

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

March 18, 2018
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Baptism
Annual Meeting

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>Jeremiah 31:31-34</i> <i>Psalm 51</i> <i>Hebrews 5:5-10</i> <i>John 12:20-33</i>	<i>Psalm 118</i> <i>John 12:12-16</i>

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

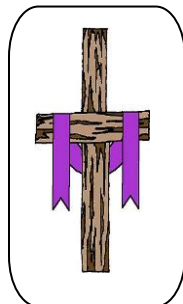
We welcome the Mens choir today and thank them for leading our worship.

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:

One: O come let us sing to God;

**All: let us shout with joy
to the rock of our salvation.**

One: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

All: let us joyously shout to God with songs of praise.

Psalm 95:1,2

Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD: Announcements:

The Candles of Lent, Our Journey of Faith:

(The MacLaggan Family)

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

One: Today is the fifth 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 the world and one another. Today we will extinguish our fifth Lenten candle.

This candle represents envy.

As this candle is extinguished,

let us pray in silence for God

to remove envy within us and in our world that stops us from appreciating the things we have

by wishing we had more.

(Extinguish the fifth Lenten candle, and then pause for a moment of silent prayer.)

**All: Knowing that God loves
and 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: God of the poor and unprotected,
whose love is fierce,

**All: whose righteousness burns brighter
than the brightest fire:
fill our hearts with holy indignation
when peace by way of justice is denied.
Grant us the courage
to follow Christ wherever that may lead;**

One: for yours is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory in time and for eternity. Amen.

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)
**Glorious God, we come together as your people.
We come as a praising people,
singing your goodness;
we come as a praying people,
bringing our needs, our joys;
we come as a listening people,
opening to your Word.
Fill us with your love
and empower us for faithful living, we pray. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn:**
'Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights' #108 VU

Children of All Ages:

***The Lord's Prayer:**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Introduction to the Sacrament of Baptism:

Minister: Parents, Family, Relatives, Friends in Christ,
we gather now around this font to celebrate
the gift of grace in the Sacrament of Baptism.

They were bringing children to Jesus
that he might touch them, and bless them,
and the disciples rebuked them.

When Jesus saw it he was indignant and said to them:

*"Let the children come to me, do not hinder them, for to such
belongs the realm of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does
not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it".*

Then Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them,
laying his hands upon them.

***Baptismal Hymn:**
'I was There to Hear Your Borneing Cry' #644 VU

The Sacrament of Baptism proclaims and celebrates the Grace of God. Therefore, we gather at this font to proclaim for **Lincoln James Paul Hachey and Daniel Timothy Pitre** the gift of God's grace and call in Jesus Christ, and to celebrate their welcome into the Family of Faith.

This is the water of Baptism.

Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's Body.

Presentation of:
Lincoln James Paul Hachey

**Son of: Sean Ralph Henry Hachey
and
Bailey Joyce (McLean) Hachey,**

Daniel Timothy Pitre

**Son of: Nicholas Jason Pitre
and
Christine Nancy Bealieu**

**God Parents: Christopher Paul Pitre
and
Katlynn Amber Bealieu**

On behalf of the Christian Development Team of the Bathurst Pastoral Charge, a congregation of the United Church of Canada, I present **Lincoln James Paul Hachey and Daniel Timothy Pitre** to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Questions of the Parents:

Minister: Do you desire to have your child to be baptized into the family of faith of Jesus Christ?

Answer: We do!

Minister: Therefore, I ask you before God, and your families and friends, do you profess your faith in God your Heavenly Father, in Jesus Christ your Saviour and Lord, and in the Holy Spirit your teacher and guide?

Answer: We do!

Minister: Will you bring up your child in the knowledge and love of God, teaching him the truths and duties of the Christian faith, that he may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour?

Answer: We will, God being our helper!

Minister: Will you join with your brothers and sisters in the mission and ministry of Christ's Church?

Answer: We will!

Minister: Will you share with your child the Christian life, and seek to grow with him in faith, hope and love?

Answer: We will!

***A New Creed:**

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

**We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

***Church Family Commitment**

Minister: We pledge to these children and their parents our support and care.

**All: As a baptized and baptizing Church,
we commit ourselves to support and uphold
these children and their parents
within the community of faith.
May God grant us the grace to live out our Baptism.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Pouring of Water

Minister: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

Minister: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Minister: *(As Water is being poured).*

Eternal and present God, we thank you for the water with which you bless us. Pour out, O God, Your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this water, that this font may become, our font of blessing and our source of peace.

The Baptism:

Lincoln James Paul Hachey/ Daniel Timothy Pitre, I baptize you in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. I sign you with the Cross of Christ, and seal it with the kiss of peace and love.

The Laying of the Hands:

Welcome by the Congregation:

Minister: We welcome **Lincoln James Paul Hachey/ Daniel Timothy Pitre** into the Household of Faith. We welcome you with joy and thanksgiving.

**All: We are members of the body of Christ.
We are inheritors of God's promise;
in the name of Christ,
we welcome Lincoln James Paul and
Daniel Timothy into the family of faith.**

Choral Response:

'A Little Child the Saviour Came' #445 VU
(tune: Hamburg – Blue Hymnary)

Placement of Banner Sheep:

Presentation of Stole, Certificate, Candle and Bible:

Blessing:

The Grace of Christ attend you;
the love of God surround you
and the Holy Spirit keep you. Amen.

