

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

March 7, 2021

Minister - Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** - Martha Vickers

Office Adm - Margaret Daniels **Custodian** - Steve White

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<u>Lectionary for Today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Exodus 20:1-17 Based on Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22	Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21

The bulletin is placed in loving memory of Paula Lockhard

by Betty Garrett & Family

GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

WELCOME

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP "O God We Call" - VU # 411

*O God we call, O God we call,
from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn for you.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING PRAYER

GATHERING HYMN

"When Long before Time" VU #248

When long before time and the worlds were begun,
when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
and all was deep silence and night reigned supreme,
and even our Maker had only a dream...

...the silence was broken when God sang the Song,
and light pierced the darkness and rhythm began,
and with its first birthcries creation was born,
and creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.

The sounds of the creatures were one with their Lord's,
their harmonies sweet and befitting the Word;
the Singer was pleased as the earth sang the song;
the choir of the creatures reechoed it long.

Though, down through the ages, the Song disappeared,
its harmonies broken and almost unheard,
the Singer comes to us to sing it again:
our God is with us in the world now as then.

The Light has returned as it came once before;
the Song of the Lord is our own song once more;
so let us all sing with one heart and one voice
the song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.

To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise;
to you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise;
to you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,
be glory forever, through life and through death.

LENTEN TENEBRAE

Lent 3 – Psalm 19

...Forgive us those times we fail to keep your commandments. Forgive us the faults we hide, those things we're ashamed of and consequently keep buried deep within. Free us from this weight and touch us with light and mercy.

(Silent confession as third candle is extinguished.)

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New" - MV #115

***Behold, behold, I make all things new
beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold, behold, I make all things new,
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.***

GREETING ONE ANOTHER

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

SINGING A SONG

"We Are the Church" - AGCS #84 *Emma Vickers*
(Revised for COVID-19 pandemic) *Previously recorded April 11, 2020*

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 the 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

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Wayne Lord

Exodus 20:1-17

Based on Psalm 19

John 2:13-22

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

Martha Vickers

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

**Holy One,
bless these, our gifts.
May they, we pray, be beacons of light.
Amen**

MUSICAL REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 "Though Ancient Walls" – VU #691

Through ancient walls may still stand proud
and racial strife we fact,
though boundaries may be lines of hate,
proclaim God's saving act!

Refrain
Walls that divide are broken down;
Christ is our unity!
Chains that enslave are thrown aside;
Christ is our liberty!

When vested power stands firm entrenched
and breaks another's back,
when waste and want live side by side,
it's Gospel that we lack.

Refrain

The truth we seek in varied scheme,
the life that we pursue,
unites us in a common quest
for self and world made new.

Refrain

The church divided seeks that grace,
that newness we proclaim;
a unity of serving love
that lives praise to God's name!

Refrain

This broken world seeks lasting health
and vital unity.
God's people by God's Word renewed,
cast off all slavery!

Refrain

BLESSING

CHORAL SENDING FORTH – "An Old Irish Blessing"

May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be ever at your back.
May sun shine warm upon your face
and the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
and until we meet again,
may you be held
in the hollow of God's hand.

Church News

Please note the office hours are Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, closed for lunch from 12:00 to 12:30.

Peanut Butter Update As of March 4, 2021, 77 jars of Peanut Butter have been collected to go to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. Peanut butter can be dropped off at the church office anytime during office 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.

A series of educational events are being offered by the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council Affirm Standing Committee.

The webinars will each take place from 2:00pm – 3:00pm (Atlantic) using zoom video conferencing.

You are welcome to join.

The next event is now open for registration:

March 10, 2021: Becoming an Anti-Racist Church

Register Now! Using this link: <https://ucceast.ca/affirm-committee/>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the event.

Future Dates (Registration and details to follow closer to the event dates):

April 15, 2021: What is Ableism?

