

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

August 9th, 2020

Minister Rev. Blair Lewis **Music Director** Linda Knowles
MacPherson
Office Adm. Christina Doucet **Greeters**
Custodian

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<u>Lectionary for Today</u> Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u> Genesis 45:1-15 Psalm 133 Romans 11:1-2a,29-32 Matthew 15:(10-20),21-28
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We express our appreciation to: Linda Knowles McPherson, Chesley Eddy, Donald Eddy, Anne-Marie Hocquard, Julia Henry Bev Murphy and Rev. Blair Lewis for being involved in the production of our service today.

GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP—"Come and Find the QuietCentre"—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.

Christ said: "come away to a quiet place and rest a while".
God calls us to a place of calm and rest, even as we continue to reach out to those in need.

**Show us the hidden things,
the creatures of our dreams,
the storehouse of forgotten memories and hurts.**

Take us down to the summer of our lives.
Tell us our nature,
and give us our place and role in life.

**In lighting the Christ candle our prayer is that with God's help we will discover freedom to grow, so that I may become that self;
the seed of which God planted in me at my making.
Out of the depths I reach out to you, O God.**

GATHERING OF WORSHIP:

CALL TO WORSHIP:

God has given us this beautiful earth,
all that grows, all that lives upon it.

Thanks be to God.

God has given us breath to live and spirit to sing.

Thanks be to God.

God has gathered us into a community of care and worship.

Let us worship God with love, thanksgiving and praise.

WELCOMING (including our friends worshipping by CD)

Therefore, since we are receiving a love that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe.

Hebrews 12:28

Gathering Prayer:

Loving God, open our hearts
that we may feel the breath and play of your Spirit.
Unclench our hands
that we may reach out to one another,
and touch and be healed.
Open our lips
that we may drink in the delight and wonder of life.
Open our eyes
that we may see Christ in friend and stranger.
Breathe your Spirit into us,
and touch our lives with the life of Christ. Amen.

Gathering Hymn: "It is No Secret"

The chimes of time ring out the news
Another day is through.
Someone slipped and fell.
Was that someone you?

You may have longed for added strength
Your courage to renew.
Do not be disheartened.
I have news for you.

It is no secret what God can do.
What He's done for others, He'll do for you.
With arms wide open He'll pardon you.
It is no secret what God can do.

There is no night; for in His light
You'll never walk alone.
You'll always feel at home.
Wherever you may roam.

There is no power can conquer you
While God is on your side.
Take Him at His promise.
Don't run away and hide.

It is no secret what God can do.
What He's done for others, He'll do for you.
With arms wide open He'll pardon you.
It is no secret what God can do. -3-

Prayer of Humility:

When we have afflicted others
whether by our own power
or by our silent support of systems
which oppress, enslave and crush.

Break us, Lord.

When we have perplexed others
and purposely confused them for our own gain
or driven them to despair.

Break us, Lord.

When we have persecuted others,
casting them out of our community
leaving them forsaken and alone.

Break us, Lord.

When we have struck down others
casting stones on their dreams and hopes
until they are destroyed.

Break us, Lord.

Then broken, we carry in our bodies
the death of Jesus
so that the life of Jesus
may be made visible in our bodies.

Make us, Lord.

With the power which belongs only to you,
make us into your treasure.

Make us, Lord.

We are the clay, and you are the potter.
We are the work of your hands.

Make us, Lord.

Do not be exceedingly angry
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people. Amen.

Choral Response: "Listen God is Calling" MV#97

Listen, God is calling
Through the word inviting
Offering forgiveness,
Comfort and joy.

Words of Assurance:

Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether;
 the past is finished and gone;
 everything has become fresh and new.
 Friends, believe the Good News of the gospel;
 in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Greeting one another:

Sharing a Story (with children of all ages) Matthew 14: 22-31-
 Chesley Eddy

Hymn: "Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore" #563 VU

Lord, you have come to the lakeshore
 Looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
 You only asked me to follow humbly

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

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

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

Refrain-

O Lord, 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.

Prayer for Understanding:

God, the words you speak have power: power to create, power to disturb, power to heal. Help us to hear your Word for us today.
 Amen.

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 119 , Part 3 Page 839 VU -

Chesley Eddy

Teach me, O God, the way of your statutes, and I will keep it unto the end.

Reflection: "Choices" Rev Blair Lewis**Moment of Silent Reflection:****Gift of Music:**

Linda Knowles Macpherson

Minute for Mission:

Bev Murphy

Invitation To the Offering:**I am the dream, you are the dreamer #106 MV**

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.

