

*The United Church of Canada
Bathurst Pastoral Charge*

First United Church, Bathurst - South Tetagouche United Church
www.firstunited-bathurst.ca

August 1, 2010

Clergy Rev. Blair Lewis **Organists** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Isabel Clouston Joseph MacDonald
Custodian Alan Wilcox **Greeters** Shirley Gammon
Hazel Harris

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Hosea 11:1-11</i> <i>Psalms 107</i> <i>Colossians 3:1-11</i> <i>Luke 12:13-21</i>	<i>Isaiah 1:1, 10-20</i> <i>Psalms 33:12-22</i> <i>Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16</i> <i>Luke 12:32-40</i>

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

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

Organ Prelude:

***Choral Opening:** 'Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness' #375 VU
Spirit, Spirit of gentleness
Blow thro' the wilderness
Calling and free
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
Stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.

Welcoming:

One: Behold, God is doing a new thing.

All: Here. Now.

In the midst of daily life.

One: The Holy One who created heaven and earth
forms us afresh today.

All: Let our spirits rise to greet our Maker. Amen.

Isaiah 43:19

Welcoming One Another:

Welcoming Friends Worshipping by Tape/CD:

Announcements:

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

One: We have been called the salt of the earth.

All: Let us remain distinctive and salty.

One: We have been called the light of the world.

All: Let us shine brightly in the midst of pain and confusion. As we light the Christ candle we are reminded of the life giving power of the Light of God's love.

One: We have been called a city set on a hill.

All: Let us, like Jerusalem, lift our gates, life our hearts, lift our voices in the worship of God.

Call to Worship:

Sculpting God,

You give galaxies their form, shape granite mountains, and design butterfly wings.

Dancing God,

You choreograph the paths of stars and the flight of snow geese.

Singing God,

Your devine song is sung by sparrows, flowing streams, and rushing winds.

Wonderful God,

We rejoice to be a part of the devine world which you love and sustain. Amen.

Prayer of Approach:

(in unison)

O God,

Where hearts are fearful and confined,

Grant freedom and darling;

Where anxiety is infectious and widening,

Grant peace and reassurance;

Where impossibilities close every door and window,

Grant imagination and resistance;

Where distrust reshapes every understanding,

Grant healing and transformation;

Where spirits are daunted and dimmed,

Grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** 'Now Thank We All'

#236 VU

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding: (in unison)
God, the words you speak have power:
Power to create,
Power to disturb,
Power to heal. Help us to hear your Word for us
today. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2-3, 12-18; 2; 18-26

***Responsive Psalm:** Psalm 107 Parts 1 and 2 **#831 VU**

New Testament Lesson: Luke 12:13-21

Hymn: *'How Sweet the Name'* **#344 VU**

Message: "Life is Useless---or is it?"

Anthem:

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

Presentation of Gifts and Self to God:

***Choral Response:**

'Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow' #541 VU
Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures high and low,
Give thanks to God in love made known,
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

***Prayer of Dedication:** (in unison)
Through these gifts, O God,
May all heed the voice of justice,
Hear the call to compassion,
Embrace the way of sharing,
And know solidarity with the loving Christ. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

One: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
All: have mercy on us.
One: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
All: have mercy on us.
One: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
All: grant us peace.

Holy God,
In your gracious presence,
We confess our sin and the sin of this world.
Although Christ is among us as liberation and peace,
We are a people divided against ourselves,
As we cling to the values of a broken world.
The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and
pollute the seas.
The fears and jealousies that we harbour set neighbour and
neighbour,
And nation against nation.
We abuse your gifts of imagination and freedom,
Of intellect and reason,
And have turned them into bonds of oppression.
Heal us and forgive us.
Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your
reconciling love. Amen.

Choral Response: *'How Deep the Peace' #95 MV*
How deep the peace, the confidence,
Of those whose wrongs are forgiven.
How deep the peace, the confidence
Of those whose hearts are healed.

Words of Assurance:

No matter where we are, God is there.
No matter what we have done, God forgives.
No matter our reluctance to accept God, God has accepted us.
With that assurance, receive forgiveness, and live in fullness and in
hope.

Reflective Music:

Silent Prayer:

Pastoral Prayer: (in unison)

All: Lord of all being and source of every blessing, we thank you for all good things;
For life and love,
For health and food,
For work and home,
For nature's beauty and comfort,
For human skills and laughter,
For memory and hope,
For everything which gives us pleasure,
nourishment and strength.
We pray for the peace of the world, O God,
And for peace that only you can give –
And only the absence of conflict and battle,
But also the fullness of life that is prosperity for all,
Goodwill among neighbours,
And welcome for every outsider.
Hear us now as we name the situations and nations for which we seek your Shalom:
Our own country, Canada...
Families buffeted by the storm of economic despair,
War-torn countries...the people of Afghanistan,
those serving in the military and the members of their families.
Our families, our friends, ourselves...
We gather these and all our prayers,
Those spoken aloud and those too deep for words,
In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord's Prayer:

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

*Closing Hymn: *'Be Thou My Vision'* #642 VU

*Commissioning: (in unison)
Hear our prayers, God of grace.
Help us to fulfill them
Working according to your purpose,
In peace, justice, and mercy, in all we do;
Through Jesus Christ to whom,
With you and the Holy Spirit,
Be all power and glory.
Now and forever.

