

*The United Church of Canada*  
*Bathurst Pastoral Charge*  
**First United Church, Bathurst**  
[www.firstunited-bathurst.ca](http://www.firstunited-bathurst.ca)

**Nov. 26, 2017**

<b>Minister</b>	Rev. Blair Lewis	<b>Organist</b>	Martha Vickers
<b>Office Adm.</b>	Isabel Clouston	<b>Greeters</b>	Dorothy McCallum
<b>Custodian</b>	Alan Wilcox		Mike Kierstead

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24</i>	<i>Isaiah 64:1-9</i>
<i>Psalms 100</i>	<i>Psalms 80</i>
<i>Ephesians 1:15-23</i>	<i>I Corinthians 1:3-9</i>
<i>Matthew 25:31-46</i>	<i>Mark 13:24-37</i>

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

*We welcome the Men's choir today  
and thank them for leading our worship service.*

### THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

#### Musical Prelude:

**\*Choral Opening:** 'Praise to the Lord' # 835 VU vs1  
*Praise to the Lord,  
all of you, God's servants.  
Blessed be the name  
of our God now and ever.  
From the rising up of the sun  
may the Lord be praised,  
praise to the name of the Lord!*

#### Welcoming:

In the Spirit of Jesus Christ,  
who calls us to be the church  
and to celebrate God's presence,  
let us worship.

#### Greetings:

One: Come to Jesus, you who are thirsty.

**All: Alleluia!**

One: Drink deep of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Alleluia!**

One: Let your hearts overflow with the living water  
that renews the face of the earth.

**All: Alleluia! Thanks be to God.**

#### Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:

#### Announcements:

#### Lighting of the Christ Candle:

One: As we light the Christ candle this morning  
we sing to the Lord a new song,  
for God has done marvelous things!  
His right hand and his holy arm have given him the victory.

**All: The Lord has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication  
in the sight of the nations.  
Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

#### Call to Worship:

With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and find myself before God on high?  
He has shown us, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of us but to do justice,  
and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with our God. (Micah 6:6,8)

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

**Touch us, O God, through the ministry of melody,  
through the sounds and senses of song,  
through the wordless wonder  
which fills our souls with heaven,  
through the spirit which teaches our feet to dance  
and causes our hearts to overflow.  
We are absorbed in the mystery and magic of music.  
In this moment of oneness  
our lives will be bonded to each other and to you.**

**Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn:** 'All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name' #334 VU

**Children of All Ages:**

**\*The Lord's Prayer:**

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

**Prayer for Understanding:**

O God, creator of light,  
by your word you have given light to our souls.  
Pour down on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding.  
Grant that, being taught by you through the holy Scripture  
we may receive with faith the words of eternal life.  
May we see and understand your wisdom  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Scripture Readings:**

Helen Knowles

**Old Testament Lesson:**

Ezekiel 34:11-16

**Responsive Psalm:**

Psalm 100 #820-#821 VU

**Gospel Lesson:**

Matthew 25 :321-46

**\*Hymn:** 'Blessed Assurance' #337 VU

**Meditation:** "Worship Your God with Gladness"

**Anthem:** 'O Beautiful Gaia'

*(The term Gaia represents "Mother Earth")*

## THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

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

**Choral Response:**

*We bring our gifts to share,  
and lift our grateful prayer  
That with our faithful care,  
Our world will grow.  
Through work of minds and hands  
in gestures small or grand,  
Let willing hearts expand the love You sow.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication:** (in unison)

**Receive, O Lord,  
we pray these our offerings which we give  
for the service of your church,  
and for the extension of your love into our world.  
Accept with them  
the worship of our hearts and lives  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Prayer Of Confession:** (in unison)

**God of new creation,  
we confess that we have failed  
to trust your bountiful goodness.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit  
you brought forth the earth  
and its creatures in abundance.  
Yet, we hoard the Earth's resources  
and refuse to share your gifts.  
We dishonor your generosity  
by withholding our charity to those in need.  
We betray your kindness  
by dealing harshly with our enemies.  
We disregard your compassion  
by severely judging the sins of others.  
We pray for forgiveness.  
By the power of your spirit renew our hearts  
and free us from our sins  
that we may enjoy the fullness  
of your blessing upon all creation. 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:**

God has exalted Jesus Christ with his own right hand,  
as leader and Savior, to grant repentance and forgiveness of sins.  
Therefore all those, who are servants of Jesus Christ and who  
believe and repent, are assured of God's pardon and forgiveness.

