

*The United Church of Canada
Bathurst Pastoral Charge*

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

**August 8, 2010
Communion Sunday**

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>Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 Psalm 33:12-22 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Luke 12:32-40</i>	<i>Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 82 Hebrews 11:29-12:2 Luke 12:49-56</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:

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe.

Hebrews 12:28

**Welcoming One Another:
Welcoming Friends Worshipping by Tape/CD:
Announcements:**

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

One: Give me a candle of the Spirit, O God, as I go down into the depths of my being.

All: Show us the hidden things, the creatures of our dreams, the storehouse of forgotten memories and hurts.

One: Take us down to the summer of our lives and tell us our nature and give us our place and role in life.

All: In lighting the Christ candle my prayer is that, with your help, I will discover freedom to grow, so that I may become that self, the seed of which you planted in me at my making. Out of the depths I reach out to you, O God.

Call to Worship:

One: God has given us this beautiful earth, all that grows, all that lives upon it.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: God has given us breath to live and spirit to sing.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: God has gathered us into a community of care and worship.

All: Let us worship God with love, thanksgiving, and praise.

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)

Loving God, open our hearts that we may feel the breath and play of your Spirit.

Unclench our hands that we may reach out to one another, and touch and be healed.

Open our lips that we may drink in the delight and wonder of life.

Open our eyes that we may see Christ in friend and stranger.

Breathe your Spirit into us, and touch our lives with the life of Christ. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** 'Let All Things Now Living' #242 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: Isaiah 1:10-20

***Responsive Psalm:** Psalm 50 #775 VU

New Testament Lesson: Luke 12:32-40

Hymn: *'Ask Me What Great Things I Know'* #338 VU

Message: "Summer Communion"

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)
In the name and in the spirit of Jesus, we bring our gifts to you, O God. Help us to give with them a ready mind, a willing spirit, and a joyful heart. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

One: When we have afflicted others whether by our own power or by our silent support of systems which oppress, enslave, and crush,

All: beak us, Lord.

One: When we have perplexed others and purposely confused them for our own gain or driven them to despair,

All: break us, Lord.

One: When we have persecuted others, casting them out of our community, leaving them forsaken and alone,

All: break us, Lord.

One: When we have struck down others casting stones on their dreams and hopes until they are destroyed,

All: break us, Lord.

One: Then broken, we carry in our bodies the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our bodies.

All: Make us, Lord.

One: With the power which belongs only to you, make us into your treasure.

All: Make us, Lord.

One: We are the clay, and you are the potter. We are the work of your hands.

All: Make us Lord.

One: Do not be exceedingly angry and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all you people.

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:

Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether; the past is finished and gone; everything has become fresh and new, Friends, believe the Good News of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Reflective Music:

Silent Prayer:

Pastoral Prayer: (in unison)

O Great Spirit, whose voice we hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear us. We come before you as your children. We are small and weak; we need your strength and wisdom. Let us walk in beauty and make our eyes ever behold the red and purple sunsets. May our hands respect the things you have made. May our ears be sharp to hear your voice. Make us wise, that we may know the things you have taught your people, the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. We seek strength, not to be superior to our brothers and sisters, but to live in harmony with ourselves and all your creation. Help us to be ever ready to come to you, as when life fades as a fading sunset, our spirits may come to you without shame. Amen.

Traditional First Nation Prayer

THE SERVICE OF THE TABLE

An Invitation to the Table:

***Our Communion Hymn:**

'O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts' #472 MV

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer:

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Blessed are you, gracious God, Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love. We bless you for all your gifts. We praise you for this holy day of hope and for the wonder of this time of joy.

**All: We praise you, O God.
We thank you, O God.**

One: For Jesus Christ, in whom you gather the hope and fears of all the years, we bless your Holy Name.

Choral Response: (*Sanctus and Benedictus # 942VU*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;

holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heav'n and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

One: On the night before Jesus died, he had supper with his disciples: he took bread; thanked you, as we have thanked you; broke the bread; and gave the bread to his friends, saying,

Take this, all of you, and eat it.

This is my body, given for you.

Each time you do this, remember me.

After supper he took the wine; thanked you for it, and passed a cup of wine to his friends saying,

This cup is the new promise God has made with you in my blood.

Each time you do this and drink from this cup, remember me.

Remembering his death and celebrating his resurrection, we await with hope his coming again to bring peace and justice to the earth.

