

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

August 30th, 2020

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

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We express our appreciation to: Rev. Austin Jagoe, Donald Eddy, Bev Murphy, for being involved in the production of our service today.

<u>Lectionary for Today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Exodus 3:1-15	Exodus 12:1-14
Psalms 105:1-6,23-26,45b	Psalms 149
Romans 12:9-21	Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 16:21-28	Matthew 18:15-20

GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER: Musical Prelude:)

WELCOMING: (including our friends worshipping by CD)

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:

One: As we begin our worship, we here, and you there in your homes, we pause together to light the Christ Candle.

(the candle is lit)

All: The Candle reminds that Jesus Christ is the LIGHT of the world, and he is the center of everything we are.

One: May the light of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

GATHERING HYMN Spirit, open my heart MV 79

Refrain:

**Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
In receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.**

God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
To your grace I now surrender.

Refrain

Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word and deed,
May my living bring you glory.

Refrain

May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
May we welcome one another.

Refrain

CENTERING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP:

One: Come, all who are tired and thirsty

All: God the Good Shepherd leads us to grassy meadows and restful waters.

One: Come all who are anxious and afraid.

All: God protects us and leads us through dark valleys.

One: Come all who are empty and exhausted.

All: God fills our lives with goodness and faithful love.

One: Come to be refreshed, to rest and receive.

THE PRAYER OF APPROACH:

Comforting God, we approach you today
 standing on the shorelines of our lives,
 standing at the in-between time
 of the recent past and the now
 So much has happened in the past several months,
 so we come to you seeking connections
 between the waters of creation and the dry land
 we stand on this morning.

May our approaching you this morning
 fill us with a love greater than we have ever experienced.
 And may the Holy Spirit seek us out, inspiring us, and bring us to a
 place where our family of faith will be made even stronger by your
 living loving presence, even while separated from one another
 In Christ's name we worship and pray. **Amen**

GREETING ONE ANOTHER:

Our minds and hearts go out to people who are usually gathered with
 us
 -remember people we sat in worship with
 -in normal times able to shake hands

PATTY PUPPET: A time for children of all ages

CHILDREN'S HYMN: " I am the Church, AGCS 84"
 "We Are the Church" – AGCS #84

Refrain

I am the church! You are the church!
 We are the church together!
 All who follow Jesus, all around the world!
 Yes, we're the church together!

The church is not a building,
 the church is not a steeple,
 the church is not a resting place,
 the church is a people.

Refrain

And during times of trouble,
 when we must stay apart,
 I'm sending you all air hugs,
 Spring rainbows on the double!

Refrain**PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING:**

God of Wisdom, you teach us with your love...teach us again as we
 ready our scripture lessons for this day.

SCRIPTURE READING: from the NIV

Exodus 3:1-15

Matthew 16:21-28

SCRIPTURE THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

GIFT OF MUSIC: John and Isabel

"What a friend we have in Jesus"

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Bev. Murphy

INVITATION TO PRESENT OUR OFFERING: Presenting of gifts
 and self to God-

As Jesus' followers, we have the privilege of taking part in the
 redeeming work God has begun in the world. Today we offer our gifts
 in anticipation that God will use them-and us- in that work! Let us
 present our offering.....

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:(in unison)

O God, we offer these gifts to you in hope and thanksgiving. Use
 them to transform the world you love with the Good News we
 celebrate in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER TIME:

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION:

HEALING PRAYER-ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Merciful God,

-we confess that we have strayed from your purposes

-you set for us a path for us to follow, but we conform to the ways of this world

-you offer us your transforming love, but we cling to familiar patterns and habits

-you give each of us gifts to use for the work of your kingdom, but we wait for others to do what needs doing,

Forgive us for taking the easy way out and failing serve you with eager hearts.

PASTORAL PRAYERS: Prayers of the People

O Loving God – we have spent this precious time – separated physically – but near to one another and you by the Spirit...

-we have read and listened to your word...trying to know you better...and ourselves better,,,,,-reaching out to you...trying to feel your nearness to us here – and there – wherever we are...we are one in the spirit..

O Merciful One – you bring light to our shadowed existence right now

-you offer satisfaction to our hunger, and offer us hope to our times of despair

O Merciful One, you can free us from the burdens we carry – our fears – our sadness and mourning – our sense of not always being up to the job you give us. Remind us again that we are not alone – your steadfast love endures forever.

Teach us O God in our struggle to be the church

-by how we care for one another = and to show that care of one another, how we continue our ministry as the church of Jesus...

Take away our pride, O God, that we may continually ask for your help and care...especially when we are tempted to carry too much on our own...

O God, as a family of faith, draw us together in your love shown to us in Jesus Christ – show us ways to encourage one another – so that we may see and

know your glory in the words and actions of one another....

QUIET TIME:

LORD'S PRAYER:

CLOSING HYMN: "Blessed assurance, VU 337"

Blessed assurance, Jesus us mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of the spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

Perfect submission, perfect delight!
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight,
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
This my story, this my song, praising my Savior all day long;
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love.

BLESSING:

As we end our time of worship and praise we ask that you will go with
is...strengthening us...leading us – so that we may be faithful to the
ministry you place before us.

And may the grace of Jesus, the love of God, and the guidance of the
Holy Spirit be with us now and always. **Amen**

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.) -

Church News

*In recognition of the 90th
birthday of Isabel MacLaggen
her family has made a combined donation
of \$800.00 to the First United Church.*

Community announcements:

"Help Lesotho" Calendars

The Anglophone School District – North has been sponsoring "Help Lesotho" since 2006 as part of its global awareness initiative. As a fund raiser where all of the money raised goes to help finance its work with orphans, vulnerable children, and grandmothers in Lesotho, Africa; "Help Lesotho" has 2021 calendars for sale at a cost of \$15.00. You are invited to support this initiative with your donation. Gary Branch (546-9208) (egbranch@rogers.com) will be taking orders for these calendars until October 13, 2020. Payment can be made in advance by cash or cheque or when the calendars are delivered in November. Cheques are to be made payable to "Help Lesotho".

Announcements:

Helen Knowles will be replacing on September 6th.

In case of an emergency contact Rev. Sue White at (546-4817)

Peanut Butter Update: To date, 284 jars have been collected .Peanut butter can be dropped off at the church office anytime during business hours.

Regular hours: Starting August 30th, the Church hours will be back to regular hours. Monday-Friday from 8am-4pm, closed 12 until 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.

EXODUS 3:1-15

Moses and the Burning Bush

3 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

⁴ When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

⁵ "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

¹² And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

¹³ Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.'

"This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.

Matthew 16:21-28

Jesus Predicts His Death

²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

²⁸ "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."