

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

www.firstunited-bathurst.ca

May 3, 2020

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

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Lectionary for Today	Lectionary for next Sunday
Acts 2:42-47	Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 23	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:19-25	1 Peter 2:2-10
John 10:1-10	John 14:1-14

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)

We gather here, listening for the voice of the giver.

**The Spirit comes to us as a good shepherd,
calling us by name.**

We gather here, longing to follow in just paths of life.

**The Spirit comes to us as a good shepherd,
leading us in right ways.**

We gather here to follow the Holy One,

whose good and steadfast love abounds forever.

GATHERING PRAYER

GATHERING HYMN – "Morning Has Broken" – VU #409

Morning has broken like the first morning,
black-bird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dew fall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

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 READINGS

John 10:1-10
Based on Acts 2:42-47

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

Jini Palmer

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Jini Palmer

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER (in unison)

**Ever-present One,
with this offering, we present ourselves as well:
all that we've been,
all that we are,
all that we'll become,
and last, but certainly not least,
our resolve to walk in your way.
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

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

**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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN – “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing” – VU #559

Come, O Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing
call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger,
precious presence, precious blood.

O, to grace how great a debtor
daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known:
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.

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)

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.

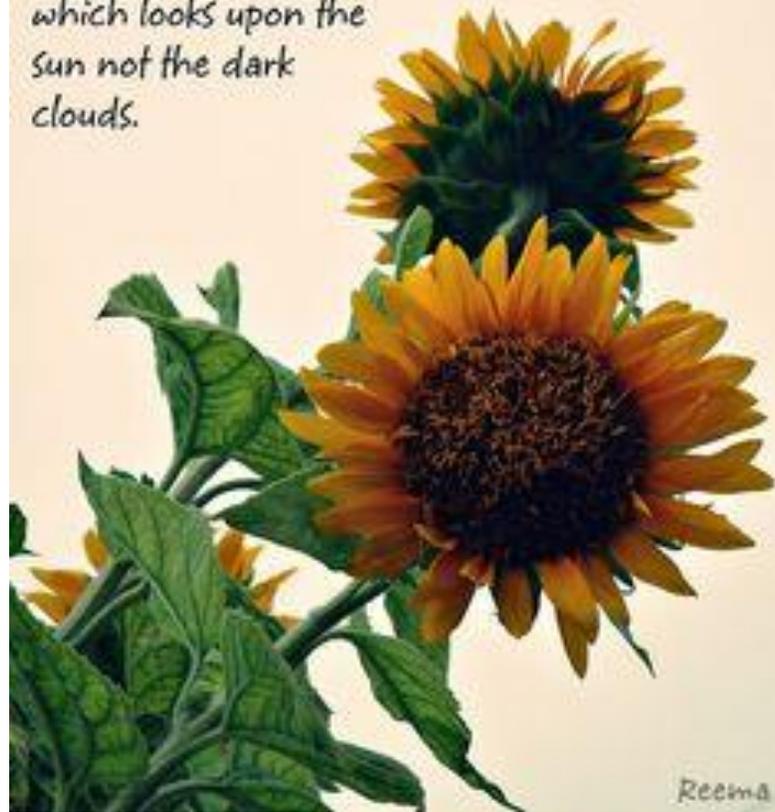
The Volunteer Center would like to thank all those for their continued support of the Peanut Butter Program. A number of cheques have been received by them for the purchase of peanut butter on behalf our church family.

Community Events

Central United Church will be having a plant sale on May 30 from 9 until noon at the hall.

*Happiness
often sneaks in through a door
you didn't know you left open.
~John Barrymore~*

Always look at the
brighter side of life,
just like the sunflower
which looks upon the
sun not the dark
clouds.



John 10:1-10 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Jesus the Good Shepherd

10 “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Acts 2:42-47 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Life among the Believers

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds^[a] to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home^[b] and ate their food with glad and generous^[c] hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.