

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

July 26, 2020

**Minister** Rev. Neal Palmer      **Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Christina Doucet      **Greeters**  
**Custodian**

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<u>Lectionary for Today</u> Genesis 29:15-28 Psalm 105:1-11, 45b Romans 8:26-39 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u> Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21
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### GATHERING

#### MUSIC AS WE GATHER

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

#### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

**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** (*spoken by men only*)

#### GATHERING PRAYER

#### GATHERING HYMN – "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" – VU #220

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,  
who rules all creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, all times your  
health and salvation!  
come, all who hear,  
brothers and sisters draw near;  
joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, above all things  
so mightily reigning  
keeping us safe at his side,  
and so gently sustaining.  
Have you not seen  
how all you needed has been  
met by God's gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper  
our work and defend us,  
surely his goodness  
and mercy will daily attend us.  
Ponder anew  
What the Almighty can do,  
Who out of love will befriend us.

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that  
is in me adore Him!  
All that has life and breath, come  
now with praises before Him!  
Let the Amen  
Sound from God's people again;  
Gladly with praise we adore Him.

#### PRAYER OF HUMILITY (responsively)

Men: We, Holy One, haven't always been aware of our privilege  
and power.

Women: (Silence)

**We are a people of inequality and injustice.**

Men: We haven't always understood the impact of silencing on others.

Women: (Silence)

**We are a people who've known and taken for granted ways and laws that disempower and dismiss.**

Men: We haven't always been careful of those who have less opportunity in our world.

Women: (Silence)

**We are a people with a voice, yet we haven't always spoken the truth.**

Men: We're aware as well, Holy One, that we've hurt our own lives and spirits by the actions and inactions we've justified through our privilege.

Women: (Silence)

**We've misunderstood the value of the diversity with which we've been created.**

Men: Teach us, Holy One, to notice the invisible and to hear the voices of the silenced.

Women: (Silence)

**Teach us to move out of the way and to make room in our lives for the "other." Show us how to truly be your people.**

**CHORAL RESPONSE** – "Listen, God Is Calling" – MV #97

*Listen, God is calling,  
through the Word inviting,  
offering forgiveness,  
comfort and joy.*

**GREETING ONE ANOTHER** (responsively)

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

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

Matthew 13:31-33, 45-46

**SINGING A SONG** – "Jesus Loves Me" – VU #365

Jesus loves me! This I know,  
For the Bible tells me so;  
Little ones to Him belong,  
in his love we shall be strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know,  
As he loved so long ago,  
Taking children on his knee,  
Saying, "Let them come to me."  
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me still today,  
walking with me on my way,  
Wanting as a friend to give  
Light and love to all who live.  
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

*ENGAGING*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Genesis 29:15-28

*Bev Murphy*

**REFLECTION**

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**GIFT OF MUSIC** - "Life's Railway to Heaven"

*John & Isabel Clouston*

*RESPONDING*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

*Bev Murphy*

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

**OFFERING PRAYER** (in unison)

**We dedicate this offering, Spirit God,  
to those who've been used, silenced, unseen, and forgotten.  
Bless it, we pray, with the yeast to make spirits rise.  
Transform it into the bread of life for the hungry of the world.  
Make it shine like the jewels of glory discovered by those  
who need strength the most.  
Amen**

**SHARING OUR CONCERNS** – "I Am the Dream" – MV #106 (Vse1)

*I am the dream and you the dreamer.*

*I am the song and you are the rhyme.*

*You are the tune sung in every silence.*

*You are the now in the endless stream of time.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** (responsively)

Holy One,

help us hear the voices of others in our world; help us notice and to care.

Woman #1: Give us the strength to speak up, Holy One, and to tell our stories; show us the places in the world where our realities can be held as true and holy and valuable.

Woman #2: We thank you, Holy One, that we've been given the diversity of experience from which to learn and to grow.

Men: (Silence)

Woman #1: We thank you, Holy One, for walking this journey with us and for giving us companions in love and justice.

Woman #2: Show us how to be a people united and in true communion with each other.

**For all who feel silenced, we lift our voices in compassion;  
for all who feel treated like property,  
we pray for dignity and renewal;  
for all who've suffered the indignities of patriarchy  
and the oppressions of power-mongering,  
we pray for healing and wholeness.  
May we be one.  
May we be true in our pursuit of your ways.**

**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.**

*GOING OUT (as God's people)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CLOSING HYMN** – "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" – VU #602

Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The unity of heart and mind  
Is like to that above.

Before our Maker's throne,  
We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one--  
Our comforts and our cares.

We share each others woes;  
each others burdens bear;  
And often for each other flows  
The sympathizing tear.

This glorious hope revives  
our courage on the way  
that we shall live in perfect love  
in God's eternal day.

## BLESSING

**CHORAL SENDING FORTH – “When You Go From This Place”**

***When you go from this place be true.***

***May blessing of life find you.***

***May the winds of the Spirit guide you,***

***'cross the ocean of all your days.***

***May the seeds of your love your life adorn the Way.***

***Adorn the Way.***

***Adorn the Way.***

***Adorn the Way.***

*(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)*

# Church News

**Peanut Butter Update:** To date, 231 jars have been collected and \$760.00 towards the purchase of Peanut Butter has been given to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. Peanut butter can be dropped off at the church office anytime during business hours, r cheques can be delivered or mailed to the Bathurst Volunteer Center at 464 King Ave. Bathurst NB E2A 1P5. Please indicate on your cheque that it is for the purchase of Peanut Butter for the First United contribution.

**Summer Hours:** Starting June 1 until the end of August the church office hours will be Monday - Thursday, 8-4. Closed 12-1.

**Trinity Cemetery:** For your convenience, there has been a hand pump installed on the well at Trinity Cemetery. You will find this located close to the utility shed.

**Best Wishes!** A most genuine appreciation is extended to Isabel on her retirement after serving our church community as Office Administrator for over 11 years. She has been always willing and capable in assisting our Pastoral Care Team's responsibilities to our church family. Her promptness and accessibility in updating pertinent information and responding to any of our requests has been much appreciated.

We trust you and John will enjoy your time together and have many years to enjoy a healthy happy retirement!

Most Sincerely,  
Pastoral Care Team  
Gwen Sturgeon

**A sincere Thanks** to those contributing to the continuing online services which are being enjoyed by members of our congregation and many others!

Emma with her wonderful musical talents and offerings will be missed!

The words of the hymns being shown online with relaxing backgrounds will be enjoyed by those who wish to sing along. The anthem by Isabel and John with the accompanying pics was a nice remembrance. Also it is nice to hear the chimes being an integral part of the service.

The time and talents of all participants are much appreciated to enable us to maintain our church community contacts in a safe way.

Pastoral Care Team

Matthew 13:31-33, 45-46

### **The Parable of the Mustard Seed**

<sup>31</sup> He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup> it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

### **The Parable of the Yeast**

<sup>33</sup> He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with <sup>[a]</sup> three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

<sup>45</sup> "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup> on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Genesis 29:15-28

### **Jacob Marries Laban's Daughters**

<sup>15</sup> Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" <sup>16</sup> Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. <sup>17</sup> Leah's eyes were lovely, <sup>[a]</sup> and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. <sup>18</sup> Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." <sup>19</sup> Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." <sup>20</sup> So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

<sup>21</sup> Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." <sup>22</sup> So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. <sup>23</sup> But in the evening he took

his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. <sup>24</sup> (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) <sup>25</sup> When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" <sup>26</sup> Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. <sup>27</sup> Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." <sup>28</sup> Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.