The information compiled from the surveys completed will enable us to better understand any issues we may be having with the Sound System.



### ***Beef BBQ***

*Thursday, September 26, 2019*

Donald Eddy Memorial Hall

309 St. Patrick Street

5:00 - 6:30 pm

Takeouts available 4:00 - 5:30 pm

\$15. Adults     \$6. Children (under 12)

*All tickets sold in advance.*

*Tickets available at the office 546-3532  
or from Ways and Means team members.*

*Sponsored by  
Hatheway Auto Group*

## Community Events

### **Family & Community Breakfast**

Saturday, September 14, 2019     8:00 – 10:00 am

Saint George's Church Hall 432 King Avenue

*Healing takes courage,  
and we all have courage,  
even if you have to dig a little.*

*~Tori Amos ~*

## *It Couldn't Be Done*

*Somebody said that it couldn't be done,  
But he with a chuckle replied  
That maybe it couldn't, but he would be one  
Who wouldn't say no till he'd tried.  
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin  
On his face. If he worried he hid it.  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and he did it.*

*Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;  
At least no one ever has done it;"  
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,  
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.  
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,  
Without any doubting or quiddit,  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and he did it.*

*There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,  
There are thousands to prophesy failure;  
There are thousands to point out to you, one by one,  
The dangers that wait to assail you.  
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,  
Just take off your coat and go to it;  
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing  
That "cannot be done," and you'll do it.*

*By Edgar A. Guest*

## **Jeremiah 1:4-10 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

### **Jeremiah's Call and Commission**

<sup>4</sup> Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

<sup>5</sup> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

<sup>6</sup> Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy."

<sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD."

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth.

<sup>10</sup> See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

## **Luke 13:10-17 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

### **Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman**

<sup>10</sup> Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath.

<sup>11</sup> And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight.

<sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment."

<sup>13</sup> When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God.

<sup>14</sup> But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day."

<sup>15</sup> But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water?"

<sup>16</sup> And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?"

<sup>17</sup> When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.