## Silent Prayer / Reflective Music:

**The Nicene Creed:** (in unison)

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Pastoral Prayer:

**One:** In the silence following each petition,  
let us offer our prayers of intercession and concern  
for all those in need:

**All: Let us remember those who suffer from illness,  
from the pain of memory,  
for all who are in hospital or long-term care  
for those who face uncertainty  
with their health and well-being.  
For those who suffer from torture, or victimization,  
especially those hurt by the church  
or its members . . . .**

*(Moment of Silence)*

**One:** Let us pray for those who are outcast,  
or in prison, or oppressed . . . .

*(Moment of Silence)*

**All: Let us pray for those who are hungry,  
or homeless, or poor,  
and those who are unemployed, or exploited . . . .**

**One:** Let us pray for the coming of justice in the world,  
offering what we have and receiving what we need  
of the earth's beauty . . . .

*(Moment of Silence)*

Let us pray for peace that is a just reconciliation . . .

*(Moment of Silence)*

**All: Let us pray for the earth on which we walk  
and to which we will one day return . . . .**

*(Moment of Silence)*

**One:** And let us offer our own petitions,  
trusting in God's wisdom and compassion . . . .  
God hears the prayers of the faithful,  
and in God we find safe harbour and understanding.

**All: Amen.**

## THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

\*Closing Hymn: 'In Christ There Is No East or West' # 606 VU  
(tune St. Peter VU 344)

### Commissioning:

**May the blessing of God,  
the giver of every good and perfect gift;  
and of Christ, who summons us to service;  
and of the Holy Spirit, who inspires generosity and love,  
be with us all.**

### 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: 'May God's Sheltering Wings' #214MV

**May God's sheltering wings,  
His gathering wings protect you  
May God's nurturing arms,  
His cradling arms sustain you,  
And hold you in his love  
And hold you in his love.**

### Organ Postlude:

## Church News

### This Week at First United –Nov. 27-Dec. 2

Monday	9am	Ways & Means – Eddy Rm
	9am – 11 am	Badminton
	6:15pm	Beavers – Rms 1,2 & 3
Tuesday	4pm	Pastoral Council – Eddy Rm
	6:15pm	Cubs-Scouts- DEMH Gym
Wednesday	9:00 am	TAB – DEMH Rms 1,2 & 3
	6:30 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday		Turkey Supper

The bulletin today is  
***in loving memory of Cletus Lagivne***  
placed by Judy, Macky & Jennifer

### Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2017 **900**  
Total to Date **891**  
The Volunteer Center supplies, on average,  
**500** households monthly.  
This number increases over the Christmas Season.



A new CD, "Melodies on the Bay" is now available. It contains a variety of music recorded recently at First United Church by Linda Knowles MacPherson and Donald Eddy. A copy may be obtained at the church office with a donation to the Ministry of Music.

### Turkey Harvest Supper

Thursday, **November 30, 2017**  
Donald Eddy Memorial Hall  
Adults \$ 15 – Children (12 and under) \$ 6  
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.  
Takeouts available 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.  
All tickets sold in advance.  
For information call 546-3532



**The Upper Room** for Nov. and Dec. are in the Narthex. Please feel free to take one. A container for donations is located with the publication.

**Poinsettia Fund:** Once again this year we are hoping to have the beauty of our sanctuary enhanced with poinsettias for the Christmas season. Those wishing to contribute to the annual poinsettia fund may place an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please mark clearly on the face of the envelope – Poinsettia Fund with your name, PAR or envelope number. List the names that you wish to have printed in the Christmas bulletin insert. Donations will also be received in the church office – deadline is December 14, 2017.

**2018 Envelopes:** The Contribution Envelopes for 2018 are located in the Narthex. Please insure that envelopes for the correct year are used as individual contribution #'s have changed.

**Notice from the Property Management Team** For security reasons, all doors to the sanctuary will be kept locked except the one closest to the office. To enter the church during business hours, please use the St. Patrick Street entrance.