*Blessing:
Go into the world in peace.
Love the Lord your God
With all your heart,
With all your soul,
With all your mind,
With all your strength,
And love your neighbour as yourself.
Mark 12:30-31

*Choral Closing
*When you walk from here,
When you walk from here,
Walk with justice, walk with mercy,
And with God's humble care.*

Organ Postlude:

Church News

This Week at First United – Aug. 2 – Aug.7

Monday Aug 2	Office closed	New Brunswick Day

Today's bulletin is **in loving memory of** Howard Pettigrew placed by Ina & family.

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2010 **900**

Total to Date **604**

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect 14-15 jars of peanut butter per week.

The Upper Room for July and August are in the Narthex. Please feel free to take one.

Employment Opportunity

There are two employee vacation replacement vacancies available for each of the positions of Custodian and Office Administrator. One week training with pay is available for each position. Interested persons should contact George Robertson, Chair of Ministry and Personnel at 546-6180 or email at grober@rogers.com for further information.

Upcoming Community Events

The exquisite art works of Cynthia DeCoste will again be on exhibit in Gallery 360 in the Nepisiquit Centennial Museum/Cultural Centre during August to September 7th, 2010. The Centre is open 7 days a week and by appointment. Call 546-9449.

Psalm 107

BOOK V : Psalms 107-150

- ¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.
- ² Let the redeemed of the LORD say this—
those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,
- ³ those he gathered from the lands,
from east and west, from north and south. ^[a]
- ⁴ Some wandered in desert wastelands,
finding no way to a city where they could settle.
- ⁵ They were hungry and thirsty,
and their lives ebbed away.
- ⁶ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.
- ⁷ He led them by a straight way
to a city where they could settle.
- ⁸ Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for men,
- ⁹ for he satisfies the thirsty
and fills the hungry with good things.
- ¹⁰ Some sat in darkness and the deepest gloom,
prisoners suffering in iron chains,
- ¹¹ for they had rebelled against the words of God
and despised the counsel of the Most High.
- ¹² So he subjected them to bitter labor;
they stumbled, and there was no one to help.
- ¹³ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress.
- ¹⁴ He brought them out of darkness and the deepest
gloom
and broke away their chains.
- ¹⁵ Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for men,
- ¹⁶ for he breaks down gates of bronze
and cuts through bars of iron.
- ¹⁷ Some became fools through their rebellious ways
and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.
- ¹⁸ They loathed all food
and drew near the gates of death.
- ¹⁹ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress.
- ²⁰ He sent forth his word and healed them;
he rescued them from the grave.
- ²¹ Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for men.
- ²² Let them sacrifice thank offerings
and tell of his works with songs of joy.
- ²³ Others went out on the sea in ships;
they were merchants on the mighty waters.
- ²⁴ They saw the works of the LORD,
his wonderful deeds in the deep.
- ²⁵ For he spoke and stirred up a tempest
that lifted high the waves.
- ²⁶ They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the
depths;
in their peril their courage melted away.
- ²⁷ They reeled and staggered like drunken men;
they were at their wits' end.

²⁸ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,
and he brought them out of their distress.

²⁹ He stilled the storm to a whisper;
the waves of the sea were hushed.

³⁰ They were glad when it grew calm,
and he guided them to their desired haven.

³¹ Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for men.

³² Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people
and praise him in the council of the elders.

³³ He turned rivers into a desert,
flowing springs into thirsty ground,

³⁴ and fruitful land into a salt waste,
because of the wickedness of those who lived there.

³⁵ He turned the desert into pools of water
and the parched ground into flowing springs;

³⁶ there he brought the hungry to live,
and they founded a city where they could settle.

³⁷ They sowed fields and planted vineyards
that yielded a fruitful harvest;

³⁸ he blessed them, and their numbers greatly increased,
and he did not let their herds diminish.

³⁹ Then their numbers decreased, and they were humbled
by oppression, calamity and sorrow;

⁴⁰ he who pours contempt on nobles
made them wander in a trackless waste.

⁴¹ But he lifted the needy out of their affliction
and increased their families like flocks.

⁴² The upright see and rejoice,
but all the wicked shut their mouths.

⁴³ Whoever is wise, let him heed these things
and consider the great love of the LORD.

Ecclesiastes 1:2-3

² "Meaningless! Meaningless!"
says the Teacher.
"Utterly meaningless!
Everything is meaningless."

³ What does man gain from all his labor
at which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:12-18

Wisdom Is Meaningless

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I devoted myself to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under heaven. What a heavy burden God has laid on men! ¹⁴ I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

¹⁵ What is twisted cannot be straightened;
what is lacking cannot be counted.

¹⁶ I thought to myself, "Look, I have grown and increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge." ¹⁷ Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind.

¹⁸ For with much wisdom comes much sorrow;
the more knowledge, the more grief.

Ecclesiastes 2:18-26

¹⁸ I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. ¹⁹ And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the work into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless. ²⁰ So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun. ²¹ For a man may do his work

with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then he must leave all he owns to someone who has not worked for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune. ²² What does a man get for all the toil and anxious striving with which he labors under the sun? ²³ All his days his work is pain and grief; even at night his mind does not rest. This too is meaningless.

²⁴ A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, ²⁵ for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment? ²⁶ To the man who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Luke 12:13-21

The Parable of the Rich Fool

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

¹⁴Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" ¹⁵Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

¹⁶And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. ¹⁷He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

¹⁸"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." '

²⁰"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

²¹"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."