And so, we affirm the mystery of our faith:

All: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

One: Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do here; that we, and these gifts, touched by your Spirit, may be signs of life and love to each other, and to all the world.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

We gather these and all our prayers, thankful that we may now turn to you in one voice,

All: Our Father, Who art in heaven..... Amen

**Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup
Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 'Fight the Good Fight' #674 VU

*Commissioning: (in unison)
God, you have promised that when two or three are gathered in your name, you will grant their requests: Fulfil now the desires and petitions of your people as may be best for us, granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the world to come life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

based on Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

*Blessing:
May God bless you and keep you.
May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace.
Numbers 6:24-26

*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:

A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining,
the breeze is blowing,
the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.
~ James Dent

Church News

This Week at First United – Aug. 9 – Aug.13

Today's bulletin is in loving memory of Arthur Young placed by the family.

Today's bulletin is in loving memory of Mary & Sterling Anderson placed by Ruth & family.

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2010 900

Total to Date 619

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

Vacation: Rev. Lewis will be on vacation from August 10th to September 1st. Rev. Austin Jagoe will be our pulpit supply.

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.

Thank you to Gary Branch, Edie Gammon and Helen Norton for being our counters and to Chesley Eddy and friends for being our greeters for the Month of July.

Thank You

I wish to express my sincere thanks to everyone at First United who helped me celebrate my 80th birthday and to those who have extended best wishes since the Open House was held. I am truly thankful for the support of my church family through the years

Isabel MacLaggan

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.

Isaiah 1:10-20 (New International Version)

- ¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD,
you rulers of Sodom;
listen to the law of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!
- ¹¹ "The multitude of your sacrifices—
what are they to me?" says the LORD.
"I have more than enough of burnt offerings,
of rams and the fat of fattened animals;
I have no pleasure
in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.
- ¹² When you come to appear before me,
who has asked this of you,
this trampling of my courts?
- ¹³ Stop bringing meaningless offerings!
Your incense is detestable to me.
New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—
I cannot bear your evil assemblies.
- ¹⁴ Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts
my soul hates.
They have become a burden to me;
I am weary of bearing them.
- ¹⁵ When you spread out your hands in prayer,
I will hide my eyes from you;
even if you offer many prayers,
I will not listen.
Your hands are full of blood;
- ¹⁶ wash and make yourselves clean.
Take your evil deeds
out of my sight!
Stop doing wrong,

- ¹⁷ learn to do right!
Seek justice,
encourage the oppressed. [a]
- Defend the cause of the fatherless,
plead the case of the widow.
- ¹⁸ "Come now, let us reason together,"
says the LORD.
"Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson,
they shall be like wool.
- ¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient,
you will eat the best from the land;
- ²⁰ but if you resist and rebel,
you will be devoured by the sword."
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Psalm 50

A psalm of Asaph.

- ¹ The Mighty One, God, the LORD,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets.
- ² From Zion, perfect in beauty,
God shines forth.
- ³ Our God comes and will not be silent;
a fire devours before him,
and around him a tempest rages.
- ⁴ He summons the heavens above,
and the earth, that he may judge his people:
- ⁵ "Gather to me my consecrated ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice."
- ⁶ And the heavens proclaim his righteousness,
for God himself is judge.
Selah
- ⁷ "Hear, O my people, and I will speak,
O Israel, and I will testify against you:
I am God, your God.
- ⁸ I do not rebuke you for your sacrifices
or your burnt offerings, which are ever before me.
- ⁹ I have no need of a bull from your stall
or of goats from your pens,
- ¹⁰ for every animal of the forest is mine,
and the cattle on a thousand hills.
- ¹¹ I know every bird in the mountains,
and the creatures of the field are mine.

- ¹² If I were hungry I would not tell you,
for the world is mine, and all that is in it.
- ¹³ Do I eat the flesh of bulls
or drink the blood of goats?
- ¹⁴ Sacrifice thank offerings to God,
fulfill your vows to the Most High,
- ¹⁵ and call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you will honor me."
- ¹⁶ But to the wicked, God says:
"What right have you to recite my laws
or take my covenant on your lips?
- ¹⁷ You hate my instruction
and cast my words behind you.
- ¹⁸ When you see a thief, you join with him;
you throw in your lot with adulterers.
- ¹⁹ You use your mouth for evil
and harness your tongue to deceit.
- ²⁰ You speak continually against your brother
and slander your own mother's son.
- ²¹ These things you have done and I kept silent;
you thought I was altogether ^[a] like you.
But I will rebuke you
and accuse you to your face.
- ²² "Consider this, you who forget God,
or I will tear you to pieces, with none to rescue:
- ²³ He who sacrifices thank offerings honors me,
and he prepares the way
so that I may show him ^[b] the salvation of God."

Luke 12:32-40 (New International Version)

³²"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. ³⁷It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. ³⁸It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. ³⁹But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."