

*The United Church of Canada  
Bathurst Pastoral Charge  
First United Church, Bathurst*

[www.firstunited-bathurst.ca](http://www.firstunited-bathurst.ca)

April 26, 2020

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

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<u>Lectionary for Today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Acts 2:42-47
Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19	Psalms 23
1 Peter 1:17-23	1 Peter 2:19-25
Luke 24:13-35	John 10:1-10

*GATHERING*

**MUSIC AS WE GATHER**

**WELCOME** (including our friends worshipping by CD)

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE** (responsively)

Jesus' life and ministry, his death and resurrection,  
and the story and experience of Easter  
teach of the immense dimensions of God's grace,

**a grace that enfolds with comfort and healing,  
peace and promise, hope and nurture, life and death.**

As we acknowledge and imagine all of that, we remember as well—

**there's always more.**

*(The Christ Candle is lit.)*

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP** - "There Is Room for All" – MV #62

***There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;  
there is room for all, sheltered in God's love.  
And I rejoice and sing, "My refuge and my rock,  
in whom I trust."  
There is room for all, there is room for all!***

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsively)

*(Based on the poem "Do It Anyway," generally attributed to Mother Theresa based on the composition, "The Paradoxical Commandments," by Dr. Kent M. Keith.)*

With God's love,

**R. be a blessing.**

**GATHERING PRAYER**

**GATHERING HYMN** – "Called by Earth and Sky" - MV135

Refrain:

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.  
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,  
Called by earth and sky.

Precious these waters, endless seas,  
Deep ocean's dream,  
Waters of healing, rivers of rain,  
the wash of Love again.

Precious this gift the air we breathe;  
Wind born and free.  
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,  
Our gathering and our grace.

Refrain:

Precious these mountains, ancient sands;  
Vast fragile land.  
Seeds of our waking, rooted and strong,  
Creation's faithful song.

Precious the fire that lights our way  
Bright dawning day.  
Fire of passion, sorrows undone,  
Our faith and justice one.

Refrain:

## PRAYER OF HUMILITY

**CHORAL RESPONSE** – “Kyrie Eleison (Guarani)” – MV #68

*Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison,  
kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison.*

**GREETING ONE ANOTHER** (responsively)

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**SHARING A STORY** (with children of all ages)

**SINGING A SONG** –

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” – VU #575

I'm gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna work so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna pray so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna sing so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

*ENGAGING*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 24:13-35

**HYMN** – “Break Now the Bread of Life” –VU #501

Break now the bread of life, Saviour, to me  
As once you broke the loaves beside the sea.  
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;  
My spirit waits for you, O Living Word.

Bless your own truth, dear Christ, to me, to me,  
As when you blessed the bread by Galilee;  
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall,  
And I shall find my peace, my all in all.

**REFLECTION**

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**GIFT OF MUSIC** – “Shelter Me”

Emma Vickers

(A prayer written during the COVID-19 pandemic)

*RESPONDING*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

*Jini Palmer*

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**OFFERING PRAYER** (in unison)

**Gracious God,  
as we go about our daily tasks,  
as we share the story of our faith,  
as we share our bread with the stranger,  
may we know the presence of Christ,  
and by his presence,  
may our hearts burn with love within us,  
so we may share all of our gifts in gratitude.  
Amen**

**SHARING OUR CONCERNS** – “Holy Spirit, come to us” – MV #75

*Holy Spirit, come to us,  
kindle in us the fire of your love.  
Holy Spirit, come to us.  
Holy Spirit, come to us.*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** (responsively)

Holy One,

bread for all, bread in all, we pray:

**when we're orphaned, hungry, oppressed.** *(Silence)*

Faith for all, faith in all, we pray:

**to recognize faith in other ways, other texts,  
and other worshipping communities.** *(Silence)*

Grace for all, grace in all, we pray:

**when we're estranged, alienated, scorned.** *(Silence)*

Wisdom for all, wisdom in all, we pray:

**when we're disabled, neglected, impoverished.** *(Silence)*

Spirit for all, Spirit in all, we pray:

**for Earth, our children, and a shared, common future.** *(Silence)*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER** – VU #921 (Ecumenical Version) (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** – “We are Pilgrims on a Journey” – VU #595

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
fellow travellers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

Sister, let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping,  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow,  
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

## **BLESSING**

### **CHORAL SENDING FORTH**

*As we go into the future,  
As we tell of the Good News,  
We will show our love for others,  
Just as Christ has told us to.  
We will tell the wondrous story,  
Of a love that's made for you,  
And it's all because of Easter—  
Sing a joyous Hal-le-lu!*

See Gathering Lent 2011 pg. 81 (Tune Promise VU #703)

*Optimism  
is the foundation of courage.  
~Nicholas Murray Butler~*

## *Announcements*

**The Bathurst Volunteer Centre** depends on the generosity of members of the congregation of First United Church to supply it with 900 jars of peanut butter yearly. Because of the restrictions put in place regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, our donations have dropped off considerably. It is our feeling that those who want to continue donating peanut butter during this time can best do it by making out a cheque to the Bathurst Volunteer Centre and sending it directly to the centre at 464 King Avenue, Bathurst, NB, E2A 1P5. It should be clearly marked First United Church Peanut Butter in the lower left corner so that the peanut butter purchased by the centre can be credited to the church. The need is real.

*You are a piece of the puzzle  
of someone else's life.  
You may never know where you fit,  
but others will fill  
the holes in their lives  
with pieces of you.  
~Bonnie Arbon~*

## Luke 24:13-35 New International Version (NIV)

### On the Road to Emmaus

<sup>13</sup> Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles<sup>[a]</sup> from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup> As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup> but they were kept from recognizing him.

<sup>17</sup> He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup> One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

<sup>19</sup> "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup> The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup> but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. <sup>22</sup> In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup> but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

<sup>25</sup> He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup> As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

<sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

<sup>33</sup> They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup> and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." <sup>35</sup> Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.