

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

March 22, 2020

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

| | |
|--|--|
| <u>Lectionary for Today</u> Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42 | <u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u> 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41 |
|--|--|

GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

WELCOME (including our friends worshipping by CD)

LIGHTING THE LENTEN CANDLES

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP - "Spirit, Open My Heart" – MV #79

*Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING PRAYER

GATHERING HYMN –

"Water Flowing from the Mountains" – MV #87
Water flowing from the mountains.
Water flowing o'er the earth.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water gives us birth.

Refrain

Drink deep this source of life.

Drink deep and know.

*For living water sings, and living water brings
the love that makes our spirit grow.*

Water rushing down the rivers.
Water rushing to the sea.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water makes us free.

Refrain

Water springing from the dry place.
Water springing in the sun.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water for each one.

Refrain

A LENTEN SPIRITUAL PRACTICE (Helplessness)

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

SINGING A SONG – "This Little Light of Mine" – AGCS #66

This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel (NO!)
I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel (NO!)
I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel (NO!)
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

John 4:5-42

HYMN – “By the Well, A Thirsty Woman” – MV #117

By the well, a thirsty woman
found the life that you could give,
we, too, thirst like empty vessels –
fill us full that we may live.
Jesus, source of living water,
Well-spring bubbling deep within,
By the waters of our baptism
wisdom purpose life begin.

Plant us firm, like trees by water,
send our roots down deep in you,
quench our parched and thirsty spirits
with your water, pure and true.
Jesus, source of living water,
Nourisher of all on earth,
By the waters of our baptism
Quicken growth and give new birth.

-3-

May we be your streams of justice,
as the water, may we move
through your people – by your Spirit
showing mercy, sharing love.
Jesus, source of living water,
Ground-swell forcing truth to view,
By the waters of our baptism
set us free to live for you.

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

SHARING OUR CONCERNS – “Hold Us in Your Grace”

***Hold us in your grace, O God,
Hold us in your grace.***

***Hold us in your grace, O God,
Hold us in your grace.***

***Hold us, hold us in your grace.
Hold us, hold us in your grace.***

(Words: Keri K. Wehlander Music: Bruce Harding and Keri K. Wehlander Words copyright © 2007 Keri K. Wehlander, www.creativeworship.ca. Music copyright © 2007 Keri K. Wehlander and Bruce Harding. All rights reserved. Evensong Worship Resources, www.evensong.ca. Used by permission.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

-4-

THE LORD'S PRAYER – VU #921

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.**

GOING OUT (as God's people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN – "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" – VU #651

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty, hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction, lead me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee
I will ever give to thee.

BLESSING

GOING FORTH – "An Old Irish Blessing"

***May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be ever at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face
and the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again, and until we meet again,
may you be held in the hollow of God's hand.***

POSTLUDE

John 4:5-42 New International Version (NIV)

⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.^[a])

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

¹⁷ "I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

²¹ "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

²⁵ The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

²⁶ Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

The Disciples Rejoin Jesus

²⁷ Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹ "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" ³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

³¹ Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something."

³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about."

³³ Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?"

³⁴ "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. ³⁵ Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. ³⁶ Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ³⁷ Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. ³⁸ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

Many Samaritans Believe

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers.

⁴² They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."