

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

August 2, 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 32:22-31 Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u> Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33
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GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

WELCOME (including our friends worshipping by CD)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP - "Come and Find the Quiet Centre" -
VU #374 (Vs. 1)

*Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter;
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.*

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Let your faces shine with the joy of a new day;

for in our faces the light of the Spirit's love shines forth!

Lay the struggles of the week behind, but don't deny them;

**for it can be through our struggles that the Spirit is revealed
to us most deeply.**

Let's raise our voices in word and in prayer;

for it's through our voices that the Spirit's song is heard.

GATHERING PRAYER

GATHERING HYMN – "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" – VU #375

Refrain

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.*

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.

You swept thro' the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with their idols and lies,
then you spoke thro' your prophets to open their eyes.

Refrain

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew thro' your people
on the rush of the wind.

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams,
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
with bold new decisions your people arise.

Refrain

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

CHORAL RESPONSE – "Take, O Take Me as I Am" – MV #85

*Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.*

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 14:14-19

SINGING A SONG – "The Church Is Wherever God's People" – VU #579

The church is wherever God's people are praising,
singing God's goodness for joy on this day.
The church is wherever disciples of Jesus
remember his story and walk in his way.

The church is wherever God's people are helping,
caring for neighbours in sickness and need.
The church is wherever God's people are sharing
the words of the Bible in gift and in deed.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Jini Palmer

Genesis 32:22-31

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

Martha Vickers

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER (in unison)

For the ways we can see, feel, touch, smell, speak of, and taste your generosity and kindness, Holy One, we give thanks.

Bless these givings, we pray, that we might encounter you beyond this moment and place, that we too may have the privilege of wrestling with you.

Amen

SHARING OUR CONCERNS – “Put Peace into Each Other’s Hands”
– MV #173 (Verse 5)

Reach out with friendship, stay with faith
in touch with those around you.
Put peace into each other’s hands;
the Peace that sought and found you.

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 – “Will You Come and Follow Me” – VU #567

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the “you” you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found to re-shape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go where your love and foot-steps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

BLESSING

CHORAL SENDING FORTH – “May the God of Peace” – MV #224

May the God of peace and of all good,

may the God of peace and of all good

be always with you. Amen!

May God’s peace be with you. Amen!

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

Church News

The bulletin today is dedicated
In loving memory of George Jardine
By his wife, Bernice.

Peanut Butter Update: To date, 256 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

Matthew 14:14-19

¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

Genesis 32:22-31

²² The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man^[a] said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel,^[b] for you have striven with God and with humans,^[c] and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel,^[d] saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip