

*The United Church of Canada
Bathurst Pastoral Charge*

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

March 14, 2010
Forth Sunday of Lent

Clergy Rev. Blair Lewis **Organists** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Isabel Clouston Joseph MacDonald
Custodian Alan Wilcox **Greeters** Gail Ferron & Jean Fowlie

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Joshua 5:9-12</i>	<i>Isaiah 43:16-21</i>
<i>Psalm 32</i>	<i>Psalm 126</i>
<i>II Corinthians 5:16-21</i>	<i>Philippians 3:4b-14</i>
<i>Luke 15:1-3, 11-32</i>	<i>John 12:1-8</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:** *'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:

Examine me, O God, and know my heart, test me and discover my thoughts, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 139: 23, 24

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

Announcements:

Call to Worship:

(Silent time)

One: As we extinguish the forth candle, we acknowledge the power of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit revealed in this Holy Season. Jesus comes to us in the busy times and the quieter moments of life.

(A forth candle is extinguished)

Let us pray:

All: We travel in the power of love, ready to share our burdens and our joys. May we trust in the way of Christ and walk in his peace. And may the blessing of God go with us.

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)

God of Sarah and Abraham, God of us all: You have called people throughout the ages to journey in faithfulness. Give to us a sense of anticipation through this Lenten season, that we may move with confidence and hope toward the new life of Easter. We pray in Jesus' name, our Companion and Guide. Amen

***Opening Hymn:** *'Come In, Come In and Sit Down'* #395 VU

Children of All Ages:

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding: (in unison)
Ever faithful God; train us by Christ's teaching, school us in Christ's faithfulness, that as we walk in Christ's way we may come to share in your glory. We ask this through Christ, our deliverance and hope. 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.

Old Testament Reading: *Joshua 5:9-12* Heather Smith

***Responsive Psalm:** *Psalm #32* #759 VU Heather Smith

Gospel Reading: *Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32* Heather Smith

***Hymn:** *'Beneath the Cross of Jesus'* #135 VU

Message: Pride and its Limitations

Anthem:

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)
Extravagant God, like the woman who anointed Jesus' feet, you lavish us with love and acceptance and ask that we love and accept others. In offering these gifts, we express our commitment to your way. May they bring hope and shalom to this congregation and to your world. In the name of Christ, we pray Amen.

Prayer of Confession:
One: God of exodus and wilderness, God of refuge and help, hear us now as we make our confession to you,
All: In times of temptation, we forget what you have done for us.
You give us everything we need, yet we often remain unsatisfied;
You trust us to care for creation, yet we often abuse that trust and spoil what we have been given.
You show us the way we are to follow, yet we often continue on the path of self-indulgence and self-centredness.
Forgive us we pray.
(silence)
One: We ask for you direction, your patience, your love;
All: In the name of Jesus Christ, who, in spite of his temptations, was faithful to your saving Word. 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: 'Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah' #651 VU

*Commissioning: (in unison)

Lord Jesus, one of us betrayed you, another denied you, and all of us have forsaken you. Yet you remain faithful to us unto death, even death on a cross. Strengthen us so we do not turn aside, but follow you to the very end; for the final victory belongs to you. Amen

*Blessing:

Let us go forth from this place empowered and empowering, catching a glimpse of what is possible when we are released from our limitations.

May the love that proceeds from the wounded heart of God sustain us in our being; the presence that Christ imparts grace us in our living; and the response that the Spirit awakens in us make faithful all our acting.

*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 Community Events

A Saint Patrick's Day Ham Supper and Talent Show will be held in Saint George's Anglican Church Hall on Tuesday, March 16. Supper from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. followed by the talent show. Tickets \$12.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12 years. For tickets phone the church office 546-3225 or Harvey Aubie at 546-4256.

Saint George's Anglican Church Guild will be holding a Coffee Party and Bake Sale in the hall on Saturday March 27 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. tickets \$6.00 at the door or from members.

Bathurst Christian Women's Club invites you to join us at Danny's Inn and Conference Center, Wednesday, March 24 at 11:30 am for our "Health and Happiness" Luncheon, \$ 14.00. Cheryl Cameron of "Choosing Health" shares body health secrets. Guest Speaker. Susan Blackmore, weaves her passion for drama and her love of music throughout her personal story, "Choosing Life" Call Wanetta at 548-5083 or Edith at 548-3924 for necessary reservations.

Upcoming First United Events

March 28, 2010 – Sunrise Breakfast 8:30-Noon

April 2, 2010 – Good Friday Service, 7:30

April 4, 2010 – Easter Sunday Service, 10am - Communion

April 18, 2010 – Annual Meeting – After church

April 24, 2010 – Beverley's Hillbillies

Church News:

This Week at First United – March 15-March 20

Monday	6:15	Beavers and Cubs
Tuesday	9:30-11:30	Do Drop in – Fellowship Room
	1:30-3:30	Bible Study - Eddy Room
	7:00	Worship Team – Fellowship Room
Wednesday	9:00-12:00	TAB
	6:30	Choir Practice
Thursday	6:30	E&P Committee - Eddy Room

The bulletin today has been donated *in loving memory of Mary and Sterling Anderson* by their daughter Ruth and family.

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2010 **900**

Total to Date **241**

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

Children's Choir Practice will be held immediately after worship today.

Sunrise Breakfast (pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, baked beans toast, juice, coffee & tea) Sunday, March 28, 2010 - 8:30 a.m. to noon, Donald Eddy Memorial Hall, \$ 8.00 adults - \$ 3.00 children

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

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.

Lost and Found: There are a number of clothing items in the closet in the Narthex that have been left in the sanctuary after services. If you are missing jackets, sweaters, hats, scarves, gloves, shirts, sandals or umbrellas yours might be there. Also., there are cake pans left in the kitchen from recent suppers, please feel free to come in and see if one of them is yours.

Joshua 5:9-12 (New International Version)

⁹ Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." So the place has been called Gilgal ^[a] to this day.

¹⁰ On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. ¹¹ The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. ¹² The manna stopped the day after ^[b] they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate of the produce of Canaan.

Luke 15:1-3

Luke 15

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

¹ Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ Then Jesus told them this parable:

Luke 15:11-32

The Parable of the Lost Son

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here

I am starving to death! ¹⁸I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' ²⁰So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. ^[a]'

²²"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I

could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

³¹" 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' "