

The United Church of Canada
Bathurst Pastoral Charge
First United Church, Bathurst
www.firstunited-bathurst.ca

Feb. 18, 2018
First Sunday of Lent

Minister	Rev. Blair Lewis	Organist	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Isabel Clouston	Greeters	Beth & Bob Sullivan
Custodian	Alan Wilcox		

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Genesis 9:8-17</i> <i>Psalm 25</i> <i>I Peter 3:18-22</i> <i>Mark 1:9-15</i>	<i>Genesis 17:1-7,15-16</i> <i>Psalm 22</i> <i>Romans 4:13-25</i> <i>Mark 8:31-38</i>

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

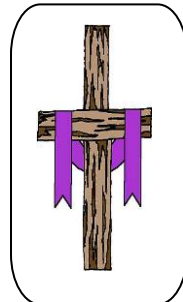
We welcome Rev. Jean Herman today and thank him for leading our worship service.

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Musical Prelude:

Choral Opening: *'Spirit, Open My Heart'*
Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.

#MV 79



Welcoming:

Happy the people whose God is the LORD!
Psalm 144: 15

Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:

Announcements:

Lightning of the Christ Candle:

One: I have come as light into the world,
 that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.
John 12:46

**All: By daily looking to Him,
 who came a Light into the world,
 we are more and more freed
 from the darkness of ignorance,
 error, sin, and misery**

The Candles of Lent, Our Journey of Faith:

(Six candles are lit before the service)

One: Today is the first Sunday of Lent.
 Lent is a time to think about the things
 that block us from following God's way of loving
 and caring for this world and one another.

Today we will extinguish our first Lenten candle.
 This candle represents anger.
 As the candle is extinguished,
 let us pray in silence for God to remove anger within us
 and anger in our world that leads to hatred and violence.

*(Extinguish our first Lenten candle and then pause for a moment
 of silent prayer.)*

**All: Knowing that God accepts us for who we are,
 but loves us into who we can be,
 let us join together in this song.**

Choral Response: *'Take, O Take Me as I Am'* **#85 MV**
Take, O take me as I am;
Summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart
And live in me, in me.

Call to Worship:

One: We Gather in this Sacred Space:
 Our Lenten journey calls us to the wilderness
 of challenge and blessing.

**All: On our journey we follow Jesus
who was tempted in the desert.
The Christ is our companion and guide.**

One: We journey following the footsteps
of our ancestors of faith.

**All: They too travelled in the midst of temptations,
trusting in the guidance of God's Spirit.**

One: This Lent we join the journey once again.

**All: Let us trust in the companionship of Christ
and the strength of the Spirit as we gather today.**

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)

**As in days of old, Creator God,
we come to look for your signs of covenant promises.
Like the rainbow days of Noah,
we see and know your signs
and hear your voice again
directing us to places of preparation
and transformation
in our lives and in our world.
Thank you God, for your covenant signs
in this season of Lent. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn:**

'Water Flowing from the Mountains' #87 MV

Water flowing from the mountains.
Water flowing o'er the earth.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water gives us birth.

Refrain

Drink deep this source of life.

Drink deep and know.

*For living water sings, and living water brings
the love that makes our spirit grow.*

Water rushing down the rivers.
Water rushing to the sea.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water makes us free.

Refrain

Water springing from the dry place.
Water springing in the sun.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water for each one.

Refrain

Children of All Ages:

***Prayer:**

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding: (in unison)

**By the inspiration of your Spirit,
make known your ways, O God;
teach us your paths and lead us in your truth. Amen**

Scripture Readings:

Isabel MacLaggan

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 9:8-17

New Testament Lesson: I Peter 3 :18-22

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 25 #752 VU

Gospel Lesson: Mark 1 :9-15

***Hymn:** *'Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God'* #356 VU

Message: "Believe in the gospel"

Anthem: *'As the Wind Song Through the Trees'*

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

Presentation of Gifts and Self to God:

Choral Response:

Give what you can,

Take what you need.

For the body of Christ, is enough to feed.

The hungry for Spirit and the thirsty for love.

Give thanks when you can to our God up above.

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

**God of all bounty and blessing,
receive our lives and our gifts
to be bounty and blessings to you, our church,
and the world. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

**O God, we hear your voice
and we see the way of Jesus set before us.
But it's hard, dear God,
to try again and again
to live up to our baptismal vows
and maintain our resolve
to be your people in the world.
In repentance we ask you to forgive us.
Set us once again on a holy path that leads to you.
Amen.**

Choral Response: *'And When You Call for Me'* #96 MV

***And when you call for me,
I have already answered.
And when you call for me,
I am already there.***

Assurance of pardon:

One: Friends, God hears our prayers
and sets before us the way of Jesus.
God calls us and gives us enough grace
and mercy to follow the way.

All: Thanks be to God.

Silent Prayer / Reflective Music:

Pastoral Prayer:

As we enter into this holy season, Lord God,
we give you thanks for the promises that sustain us.
We thank you:
For the joy of using our strengths and abilities in your service;
For the people who support and love us
in our times of weakness;
For the chance to recover from mistakes, to begin again.

Leaning on your promises, it is with hope that we pray:

For anyone we have hurt by harsh or careless words or deeds;
For those known to us who carry heavy burdens;
For those in our place of work;
For all who are seeking employment;
For troubled places in our world;
For ourselves and our needs and hopes;
For health for our bodies, minds, and spirits;

And now we pray together in the words that Jesus taught:
Our Father...

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***Closing Hymn:** *'Will You Come and Follow Me'* #567 VU

Benediction:

Thank you, God,
for blessing us with memories of Jesus' baptism and ours.
Thank you for removing our reluctance, doubt, and fears,
for replacing them with courage and commission.
We go forth with your calling, direction, and blessing.
Amen.

***Choral Closing:** *'Stay with Us through the Night'* #182 VU vs.1

***Stay with us through the night.
Stay with us through the pain
Stay with us, blessed stranger
Till the morning breaks again.***

Organ Postlude:

*A smile^[a] makes people happy.
Good news makes them feel better.
Proverbs 15:30(ERV)*

Church News

This Week at First United –Feb. 19- Feb. 24

Monday	Closed	Family Day
Tuesday	9am	Ways & Means – Eddy Rm
	9-11am	Badminton
	2pm	Bible Study – Eddy Rm
	6:15pm	Scouts - DEMH Gym
Wednesday	9am	TAB – Rms 1,2 &3
	9 -11am	Badminton
	6:30pm	Choir Practice

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2018 **900**

Total to Date **123**

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

The Volunteer Center supplies, on average, 500 households monthly.



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



Clean up crew needed: The Ways and Means team are looking for people who would be willing to have their names placed on a list to work on the clean-up crew after their functions. You would not be asked to work at all the functions. Even a couple of times a year would be appreciated. Call the church office to volunteer 546-3532



Sunrise Breakfast

(pancakes, sausages, baked beans, scrambled eggs, hash browns, toast, juice, coffee & tea)

TODAY

8:30 a.m. to noon

Donald Eddy Memorial Hall

\$10.00 adults - \$3.00 children

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.

Notice from Nominations Team

The Nominations Team would like to take this opportunity to invite all who support the life and work of Christ's Church in the world to serve on a working team of our faith community.

The following positions remain vacant:

Property Management - Chairperson

Community Outreach - Team Member

Anyone wishing to volunteer is encouraged to call Rick Watling 548-9361

Thank You: The "Friends of First United" team would like to thank everyone who helped in anyway with the Valentine Luncheon. Approximately \$1400.00 was raised.

Confirmation Classes: If anyone is interested in attending confirmation classes, please contact the church office at 546-3532.

Miller Bursary Guidelines: The recipient of the Miller Bursary must be a student from BHS or ESN, a member of First United Church and have achieved the highest overall average of those

Community Events

The **Evangel Mission Team** will be travelling to the Dominican Republic in April. They will be taking items for Servant's Heart Ministries for their Pregnancy Resource Centre, Girls Program (I am Different), School Hugs for Kids program, art supplies for the Loma Art Program, and medical supplies. If you would like to support them, a complete list of items they are looking for can be found on the bulletin board in the Narthex or by contacting Glen & Joyce Daley at 546-3764. Monetary donations are also welcome. Items/donations will be received until March 18th and can be dropped off at the First United Church office.

Family & Community Breakfast

Saturday, March 10, 2018 8:00 – 10:00 am
Saint George's Church Hall 432 King Avenue

2018 World Day of Prayer will be held in the basement of Sacred Heart Cathedral on March 2 at 3pm. All are welcome.

*God gives us
dreams a size too big
so that we can grow in them.
~Author Unknown~*

Suicide Prevention Month

How Can Suicide Be Prevented?

The majority of suicides can be prevented. There are a number of measures that can be taken at community and national levels to reduce the risk, including:

- reducing access to the means of suicide (e.g. pesticides, medication, guns);
- treating people with mental disorders (particularly those with depression, alcoholism, and schizophrenia);
- providing follow-up to people who have made suicide attempts;
- responsible media reporting;
- training primary health care workers;
- mental health promotion.

At a more personal level, it is important to know that only a small number of suicides happen without warning. Most people who die by suicide give definite warnings of their intentions. Therefore, all threats of self-harm should be taken seriously. In addition, a majority of people who attempt suicide are ambivalent and not entirely intent on dying. Many suicides occur in a period of improvement when the person has the energy and the will to turn despairing thoughts into destructive action. However, a once-suicidal person is not necessarily always at risk: suicidal thoughts may return but they are not permanent and in some people they may never return. Source: World Health Organization (WHO) How can suicide be prevented

Promoting Hope and Resiliency is Central to Suicide Prevention: Hope and Resiliency should be reflected in all suicide prevention activities and messaging.

Suicide Prevention is everyone's Responsibility:

No single discipline or level of societal organization is solely responsible for Suicide Prevention; individuals in many roles and at all levels of community/society and government can and should contribute to the prevention of suicide related behaviours. Suicide Prevention therefore requires collaboration based on equality where no discipline or stakeholder is privileged over another.

*Ten signs
you're doing well in life*

- 1. You have a roof over your head.*
- 2. You ate today.*
- 3. You have a good heart.*
- 4. You wish good for others.*
- 5. You have clean water.*
- 6. Someone cares for you.*
- 7. You strive to be better.*
- 8. You have clean cloths.*
- 9. You have a dream.*
- 10 You're breathing.*

*Be thankful for the little things,
For they are the most important.*

Genesis 9:8-17 New International Version (NIV)

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him:

⁹ “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you

¹⁰ and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth.

¹¹ I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

¹² And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come:

¹³ I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

¹⁴ Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds,

¹⁵ I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life.

¹⁶ Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”

¹⁷ So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”

1 Peter 3:18-22 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

¹⁹ After being made alive,^[a] he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—

²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,

²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God.^[b] It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

²² who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Mark 1:9-15 New International Version (NIV)

The Baptism and Testing of Jesus

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness,

¹³ and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted^[a] by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

Jesus Announces the Good News

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.

¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"