

*The United Church of Canada  
Bathurst Pastoral Charge*

First United Church, Bathurst - South Tetagouche United Church  
[www.firstunited-bathurst.ca](http://www.firstunited-bathurst.ca)

February 28, 2010  
Second Sunday of Lent

**Clergy** Rev. Blair Lewis      **Organists** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Isabel Clouston      Joseph MacDonald  
**Custodian** Alan Wilcox      **Greeters** Lola & Don Nelson

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18</i>	<i>Isaiah 55:1-9</i>
<i>Psalms 27</i>	<i>Psalms 63</i>
<i>Philippians 3:17-4:1</i>	<i>I Corinthians 10:1-13</i>
<i>Luke 13:31-35</i>	<i>Luke 13:1-9</i>

**THE COMMUNITY GATHERS**

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

*Thank You to the Men's Choir for leading us in music today.*

**Organ Prelude:**

**\*Choral Opening:** *'Deep, Deep and Still'*  
*Deep, deep and still. Holy is the silence.*  
*Our cares are set aside for a time.*  
*Sacred is the hush that falls upon us,*  
*that calls upon us to listen, --- listen,*  
*listen to the voice sublime, of truth, deep and still,*  
*holy in the silence, within us and around us now.*

**Welcoming:**

Let us strive to know God, whose coming is as sure as the sunrise.  
God will come to us like the rain, like spring rains that water the earth.  
*Hosea 6:3*

**Welcoming One Another:**  
**Welcoming Friends Worshipping by Tape:**

**Announcements:**

**Call to Worship:**

*(Silent time)*

**One:** As we extinguish the second candle, we acknowledge the growing darkness of this Holy Season. Jesus lived through the darkness so we would be free to live in the light.

*(A candle is extinguished)*

Let us pray:

**All:** **God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, give us strength and courage to make the changes that are needed in our lives. Open our hearts and minds to your steadfast presence and help us to put our trust in you. Amen.**

**Choral Response:**

*Lamb of God who suffered on the tree.*  
*There you died for me, Christ, at Calvary.*  
*There you died for me, there you died for me.*

**Prayer of Approach:** (in unison)

**Creating God, still Center of the world you have made, we come to you in this season of turning and returning. We do not know how to seek you with our whole hearts, but we know you are our source and our destiny. In the midst of life, we return to you, we turn toward you. We thank you that you receive even the broken heart, the troubled conscience, the conflicted spirit. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn:**

*'God, We Praise You for the Morning'* #415 VU vs.1-5

**Children of All Ages:**

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

**Prayer of Understanding:** (in unison)  
God of call, God of transformation, God of the Lenten journey; help us to discern your still, small voice. Open us to change and growth that we may walk with Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Choral Introit:** 'Gather Us In' #7 MV  
*Gather us in, ground us in you.  
Gather us in, ground us in you.  
Gather us in, gather us in,  
Ground us, ground us in you.*

**Epistle Reading:** *Philippians 3:17-4:1* Nancy Scott

**\*Responsive Psalm:** *Psalm #27* #754 VU Nancy Scott

**Gospel Reading:** *Luke 13:31-35* Nancy Scott

**\*Hymn:** 'Jesus, Friend of Little Children' #340 VU

**Message:** Our Faith and the choices in life.

**Anthem:** 'O Jesus, I Have Promised'

## THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

**Minute for Missions:**

**Presentation of Gifts and Self to God:**

**\*Choral Response:**  
*Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were an offering far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication:** (in unison)  
Gracious God, bless and transform all that we offer: our faltering steps, our brokenness, our hope, our risking, our hearts, that your covenant may be written on our hearts and we may be a blessed and transformed covenant people. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Prayer of Confession:** (in unison)  
God, you have called us to be pilgrims. Forgive us when we weary of the journey and seek security rather than the open road. Forgive us when we feel the risk of the journey is too great. Grant us pilgrim spirits in this Lenten season and lead us to the new life of Easter. Amen.

**Choral Response:** 'Kyrie Eleison' #68 MV  
*Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison,  
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.  
O God have mercy, O God have mercy,  
O God have mercy, have mercy on us.*

**Pastoral Prayer:** (in unison)  
O Jesus who wept over the death of Lazarus, be with all who grieve.  
O Jesus who wept over the state of Jerusalem, be with our cities, our villages, and our centres of worship.  
O Jesus who wept alone in Gethsemane, be with all who feel alone, all who face difficult decisions.  
O Jesus who wept, " My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" be with all who are tortured, all who are victims.  
O Jesus who offered up prayers with loud cries and tears, hear our prayers.....our requests.....  
O Jesus who wept in sympathy and frustration.  
O Living God who knows all our pain and joy, be with us in our lives. Amen.

**Lord's Prayer:**

## THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

**\*Closing Hymn:**  
*'How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds'* #344 VU

## Church News:

**Commissioning:** (in unison)

**Giving and Sustaining God we experience your compelling call to undertake this Lenten journey; we hear your voice inviting us into the wilderness where our journey begins; we trust in your presence with us on the way. Guide and support us through the wilderness. Inspire us to follow Christ in worship, and in witness; in Jesus' name we pray.**

**Blessing:**

May the blessing of God give us strength for the journey;  
May the spirit of wisdom give us vision for the road;  
May the love of Christ make us caring companions;  
As together we go forth in the Lenten time. Amen.

**\*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:**



### Upcoming Events

March 28, 2010 – Sunrise Breakfast

### This Week at First United – March 1-March 6

Monday	9:00	Ways & Means- Eddy Room
	1:30	UCW – Eddy Room
Tuesday	9:30-11:30	Do Drop in – Fellowship Room
	1:30-3:30	Bible Study - Eddy Room
	9:00-12:00	TAB

#### Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2010 **900**  
Total to Date **180**

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect 16-17 jars of peanut butter per week.

**Hospitality and Friendship Team** are looking for conveners for the Sunday morning coffee hour. Sign up sheets are in the Ruth Morrison Room.

**The Upper Room** for March and April are in the Narthex. Please feel free to take one.

**Sunday School:** There will be no Sunday School for the weeks of February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 7<sup>th</sup> due to the March Break.

**INTERMEDIATES AT CONFERENCE** - There will be 3 day residential event to explore and experience being part of the church through games, music, discussion and worship. This event is open to United Church Youth ages 12-15 (Grades 7-9) to be held at Mt. Allison University from May 27-30, 2010 during Maritime Conference. If your teen is interested please contact the church office.

**The Community Outreach Sub Team** has recruited Shirley Sealy (546-5425) & Helen M Knowles (546-9563) to be co-captains of a church team in the local 2010 Relay for Life to be held June 12-13 in Coronation Park in support of the Canadian Cancer Society. Those considering being team members may sign a sheet in the narthex or contact either Shirley or Helen for more information. Team members are asked to register (\$10 fee) by April 1st & pick up their fundraising packages at the church office.

### Upcoming Community Events

#### **Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary Meal of the Month**

March 7, 2010 –Roast Beef Supper with all the trimmings, tea, coffee and dessert. Serving at 5:00 p.m. Takeouts available. Tickets \$11. Elevator service available

***Philippians 3:17-4:1 (New International Version)***

<sup>17</sup>Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. <sup>18</sup>For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup>Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

**Philippians 4**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!

***Luke 13:31-35 (New International Version)***

***Jesus' Sorrow for Jerusalem***

<sup>31</sup>At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you."

<sup>32</sup>He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' <sup>33</sup>In any case, I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!"

<sup>34</sup>"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"

<sup>35</sup>Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'<sup>[a]</sup>"