

*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)

March 7, 2010  
Third Sunday of Lent

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

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Isaiah 55:1-9	Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 63	Psalm 32
I Corinthians 10:1-13	II Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 13:1-9	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

### 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:

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies,  
It remains that and nothing more; but if it dies it bears a rich  
harvest.

*John 12:24*

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

#### Announcements:

#### Call to Worship:

*(Silent time)*

One: As we extinguish the third candle, we acknowledge the  
power of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit revealed in this  
Holy Season. Jesus lived through the darkness so we would  
be free to live in the light.

*(A candle is extinguised)*

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)

**As we follow Jesus into the unknown, may we recognize  
temptation when it comes;  
God of the desert, let it be your bread we eat.  
God of the wilderness, let it be your world we serve and  
you alone we worship. Amen.**

#### \*Opening Hymn:

*'Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights'*      #108 VU

#### Children of All Ages:

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

**Prayer for Understanding:** (in unison)  
O God, we seek you in the temples of power, but you are found on the margins. Broaden our vision, widen our understanding that we may hear your liberating Word with open hearts. 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:** *Isaiah 55:1-9* Helen Knowles

**\*Responsive Psalm:** *Psalm #63* #781 VU Helen Knowles

**Gospel Reading:** *Luke 13:1-9* Helen Knowles

**\*Hymn:** *'Like a Mighty River Flowing'* #267 VU

**Message:** What support do we need?

**Anthem:**

## THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

**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.*

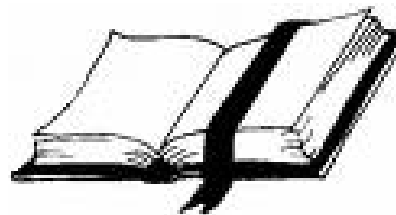
**\*Prayer of Dedication:** (in unison)  
Gracious God, bless and transform all that we offer: our faltering steps, our brokenness, our hope, our risking, our hearts, that your covenant may be written on our hearts and we may be a blessed and transformed covenant people. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Prayer of Confession:** (in unison)  
Living God, in this time of sacred quiet make us wise to believe that you, who created the universe and still govern its destiny, can create in us new hearts and govern our daily lives; that you welcome not only our praise and thanksgiving, but also our anger and doubt, our passions and brokenness. Receive all our worship this day, for we offer it in spirit and truth, through Jesus our Redeemer. 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)  
God of all seasons, in your pattern of things there is a time for keeping and a time for losing; a time for buliding up and a time for pulling down.  
In this holy season of Lent, as we journey to the cross, help us to discern in our lives what we must lay down and what we must take up; what we must end and what we must begin.  
Give us grace to lead a disciplined life, in glad faithfulness and with the joy which comes from a closer walk with Christ. Amen.

**Lord's Prayer:**





## Church News:

### This Week at First United – March 8-March 12

Monday	6:15	Beavers and Cubs
	6:30	Community Outreach – Fellowship Room
	7:30	Pastoral Care- Fellowship Room
Tuesday	9:30-11:30	Do Drop in – Fellowship Room
	1:30-3:30	Bible Study - Eddy Room
Wednesday	9:00-12:00	TAB
	6:30	Choir Practice

### Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2010 **900**

Total to Date **183**

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

Thank you to Lola & Don Nelson for being the greeters and Dave Dow and George Robertson for being our counters for the month of February.

The Ways and Means committee would like to extend a thank you to all those who helped in any way to make the Ham and Scallop Supper such a success. With your efforts, the amount of \$2259.96 was realized. There are a number of cake pans left in the kitchen from recent suppers, please feel free to come in and see if one of them is yours.

Sunrise Breakfast (pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, 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.

## 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

A Family and Community Breakfast will be held in Saint George's Anglican Church Hall on Saturday, March 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Free will donation. All Welcome

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.

Irish Night: A fundraiser for Haitian relief. Central United Church, Saturday, March 13, 2010 7:00PM (storm date March 19, 2010). Featuring the Central United Church Choir & Friends. Mainly Irish Music. Freewill offering for Haitian relief.

## 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

*Isaiah 55:1-9 (New International Version)*

**Isaiah 55**

*Invitation to the Thirsty*

- <sup>1</sup> "Come, all you who are thirsty,  
come to the waters;  
and you who have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without cost.
- <sup>2</sup> Why spend money on what is not bread,  
and your labor on what does not satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,  
and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.
- <sup>3</sup> Give ear and come to me;  
hear me, that your soul may live.  
I will make an everlasting covenant with you,  
my faithful love promised to David.
- <sup>4</sup> See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander of the peoples.
- <sup>5</sup> Surely you will summon nations you know not,  
and nations that do not know you will hasten to  
you,  
because of the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has endowed you with splendor."

- <sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call on him while he is near.
- <sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake his way  
and the evil man his thoughts.  
Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have  
mercy on him,  
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.
- <sup>8</sup> "For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,"  
declares the LORD.
- <sup>9</sup> "As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**Luke 13**

***Repent or Perish***

<sup>1</sup>Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? <sup>3</sup>I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'

<sup>8</sup>" 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.' "