Prayer of Dedication:

In the name and in the spirit of Jesus,
 we bring our gifts to you, O God.
 Help us to give with them
 a ready mind,
 a willing spirit
 and a joyful heart. **Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer:

Lord, have mercy on us;
Christ, have mercy upon us;
grant us your peace.

We pray for all who are experiencing serious illness and uncertainty in their lives. May they and their caregivers know the certainty of your love as we face overwhelming challenges.

(Pause)

Through your love, O God hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have no peace: for children, women and men whose homes have been destroyed by war and whose minds have been damaged by what they've seen or experienced.

We pray for all who are hungry or thirsty or ill because they are refugees or poor or underpaid or trapped in trafficking.

Through your love O God hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are called to be peacemakers: leaders of governments , business ,and nongovernmental organizations; leaders of churches ,scholars, scientists and educators; community organizers ,citizens and all who are privileged to take personal initiatives in their community and country.

Through your love O God hear our prayer.

We pray for our world during the uncertainty of the pandemic. Like the children of Israel we are experiencing unexpected challenges that leads to inner turmoil.

May your love calm our souls.

Give us strength and courage and faith to trust Jesus Christ and to be his advocates for the good of the creation you are redeeming.

To the glory of the One who redeems us all, who with You and the Holy Spirit, we worship now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

*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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.*

Closing hymn: "Whispering hope

*"Soft as the voice of an angel,
Breathing a lesson unheard,
Hope with a gentle persuasion
Whispers her comforting word:
Wait till the darkness is over,
Wait till the tempest is done,
Hope for the sunshine tomorrow,
After the shower is gone.*

Refrain:

*Whispering hope, oh, how welcome thy voice,
Making my heart in its sorrow rejoice.
If, in the dusk of the twilight,
Dim be the region afar,
Will not the deepening darkness
Brighten the glimmering star?
Then when the night is upon us,
Why should the heart sink away?
When the dark midnight is over,
Watch for the breaking of day.*

Refrain

*Hope, as an anchor so steadfast,
Rends the dark veil for the soul,
Whither the Master has entered,
Robbing the grave of its goal;
Come then, oh, come, glad fruition,
Come to my sad weary heart;
Come, O Thou blest hope of glory,
Never, oh, never depart.*

Commissioning:

Like the woman who ran to share the Good News
of the empty tomb,

let us go forth with joy.

Like the travellers walking on the Emmaus Road,

let us go forth with opened eyes.

Like the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit,

let us go forth with peace.

Like Thomas, filled with doubt,

let us go forth with faith.

Like fishers pulling heavy nets,

let us go forth with abundant life.

Blessing:

Lord, help us not to dwell too much on the past.

We do not want to hold you to the Galilean hills and the streets of
Jerusalem,

but to know you more and more

as present Lord and Saviour:

risen, ascended, and always present with us through the power of the
Holy Spirit. Amen.

"May the good Lord bless and keep you."

May the good Lord bless and keep you whether near or far away

May you find that long awaited golden day today

May your troubles all be small ones and your fortunes ten times ten

May the good Lord bless and keep you till we meet again

May you walk with sunlight shining and a bluebird in every tree

May there be a silver lining back on every cloud you see

Fill your dreams with sweet tomorrows never mind what might have
been

May the good Lord bless and keep you till we meet again

May the good Lord bless and keep you till we meet again

Church News

The bulletin today is dedicated

In loving memory of Sprague Wisemen

By Holly & Randy Vibert, Joy Wisemen and Family.

Announcements:

- Rev. Blair Lewis will be replacing Rev. Neal Palmer for the following service on August 9th, 2020.
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- It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Robert (Bob) Losier, on August 2nd 2020. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Judy Losier and family.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with the citizens of Beirut Lebanon, the victims of the explosion, all who were injured, their families, loved ones and friends, may the spirit of God, be with them as they work to rebuild their lives.

Peanut Butter Update: To date, 260 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, 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.

Jesus Walks on the Water ²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, ^[a] for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, ^[b] he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

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Teach me, O God, the way of your statutes
And I will keep it unto the end.

Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
And observe it with my whole heart.
Lead me in the path of your commandments,
For I fit in it.
Incline my heart to your testimonies,
And not to selfish gain!

Turn my eyes from the looking vanities;
And give me life in your ways.
Confirm to your servant your promise,
Which is for those who fear you.

Turn away the reproach which I dread,
For your ordinances are good.
Behold, I long for your precepts,
In your righteousness give me life!

Message: "Choices"