

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

**Feb. 25, 2018**  
**Second Sunday of Lent**

<b>Minister</b>	Rev. Blair Lewis	<b>Organist</b>	Martha Vickers
<b>Office Adm.</b>	Isabel Clouston	<b>Greeters</b>	Joanne & John Wiseman
<b>Custodian</b>	Alan Wilcox		

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<b>Lectionary for today</b>	<b>Lectionary for next Sunday</b>
<i>Genesis 17:1-7,15-16</i> <i>Psalm 22</i> <i>Romans 4:13-25</i> <i>Mark 8:31-38</i>	<i>Exodus 20:1-17</i> <i>Psalm 19</i> <i>I Corinthians 1:18-25</i> <i>John 2:13-22</i>

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

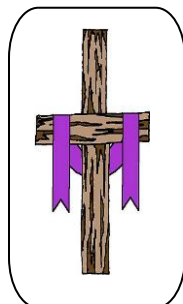
*We welcome the Men's choir today and thank them for leading our music.*

### THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

#### Musical Prelude:

**Choral Opening:** *'Spirit, Open My Heart'* **#MV 79**

***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.***



#### Welcoming:

On this second Sunday of Lent we bring the light of our good intentions. May God bless us and our time together that when we leave here, we will experience God's blessing.

#### Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:

#### Announcements:

#### Call To Worship:

"Yet even now," says the Lord,  
"return to me with all your heart,  
and rend your hearts and not your garments."  
Return to the Lord, your God,  
for God is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

*Joel 2: 12, 13*

#### The Candles of Lent, Our Journey of Faith:

*(Five candles and the Christ candle are lit before the service.)*

One: Today is the second 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 second Lenten candle.

This candle represents greed.

As the candle is extinguished,

let us pray in silence for God to remove greed

within us and in our world,

that stops us from being satisfied

with what we have and from sharing with one another.

*(Extinguish the second 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.***

**Prayer of Approach:** (in unison)  
Creating God,  
still centre 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:** *'We Praise You, O God'* #218 VU

**Children of All Ages:**

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

### THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

**Prayer for Understanding:**

God of call, God of transformation,  
God of our daily journey;  
help us to discern your still, small voice.  
Open us to change and growth  
that we may walk with Christ.  
We pray that You will guide us on our way. Amen.

**Scripture Readings:** Sherry Mitton  
**Old Testament Lesson:** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
**Responsive Psalm:** Psalm 22 Parts 2,3 & 4 #745-746 VU  
**Gospel Lesson:** Mark 8 :31-38

**\*Hymn:** *'Jesus Came, A Child Like Me'* #583 VU

**Message:**  
"God's covenant and the amazing journey of Life"

**Anthem:** *'Faith, While the Trees Are Still in Blossom'*

### 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)

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)

O God, we confess  
the blindness that is not even aware of sinning;  
the pride that dares not admit that it is wrong;  
the self that can see nothing but its own will;  
the righteousness that knows no fault;  
the callousness that has ceased to care;  
the defiance that does not regard its own sins;  
the evasion that always tries to make excuses;  
the heart that is too hardened to repent.  
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 winter season  
and lead us to the new life of Easter. 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:**

Here is the good news for you:  
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.  
If we confess our sins, God is just,  
and may be trusted to forgive our sins  
and cleanse us from every kind of wrong.  
You may be assured that your sins are forgiven.

**Silent Prayer:**

**Reflective Music:**

**Pastoral Prayer:**

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, our country of Canada and our world.

We pray for our congregation  
and all faith communities around our world.  
May our places of worship be a source of inspiration  
and strength for all people.

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 live with overwhelming illness,  
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 solidarity with all people,  
O Living God who knows all our pain and joy,  
be with us in our lives. Amen.

**THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH**

**\*Closing Hymn:** *'Faith of Our Fathers'* #580 VU

**Commissioning:** ( in unison)

**Giving and sustaining God,  
we experience your compelling call  
to undertake our daily 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 this Lenten time. 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:**

# Church News

## This Week at First United –Feb. 26- March 3

Monday	9-11am	Badminton
	6:15pm	Beavers
Tuesday	2pm	Bible Study – Eddy Rm
	6:15pm	Scouts - DEMH Gym
Wednesday	9am	TAB – Rms 1,2 &3
	9 -11am	Badminton
	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Thursday	1:30 pm	Pastoral Care Team - RMR

### Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2018 **900**

Total to Date **133**

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 March and April has been delayed in shipping. . They will be made available as soon as they arrive.



