

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

May 16, 2021

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Greeters** Peter Gammon
Custodian Steve White Edie Gammon

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Lectionary for today	Lectionary for next Sunday
Genesis 18:1-8 Matthew 25:35-45	Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:24-34,35b Romans 8:22-27 John 15:26-27;16:4b-15
<i>We welcome Helen Knowles who is leading us today in worship. Thank you!</i>	

*The asterisk * identifies those times in the service where the congregation is invited to stand as able.*

GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (*responsively*)

One: The Christ Candle symbolizes the presence of Christ, the Light of the world,

All: Alive, in our midst, this day & every day.

One: May the light of Christ be with you,

All: And also with you.

One: We are called to be the church,

All: to love God & serve others.

One: And so, we have gathered as brothers & sisters in Christ

All: to once more, worship in joy & in hope.

One: We are not alone.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Christ candle is lit.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP "Come Build a Church"

***Come build a church with soul and spirit,
come build a church of flesh and bone.
We need no tower rising skyward;
no house of wood of glass or stone.
Come build a church with human frailty,
come build a church of flesh and blood
Jesus shall be its sure foundation,
it shall be built by the hands of God.***

GATHERING PRAYER

GATHERING HYMN VU #260
"God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness"

God who gives to life its goodness,
God creator of all joy,
God who gives to us our freedom,
God who blesses tool and toy:
Teach us now to laugh and praise you,
Deep within your praises sing,
Till the whole creation dances
For the goodness of its King.

God who fills the earth with beauty,
God who binds each friend to friend,
God who names us co-creators
God who wills that chaos end:
Grant us now creative spirits,
Minds responsive to your mind,
Hearts and wills your rule extending
All our acts by Love refined.

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

CHORAL RESPONSE "Kyrie Eleison" MV #68

***O God have mercy,
O God have mercy,
O God have mercy,
have mercy on us.***

***GREETING ONE ANOTHER** (*responsively*)

...The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

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

SINGING A SONG VU #593

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

Refrain:

*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.*

Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them.

Refrain

Neighbors are rich-----and poor,
varied in color and race,
neighbours are near----and far----away.

Refrain

These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love,
all----are neighbors to us----and you.

Refrain

Kneel at the feet of our friends,
Silently washing their feet,
This is the way we should live----with you.

Refrain

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*in unison*)

God, open our ears to hear new ideas, our eyes to see new visions & our minds to explore new interpretations for our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Catherine Eddy

Genesis 18:1-8

Matthew 25:35-45

REFLECTION

Strangers in our Midst

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

John & Isabel Clouston

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

***OFFERING PRAYER** *(in unison)*

**Bless what we offer ourselves & our monetary gifts,
those given this morning & others, donated through PAR.
Bless the ministries of our congregation & those of the United
Church of Canada through the Mission & Service Fund. May
our gifts bring healing & life to others.**

Amen

MEDITATIVE MUSIC

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

VU #299

“Teach Me, God to Wonder”

Teach me, God, to wonder, teach me, God to see;
Let your world of beauty capture me.

Refrain:

*Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,
Life be celebrated, joy you give.*

Let me, God, be open, let me loving be;
Let your world of people speak to me.

Refrain

Let me, God, be ready, let me be awake,
In your world of loving my place take.

Refrain

Teach me, God, to know you, hear you when you speak,
See you in my neighbour when we meet.

Refrain

BLESSING

CHORAL CLOSING

“When You Walk from Here”

VU #298

***When you walk from here,
when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy,
and with God's humble care.***

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE:



Church News

The regular office hours are Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, closed for lunch from 12:00 to 12:30.

Peanut Butter Update – As of May 13, 2021, 222 jars of Peanut Butter have been collected to go to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. Thank you to those who have dropped off peanut butter or made donations directly to the Bathurst Volunteer Centre for the First United contribution. These jars/donations are not included in the count noted above.

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.

Reminder – As the in-person worship services have resumed, if you plan to attend the service, please call the church office at 546-3532 by Friday morning, 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, on a delayed basis, as the in-person service will be recorded and then uploaded to the church website and Facebook page as soon as possible.

Community News

The Anglican Parish of New Bandon is holding a take-out only lobster supper on Saturday, **June 5**. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$12.50 for children under 12. All tickets are being sold in advance and can be purchased by contacting Norma Ellis 546-9638, Kay Addison 350-0960, Mitzi Whelton 545-0298, Darlene Dempsey 480-1078 or Nancy Hodnett 545-5263.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

GENESIS 18:1-8

1The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day.

2 He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground.

3 He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant.

4 Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.

5 Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said."

6 And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes."

7 Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it.

8 Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

MATTHEW 25:35-45

35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?

38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?

39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'

40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels;

42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,

43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?'

45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'