

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

March 4, 2018
Third Sunday of Lent

Minister	Rev. Blair Lewis	Organist	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Isabel Clouston	Greeters	Gayle Ferron
Custodian	Alan Wilcox		Shirley Sealy

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Exodus 20:1-17</i> <i>Psalm 19</i> <i>I Corinthians 1:18-25</i> <i>John 2:13-22</i>	<i>Numbers 21:4-9</i> <i>Psalm 107</i> <i>Ephesians 2:1-10</i> <i>John 3:14-21</i>

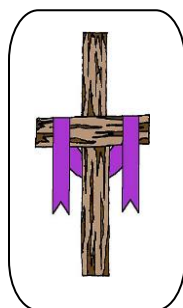
*The asterisk * identifies those times in the service where the congregation is invited to stand as able.*

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:

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 Friends Worshipping by CD:

Announcements:

Call To Worship:

One: You will say in that day:
**All: God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid;
 for the Sovereign God is my strength and my song.**
 One: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
 You will say in that day:
**All: Sing praises to the Sovereign God
 who has done gloriously;
 let this be known in all the earth.**

The Candles of Lent, Our Journey of Faith:

(Ronalds family)

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

One: Today is the third 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 third Lenten candle.
 This candle represents fear.
 As the candle is extinguished,
 let us pray in silence for God to remove
 the fear within us and in our world
 that stops us from trusting God.

(Extinguish the third 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)

**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:** *'Teach Me, God, to Wonder'* #299 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.

Scripture Readings: Pat MacIntosh
Old Testament Lesson: Exodus 20:1-17
Responsive Psalm: Psalm 19 #740-741 VU
Gospel Lesson: John 2 :13-22

***Hymn:** *'Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold'* #605 VU

Message: "The Guiding principles of Life"

Anthem: *'Song of the Cross'*

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.*

*** Offering Prayer::** (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.
May we 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.
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: *'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:
God the Creator brings you new life,
forgives and redeems you.
Take hold of this forgiveness,
and live your life in the spirit of Jesus. Amen.

Silent Prayer:

Reflective Music:

Pastoral Prayer:

One: Almighty God, you are the source of our being,
you love all of us and forget no one;
we bring to you our prayers for all of your children.
For all that we love, and for whom we watch and care.

All: We pray that you will hear us, O God.

One: For all who are imprisoned by circumstances in their lives, all
who suffer from oppression,
that you will manifest your mercy toward them,
and make the heart of humanity as merciful as your own.

All: We pray that you will hear us, O God.

One: For all who are patients in hospital
or living in long-term care,
may your love be their comfort and strength.

All: We pray that you will hear us, O God.

One: For all whose days are filled with worry
and concern for their loved ones.

All: We pray that you will hear us, O God.

One: For all who were absorbed in their own grief,
that they may be raised to share the sorrows
of their brothers and sisters,
and all the secret and blessed fellowship of the cross.

All: We pray that you will hear us, O God.

One: For all perplexed by the deeper questions of life,
and overshadowed with doubt,
that light may arise in their darkness.

All: We pray that you will hear us, O God.

One: For all who are lonely and sad in the midst of other's joys,
that they may know you as their friend and comforter.

All: We pray that you will hear us, O God.

One: For the infirm and aged, and for all who are passing through
the valley of the shadow of death, that they may find their
strength in you and light at evening time.

All: We pray that you will hear us, O God.

One: For all forgotten by us, but dear to you.

All: We pray that you will hear us, O God.

**All: O God our creator, sustainer, and redeemer
have regard to our intercessions,
answer them according to your will,
and make us channels of your infinite love
and helpfulness as we pray
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer:

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***Closing Hymn:** *'My Faith Looks Up to Thee'* #663 VU

Commissioning: (in unison)

**Christ within you, the hope of glory to come.
Go into the world with the daring and tender love.
The world is waiting. Go in peace.
In all that you do,
do it for love and by the spirit
of Jesus who is the Lord.
Be strong and of good courage, do not be afraid.
It is the Lord your God who goes with you;
he will not fail you nor forsake you.**

(Deuteronomy 31:6 adapted)

Blessing:

Go forth,
for the love of God is yours to share,
the peace of Christ is yours to extend,
the power of the Holy Spirit is yours to offer.

***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 – March 5- March 10

Monday	9-11am	Badminton
	1:30pm	UCW – Eddy Rm
Tuesday	2pm	Bible Study – Eddy Rm
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 **139**

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 Ministry and Personnel committee is looking for individuals who would be willing to fill in for the Office Administrator and/or the Custodian during vacation time or when sick. If you are interested please contact the office at 546-3532.

Notice of 2018 Congregational Annual Meeting

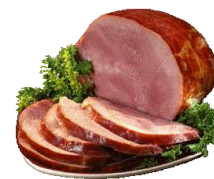
Please note: The 2018 Congregational Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 18, 2018, following the church service.

As a follow-up to the request for change in pastoral relations in order to retire received from Rev. Blair Lewis at our worship service on February 25 we will be selecting persons to serve on the Joint Needs Assessment Committee for our Pastoral Charge at the annual meeting on March 18, 2018. This election will be pending approval of Presbytery.

The Joint Needs Assessment Committee Report that is prepared in consultation with Miramichi Presbytery will be the guiding document in declaring a vacancy and our search for a new minister.

Any member or adherent of our congregation who would like to serve on this committee please contact Sandra Boone at 546-5453 or by email:boonies@nb.sympatico.ca

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.



Ham & Scallop Supper

Thursday, March 22, 2018

Adults \$ 15 - Children (12 & under) \$ 6

5:00-6:30pm

Take outs available 4:00 -5:30pm

Advance Tickets Sales only

Tickets available from Ways and Means Team members and at the church office 546-3532

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

Counter Needed: If anyone is interested is counting offering for the month of March, contact the church office at 546-3532.

Thank you to Alexa Chamberlain, Charlotte & Julia Woods and Ingrid Watling for attending to our candles, John & Joanne Wiseman and Beth & Bob Sullivan for being our greeters and to Lola Nelson and David Cumming for being the counters for the month of February.

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

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

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.

Saint Patrick's Day Baked Ham Supper and Entertainment

Saint George's Anglican Church Hall

Saturday, March 17th at 5:00 pm

Adults \$15.00 Children (under 12) \$7.50

Tickets available - Church Office - 546-3225

Myrna Good-Hollett - 546-5955

Glenda Stickle - 548-8360

Nancy Pitre - 548-5112

Central United Church: Pancake Supper Saturday,
April 7, 2018 4:30-6pm Tickets: Adults \$10 12 & under \$5.
Take-outs available Contact: Preston Knowles 546-4068

Country & Gospel Music Night Saturday, April 28, 2018 7pm
Christ Church Hall, Clifton. Featuring: The Country Capers, Bernard Arseneau and others. Free will offering - for the Anglican Parish of New Bandon. Contact: Allen Miller 544-5625

*Every survival kit
should include a sense of humor.
~Author Unknown~*

Exodus 20:1-17 New International Version (NIV)

The Ten Commandments

20 And God spoke all these words:

²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³“You shall have no other gods before^[a] me.

⁴“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,

⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷“You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns.

¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³“You shall not murder.

¹⁴“You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵“You shall not steal.

¹⁶“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

John 2:13-22 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Clears the Temple Courts

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money.

¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.

¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!"

¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."^[a]

¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

²⁰ They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?"

²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body.

²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.