May 13, 2021: Creating Safe Spaces

Highlights – Bathurst Pastoral Council

January 28, 2021 by Isabel MacLaggan

Participating in the Zoom meeting were Sandra Boone, chair; Brenda Parrott, vice-chair; Judy Losier, secretary; Ian Oliver; Rick Watling; Anne Brooks; Wayne Lord; Lester Scott; Isabel MacLaggan and Rev. Neal Palmer.

Following prayer by Rev. Palmer, Council heard details of the financial status as highlighted by Ian Oliver, chair of the Financial Management Team.

Ian said indications are it will be a “break even” picture as of the end of 2020 and that the \$26,000 wage subsidy helped. He said the problem is “the coming year” as it will be hard to come up with a realistic budget but “hopefully it will work out”.

It was noted that Mission and Service contributions presented a good picture.

Reporting as Co-chair of Ways and Means, Wayne Lord said meal preparation is out of the question as long as our zone status is orange. Should it turn to yellow, he felt there would be enough support to put on a meal but “nothing is planned at this point”.

Rick Watling, as Nominations chair, said he will be checking to determine the wishes of Council and Team members for the coming year.

Christian Development Chair Brenda Parrott reported the Team has held virtual meetings in order to support the minister and organist.

Reporting for Pastoral Care, Isabel MacLaggan said, in spite of Covid-19, the Team still has to be and is concerned for seniors and shut-ins. Gwen Sturgeon sent about 75 Christmas cards. Gift cards were included in some of them as determined at a Team meeting.

The usual congratulatory, sympathy and thinking of you cards are being sent as usual and Team members continue to keep in touch. Congregants are encouraged to notify the Team of any phone calls needing to be made or cards to be sent especially in these Covid restrictive times.

As chair of Ministry and Personnel, Wayne Lord said the new office administrator, Margaret Daniels, commenced duties about the same time the orange phase was initiated. Work hours have been reduced from 35 to 30 hours, five days a week.

Custodian Steve White’s hours have been increased somewhat for security purposes, as requested by Property Management Chair Lester Scott and his Team.

The UCW report revealed that more than \$1,900. was received for the Poinsettia Fund. Anne Brooks said the annual World Day of Prayer service will be held at Evangel Pentecostal Church which is set up for it. The service is on Friday March 2.

Dates for our annual congregational meeting and the next Council meeting were left to the Council executive. Meanwhile reports to be included in the annual meeting booklet are to be sent to the office immediately. The deadline was February 19.

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

EXODUS 20:1-17

20 Then God spoke all these words:

2 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;

3 you shall have no other gods before me.

4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me,

6 but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

8 Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.

9 For six days you shall labour and do all your work.

10 But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns.

11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

12 Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

13 You shall not murder.

14 You shall not commit adultery.

15 You shall not steal.

16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

17 You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

BASED ON PSALM 19 (HOW BEAUTIFUL IS GOD'S CREATION!)

I look up and think, "How beautiful is God's Creation!"
There is so much blue sky today;
there are so many puffy white clouds;
there is the sun moving across the sky, from east to west.

On some days the clouds come together
to pour rain down on me and the earth;
filling the rivers, the lakes and the seas.
But on days and nights like this,
there is only this amazing huge sky above.
It seems so separate from the earth,
like an upside-down bowl placed upon our world.

But, of course, all are connected in God's creation!
And I am part of it all – this awesome nature.
My actions connect with everything – earth and sky, water and air.
Like a pebble dropped into water,
what I do in my life makes ripples
that move out further and further,
touching things that are far away from me.

Nothing I do is hidden from God and God's creation.
So, I have learned that more important than anything
is to care for creation, to keep it from harm, to love it,
like I love my most valuable possession or tastiest sweet.

God, I have such thoughts and words of love for you and your creation.

Please accept them as my gift and my promise to you, dear Creator,
to live faithfully always.

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

JOHN 2:13-22

13 The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

14 In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables.

15 Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.

16 He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"

17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

18 The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?"

19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

20 The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?"

21 But he was speaking of the temple of his body.

22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.