



## GATHERING PRAYER

\***GATHERING HYMN:** "This is God's Wondrous World" VU #296

This is God's wondrous world, and to my listening ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.

This is God's wondrous world; I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,  
God's hand the wonders wrought.

This is God's wondrous world: the birds their carols raise;  
the morning light, the lily white,  
declare their Maker's praise.

This is God's wondrous world: God shines in all that's fair;  
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,  
God's voice speaks everywhere.

This is God's wondrous world: O let me ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.

This is God's wondrous world: why should my heart be sad?  
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:  
God reigns, let earth be glad!

**PRAYER OF HUMILITY** (*responsively*) (*Based on Jeremiah 4:23-28*)

One: Jeremiah, what do you see?

Jeremiah: I see lands made barren and dry. I see the heavens made dark.

One: Jeremiah, why do you see this?

Jeremiah: God's people have forgotten who they are.

One: Jeremiah, what do you see?

Jeremiah: I see mountains quaking. I see empty skies with no birds  
anywhere. I see ruins where there once were cities.

One: Jeremiah, why do you see this?

Jeremiah: God's people have forgotten who they are. And now, it's  
time for them to remember.

One: Jeremiah reminded people long ago of what they'd forgotten.  
Jeremiah's words remind us of what we forget.

**All: When lands turn barren, when skies are empty of wings,  
when cities become ruins: we've forgotten we're God's  
people.** (*Silence for reflection*)

One: It's time

**All: for us to remember.**

**CHORAL RESPONSE** "Don't Be Afraid" MV #90

***Don't be afraid.***

***My love is stronger,***

***my love is stronger than your fear.***

***Don't be afraid.***

***My love is stronger and I have promised,  
promised to be always near.***

\***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**

"Cosmic Hymn of Praise"  
(*Seasons of the Spirit Songbook – volume 9*)

Sun and moon, praise God.

Singing stars, praise God.

Highest heavens, praise God.

Let all creation sing.

*Refrain*

*Alleluia! Lift your voices!  
Join creation's cosmic hymn of praise.*

All the earth, praise God.  
Deepest oceans, praise God.  
Wind and fire, praise God.  
Let all creation sing.

*Refrain*

Hills and mountains, praise God.  
Rivers, forests, praise God.  
Living creatures, praise God.  
Let all creation sing.

*Refrain*

Let all people, praise God.  
Little children, praise God.  
All people, praise God.  
Let all creation sing.

*Refrain*

*ENGAGING*

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Jeremiah 4:23-28

Psalms 19:1-6

Mike Kierstead

## **REFLECTION**

### **MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**ANTHEM** - "As the Wind Song Through the Trees"

*John & Isabel Clouston*

*RESPONDING*

### **MINUTE FOR MISSION**

*Bev Murphy*

### **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

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

**Generous One,  
thanks for the many gifts we've received:  
the unfolding of day and night;  
the smell of a meal being prepared;  
the voice of a friend greeting us;  
the feel of a cool breeze against our cheeks.  
These, and so many more, fill our days.  
We offer these gifts in response—as a sign of our gratitude  
and a gesture of our love.  
Amen**

### **SHARING OUR CONCERNS**

### **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.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** "I Feel the Winds of God" VU #625

I feel the winds of God today; today my sail I lift,  
though heavy oft with drenching spray and torn with many a rift;  
if hope but light the water's crest, and Christ my bark will use,  
I'll seek the seas at his behest, and brave another cruise.

It is the wind of God that dries my vain regretful tears,  
until with braver thoughts shall rise the purer, brighter years;  
if cast on shores of selfish ease or pleasure I should be,  
O let me feel your freshening breeze, and I'll put back to sea.

If ever I forget your love and how that love was shown,  
lift high the blood red flag above; it bears your name alone.  
Great pilot of my onward way, you will not let me drift.  
I feel the winds of God today; today my sail I lift.

**\*BLESSING**

**\*CHORAL CLOSING** "May the God of Peace" MV #224

***May the God of peace and of all good,  
may the God of peace and of all good  
be always with you. Amen!  
May God's peace be with you. Amen!***

*(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 September 16, 2021, 451 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.

**COVID 19 UPDATE** - The provincial government announced that beginning Tuesday, Sept 21 at 11:59 p.m. people will be required to show proof of vaccination when accessing certain events, services and businesses. We feel that First United would fall into the category of "indoor organized gatherings including weddings, funerals..." and therefore we "must ask to see proof of vaccination" from all patrons who are 12 and older. Individuals who are unable to receive a vaccine due to a medical exemption will be required to show proof. Proof of vaccination may be provided by showing an immunization record or a photograph of an immunization record from a regional health authority clinic, pharmacy, public health or MyHealthNB portal.

**Reminder** – If you plan to attend the service in-person, 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. 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 in due course. Registering for the service also allows for the appropriate number of bulletins to be printed.

**Ways & Means Team** will meet on Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM in the Ruth Morrison Room.

**Christian Development Team** will meet on Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 7 PM via Zoom. A reminder email with the Zoom information will be forthcoming in the next couple of days.

**COVID-19 Response Team** will meet on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 7 PM. Details for this meeting will follow via email to the team members.

**Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council** is looking for lay members to be on the Affirm Committee, and the Archives and Records Committee. They would like to make use of your wisdom, expertise and energy! Please consider these opportunities and if you think you may be interested, please contact Rev. Neal, Martha Vickers, or Jini Palmer for further information.

## Community News

**The Anglican Parish of New Bandon** is once again holding an *apple pie/apple crisp* fundraiser with pick-up on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 pm until 2:00 pm at Christ Church Hall, Clifton. Pies are 9" in diameter and crisps are in an 8"x 8" pan, unbaked. Cost is \$8 each. Pre-orders are required before September 19 by contacting Kay Addison at 350-0960, Nancy Hodnett at 545-5263, or Darlene Dempsey at 480-1078. Please note a maximum of 100 pies and 50 crisps will be prepared so please get your orders in early while quantities last. Thank you

**"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 2022 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](mailto:egbranch@rogers.com)) will be taking orders for these calendars until October 12, 2021. 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".

**Team Esperanza, a local mission team**, will be holding a large clearance sale (both yard & crafts) at 720 Assumption Ct on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 8 AM – 4 PM. Included: wreaths for all occasions, hand painted glass, etc., craft supplies & gently used household items. All proceeds will be contributed to Servant's Heart Ministries, a charity that provides amazing outreach to the poor of the Dominican Republic & Haiti. For more info contact Marie Oliver (548-3493) or Helen Knowles (546-9563).

## SCRIPTURE READING – NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

### Jeremiah 4:23-28

23 I looked on the earth, and lo, it was waste and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light.

24 I looked on the mountains, and lo, they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro.

25 I looked, and lo, there was no one at all, and all the birds of the air had fled.

26 I looked, and lo, the fruitful land was a desert, and all its cities were laid in ruins before the Lord, before his fierce anger.

27 For thus says the Lord: The whole land shall be a desolation; yet I will not make a full end.

28 Because of this the earth shall mourn, and the heavens above grow black; for I have spoken, I have purposed; I have not relented nor will I turn back.

### Psalms 19:1-6

1 The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

2 Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

**3 There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;**

4 yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

5 which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.