

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

March 14, 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>
Numbers 21:4-9	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22	Psalms 51:1-12
Ephesians 2:1-10	Hebrews 5:5-10
John 3:14-21	John 12:20-33

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

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" VU #333

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

LENTEN TENEBRAE

Lent 4 – Psalm 107

...Forgive us and fill us with courage that in times of trouble, we may be among those who stand firm in your calling and are led in a straight way by your steadfast love.

(Silent confession as fourth 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

"Jesus, Friend of Little Children" VU #340

Jesus, friend of little children,
let me be one too;
take my hand, and ever keep me
close to you.

Teach me how to grow in goodness,
daily as I grow.
You have been a child, and surely
you must know.

Never leave me, nor forsake me;
ever be my friend;
for I need you, from life's dawning
to its end.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

John 3:14-21

Helen Knowles

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

"O Perfect Wisdom"

Emma Vickers

Previously recorded May 24, 2020

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

**Holy One,
we choose to give, as a way of giving thanks
for the gifts we've received,
for the love we've shared,
and for the healing we've felt.
Amen**

MUSICAL REFLECTION

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)

Church News

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN "Lord, Speak to Me"

VU #589

Lord, speak to me that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let me seek
your straying children lost and lone.

O lead me, so that I may lead
the wandering and the wavering feet;
O feed me, so that I may feed
your hungering ones with manna sweet.

O teach me, so that I may teach
the precious truths which you impart;
and wing my words, that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with your fullness, Lord,
until my very heart o'er flows
in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show.

BLESSING

CHORAL SENDING FORTH

"An Old Irish Blessing"

Emma Vickers

Previously recorded March 29, 2020

***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.***

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 11, 2021, 87 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.

Exciting & Positive News: We are planning to resume in-person worship services next Sunday, March 21, 2021. **If you plan to attend** the service, please call the church office at 546-3532 no later than Wednesday, and give Margaret the name(s) and phone number(s) for yourself and anyone in your bubble who will be sitting with you. A seating plan will be pre-arranged based on the required physical distancing rules. *As seating capacity will be much less than usual, please call the office if your plans change and you are unable to attend.* On-line services will continue, most likely delayed, as the in-person service will be recorded and then uploaded to the church website and Facebook page.

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

Future webinars will each take place from 2:00pm – 3:00pm (Atlantic) using zoom video conferencing and you are welcome to join.

The future dates are:

April 15, 2021: What is Ableism?

May 13, 2021: Creating Safe Spaces

Registration and details to follow closer to the event dates

Register using this link: <https://ucceast.ca/affirm-committee/>

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

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

NUMBERS 21:4-9

4 From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way.

5 The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food."

6 Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.

7 The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

8 And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live."

9 So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble

3 and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

17 Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction;

18 they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress;

20 he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.

21 Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

22 And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

JOHN 3:14-21

14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

18 Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

19 And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.

20 For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed.

21 But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."