**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

**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 position remain vacant:**

Property Management - Chairperson

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

**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

**Sunday School:** Due to the March break, Sunday School; will not be held on March 4 & March 11.

**Thank You** to all who supported the Sunrise Breakfast held on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>. \$1612.14 was raised. Thanks to all the volunteers who make these events possible. Our next Ways and Means event will be the Ham and Scallop supper to be held on March 22, 2018.

**Counter Needed:** If anyone is interested is counting offering for the month of March, contact the church office a t546-3532.

*Some beautiful paths  
can't be discovered  
without getting lost."*

*-Erol Ozan-*

## 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **The Ladies Auxiliary to Herman J. Good VC Branch #18**

Meal of the Month March 4, 2018 5pm  
Irish stew, dessert, tea and coffee \$12.00.  
Take outs available.  
Tickets can be purchased at the Legion Office or bar.  
575 St. Peter Avenue.

*When I stand before God  
at the end of my life,  
I would hope that I would not  
have a single bit of talent left,  
and could say,  
"I used everything you gave me."  
~Erma Bombeck~*

## **Suicide Prevention Month**

### **Knowing When and How to Ask about Suicide Saves Lives:**

Every person can know when and how to ask about and talk to someone about suicide – just like we know what to do with physical pain. Suicide Prevention requires the support of open and direct talk about suicide safety and training, to be comfortable in asking about suicide and helping in suicide risk situations regardless of station or discipline in the community.

Knowledge-informed strategies are based in research, culture and lived experience.

Suicide prevention must be informed and guided through the pivotal role of bereaved survivors and those with lived experience of suicidality. Suicide prevention requires a respect of our multicultural and diverse society that embraces a shared and mutual responsibility to support the dignity of human life and each person.

CASP believes that suicide prevention leaders assume a responsibility to challenge and question our routine ways of thinking about suicide and have a curiosity and appreciation of diverse points of view. CASP is committed to a community based, life building/affirming, person-centered, and holistic approach to Suicide Prevention that recognizes the interconnectedness of the body, mind and spirit.

### **Suicide & Mental Illness**

There is no single mental illness diagnosis that is exclusively responsible for death by suicide. The majority of people who live with a mental illness do not attempt nor die by suicide. Some estimated facts:

85%-98% of people diagnosed with depression do not die by suicide.  
80%-97% of people diagnosed with bipolar illness do not die by suicide.

85%-94% of people diagnosed with schizophrenia do not die by suicide.

Risk for death by suicide is increased if a person suffers from depression alongside schizophrenia, bipolar illness, substance abuse, anxiety disorders. Those who struggle with a diagnosed personality disorder can be up to 3x more likely to die by suicide than those without and, risk is increased if they also struggle with a substance abuse disorder. It is important to get treatment for a mental illness.

## *Life Is*

*Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.*

*Life is beauty, admire it.*

*Life is a dream, realize it.*

*Life is a challenge, meet it.*

*Life is a duty, complete it.*

*Life is a game, play it.*

*Life is a promise, fulfill it.*

*Life is sorrow, overcome it.*

*Life is a song, sing it.*

*Life is a struggle, accept it.*

*Life is a tragedy, confront it.*

*Life is an adventure, dare it.*

*Life is luck, make it.*

*Life is too precious, do not destroy it.*

*Life is life, fight for it.*

*~Mother Teresa~*

## Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 New International Version (NIV)

### The Covenant of Circumcision

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty<sup>[a]</sup>; walk before me faithfully and be blameless.

<sup>2</sup> Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

<sup>3</sup> Abram fell facedown, and God said to him,

<sup>4</sup> "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations.

<sup>5</sup> No longer will you be called Abram<sup>[b]</sup>; your name will be Abraham,<sup>[c]</sup> for I have made you a father of many nations.

<sup>6</sup> I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you.

<sup>7</sup> I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

<sup>15</sup> God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah.

<sup>16</sup> I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

## Mark 8:31-38 New International Version (NIV)

### Jesus Predicts His Death

<sup>31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

<sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

### The Way of the Cross

<sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

<sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life<sup>[a]</sup> will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

<sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

<sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

<sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."