**Annual Christmas Benevolence Program:** For those interested in supporting this benevolence program, donation envelopes are available today on the Christmas tree to be located at the entrance to the sanctuary. The White gift service will be on Sunday, December 10, and the envelopes can be returned at that time. Any personal cheque may be made payable to First United Church. Donations to this fund will be used to support the volunteer center as well as those people in our congregation who find it difficult, financially, throughout the year.



**Save the Date:**

Christmas Concert Hymn Sing - "Silent Night, Holy Night".  
Wed., Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>  
Storm Date – Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>

## Community Events

A "**Spirit of Christmas 2017**" Holiday Show will feature performances by local musicians Rosalind Kennedy – Townsend, Anick Turner, and Dorothy Roy- Nini ; Marc Melanson and the Bandits; Jody Lavigne; Derek Knowles, Alysa Collins, Raymond Legere and the Downshore Boys; Eddie Edwards; Stacy Hickey-Buraglia; Chad Townsend; Celtic 3 – Alistair Tulloch, Craig Caldwell and Jason Nicol; Landry Highland Dancers; Jasmin and Lee Lapointe and Amanda Godin. The concert will take place at the Gwendolyn Kent Auditorium, Bathurst High School, on Sunday, November 26, (2:00 P.M.), 2017. The concert is being held in support of the "Spirit of Christmas" Senior Initiative. Tickets are \$15.00 and are available from participating members, "Arisitide" (145 Main Street), and at the door.

**Organ Recital** given by organist Mathieu Duguay on Saturday, November 26 at 2:00p.m. in St Paul's Church in Lower Caraquet. Admission free. This recital is part of Canada 150 program celebrating religious heritage in the community. The church has one of eastern Canada's finest organs which was installed in the church in 1996 and built by Casavant in 1962.

**Desks Available.** There are a number of Student Desks available and are located in the DEMH basement. Wood composit & metal combination 35 1/2in. x 19 1/2in.

**The Ladies Auxiliary to Herman J. Good VC Branch 18,**  
Royal Canadian Legion  
Turkey Supper & Entertainment  
Includes coffee, tea, and dessert  
Sunday, December 3, 2017 Served at 5:00pm Cost: \$15.00  
Take-outs Available Tickets are on sale at the Legion.

**Family & Community Breakfast**

Saturday, December 9, 2017  
8:00 – 10:00 am  
Saint George's Church Hall  
432 King Avenue

**Louisbourg Choir**, New Brunswick's only professional choir, Monique Richard, director, with guest artist soprano Nicole Jordan, will give a concert the **RHSJ Home, Bathurst, Saturday, December 2 at 7:30 pm**. Come enjoy fresh and renewed Christmas classics, spiced up to charm you and put you in celebrating the magic of Christmas and the arrival of the winter solstice. Tickets on sale at the door: \$25; Free for students. For further details [www.concertnb.ca](http://www.concertnb.ca)



**INVITATION:** In celebration of Marie Oliver's 80th birthday, Team Esperanza & her family invite you to an Open House in the Eddy Room of the Donald Eddy Memorial Hall, on Saturday, December 2nd, 2-4 PM. Best Wishes only! For more information, call Helen M Knowles, 546-9563

**RSVP Ministries** invites you to our Luncheon at Gowen Brae, 150 Youhall Dr, Bathurst on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 \$17 from 11:30am - 1:00pm, doors open at 11:00am. We will have our traditional carol singing, led by talented pianist Helen Hachey, and Hazel McMullin of Moncton will bring her message of "How to Find Peace in a World Full of Turmoil". **Reservations are required before Saturday, December 9**. Please contact Joanne at 542-1118 or [ejgodin@rogers.com](mailto:ejgodin@rogers.com) or contact Connie at 546-2127.

### **Ezekiel 34:11-16 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> “For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them.

<sup>12</sup> As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.

<sup>13</sup> I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land.

<sup>14</sup> I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.

<sup>15</sup> I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD.

<sup>16</sup> I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

### **Matthew 25:31-46 New International Version (NIV)**

#### The Sheep and the Goats

<sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne.

<sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

<sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

<sup>34</sup> “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

<sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,

<sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

<sup>37</sup> “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?’

<sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?’

<sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

<sup>40</sup> “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

<sup>41</sup> “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

<sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,

<sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

<sup>44</sup> “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

<sup>45</sup> “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

<sup>46</sup> “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”