

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

www.firstunited-bathurst.ca

May 10, 2020

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

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<p><u>Lectionary for Today</u> Acts 7:55-60 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-6a</p>

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)

In the Easter newness and resurrection of this season,
there is hope.

In the Easter freedom and joy of this season,
there is liberation.

In the Easter alleluias and amens of this season,
there is grace.

Christ, after all, is risen!

Alleluia.

GATHERING PRAYER

GATHERING HYMN –

"Would You Bless Our Homes and Families" – VU #556

Would you bless our homes and families,
Source of life who calls us here;
in our world of stress and tension
teach us love that conquers fear.
Help us learn to love each other
with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles,
love's expressed in many ways.

When our way is undemanding,
let us use the time that's ours
to delight in simple pleasures,
sharing joys in gentle hours.
When our way is anxious walking
and a heavy path we plod,
teach us trust in one another
and in you, our gracious God.

From the homes in which we're nurtured,
with the love that shapes us there,
teach us, God, to claim as family
every one whose life we share.
And through all that life may offer,
may we in your love remain;
may the love we share in families
be alive to praise your name.

Let us reach beyond the boundaries
of our daily thought and care
till the family you have chosen
spills its love out every where.
Help us learn to love each other
with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles
love's expressed in many ways.

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 – "Praise Our Maker" – VU #316

Praise our Maker, peoples of one family:
God is love, God is love!
Praise our Maker, peoples of one family:
God is love, God is love!

Love our Saviour, followers of Jesus:
God is love, God is love!
Love our Saviour, followers of Jesus:
God is love, God is love!

Care for others, children of the Spirit:
God is love, God is love!
Care for others, children of the Spirit:
God is love, God is love!

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 7:55-60
John 14:1-6a

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC – "You Raise Me Up"

Emma Vickers

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Jini Palmer

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER (in unison)

**Life-giving One,
please receive our offerings
as tokens of our desire to trust.
May they be agents of help
that proclaim in tangible ways
your love and presence here with us—and always.
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 – 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 –

“Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore” – VU #563

Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.

Refrain

*O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.*

You—know so well my possessions;
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
you will find there my nets and labour.

Refrain

You—need my hands, full of caring
through my labours to give others rest,
and constant love that keeps on loving.

Refrain

You—who have fished other oceans,
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my loving friend, as thus you call me.

Refrain

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)

*Mother,
the ribbons of your love
are woven around my heart.
~Author Unknown~*

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.

Acts 7:55-60 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.

⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.^[a]

John 14:1-6a New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Jesus the Way to the Father

14 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe^[a] in God, believe also in me.

² In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?^[b]

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going."^[c]

⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.