Transfer of membership:

On behalf of of the Bathurst Pastoral Charge,
First United Church
I am honored to welcome Gaylon Graham and Patricia
Graham from Westdale United Church, Peterborough,
Ontario, and Edward McDermaid from St. Andrew's United
Church, Miramichi New Brunswick.
We are pleased to receive your membership transfers
and we pray that your time here at First United Church
will be an important chapter in your faith journey.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding:

As we hear the reading from scripture
may the sweep of this day be steadied
by the power of your presence.
Infectious grace, persistent love,
outrageous vision may your Spirit guide us;
until an iridescence grows within
marking our course with peaceful certainty.
Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Cheryl Brewster

Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 51 #776-777

Gospel Readings: John 12 :20-33

*Hymn: *'Holy Spirit, Truth Divine'* #368 VU vs. 1,2&6
(tune: Monkland #234 VU)

Message:

"A New Covenant-Baptism and our Annual Meeting"

Anthem:

'Take My Life and Let It Be'

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:

One: Remember the words of Jesus who said:
"Freely you have received, freely give."

Matthew 10:8b

**All: With joy, we present our offerings of commitment
and support for the work of Christ's church.**

One: Let us give, as we are able,
according to the blessings You has given each of us.
Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

One: Compassionate One, hear our prayer:
stretch out your hand in healing love.

**All: Create in us a clean heart, O God,
and renew your Spirit within us.**

**Gracious God,
we offer up to you the words we've said in anger
or when feeling spiteful or hurt;
lies we've told that we thought didn't matter
or that we could "get away with."**

**We offer up the sins of our minds.
Holy God,
we offer up to you thoughts we've had that "cut
down" others
or show a lack of respect for ourselves.**

**We search for freedom
to offer up the sins of our hearts.
Merciful God,
we offer up to you the times our hearts were bitter
and we refused to forgive;
or when we were sad and refused to be comforted;
or when we were hardened to others and didn't share
love.**

**We offer up the sins of our hands.
Loving God,
we offer up to you the times we used our hands
to do things that brought harm to others,
to the earth or to ourselves;
the times we were not kind.**

**We take the sins of our mouths and our minds,
our hearts and our hands and release them to the
heart of God.**

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.*

Words of Assurance:

God through faith we know that You will transform us,
pure and clean as the dove of the Holy Spirit,
for we are beloved.
This is the Good News of the Gospel.
Thanks be to God.

Silent Prayer / Reflective Music:

Pastoral Prayer:

One: Rejoice in the Lord always; again will I say rejoice.
Let your gentleness be known to everyone.
The Lord is near.
Do not worry about anything,
but in everything by prayer
and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.
Philippians 4:4-6

We call to mind our concerns and commitments,
and join our prayers for peace and well-being
to the prayers of the whole church
as they are offered this day for the whole world.
Let us pray:

**All: We remember the people we know
who are in trouble,
and pray for healing and happiness for all.**

**We seek God's encouragement:
for honest trade and just commerce,
for medicine and education,
for the gifts and aptitudes in every person
which serve justice in community living.**

**We pray for peace on earth:
for the generous sharing
of the earth's resources
and the responsible sharing
of the earth's problems;
for understanding of others
and willingness to regard
the diversity of human culture
as more stimulating than threatening;
for the turning of swords into ploughshares
and spears into pruning hooks.**

One: We pray for the church,
by all its names and in all its places:
for its continuing usefulness
as a channel of grace and hope;

Church News

This Week at First United –March 19- March 24

Monday	9am	Ways & Means – Eddy Rm
	9-11am	Badminton
	6:15pm	Beavers - Rms 1,2 & 3
Tuesday	2pm	Bible Study – Eddy Rm
	6:15	Scouts - DEMH GYM
Wednesday	9am	TAB – Rms 1,2 &3
	9 -11am	Badminton
	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Thursday		Ham & Scallop Supper

One: for its rescue from bureaucracy and stagnation;
for its witness to unity and justice;
for its commitment to hospitality and compassion.
We commend to the Lord our families and friends;
and let us ask God to help us
in the days of this coming week.

All: Amen.

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***Closing Hymn:** 'I, the Lord of Sea and Sky' #509VU

Commissioning: (in unison)

**As we prepare to leave our service of worship
we pray that with gentle hands
you will receive our prayers.
With patient eyes you will search our spirits,
and through the power of your Spirit
you will offer us peace.**

Blessing:

May mercy be our path
and peace fill all our days.
May love heal every heart
and God's grace light our way.

***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:

The bulletin today has been placed
*in loving memory of our parents,
Harold and Edith Payne*
by the family.

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2018 **900**

Total to Date **152**

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 today, following the church service. Annual reports are available in the Narthex.

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.

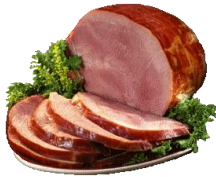
Community Events

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

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

Easter Newsletters are ready for pick up in the Narthex. Please help with postage costs by delivering to your family, friends and neighbors. Special envelopes for Easter contributions can be found in the Narthex.

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, John & Isabel Clouston and others. Free will offering - for the Anglican Parish of New Bandon. Contact: Allen Miller 544-5625

Jeunesses Musicales New Brunswick (JMNB) presents Our Best Emerging Artists Concert:

At École secondaire Népisguit, Sunday, March 18 at 2:00 pm
The concert features fifteen young musicians and singers from Mount Allison and the Université de Moncton.
Tickets (at the door) : adult \$15, student \$10
Free entrance for all 7 to 17 year-olds!
Welcome everyone!

For its spring concert, the **Louisbourg Choir** offers you *Amidst Shadow and Light*, a program inspired by the spring equinox. This contemplative moment will transport you to a world of beauty and harmony with meditative works by Arvo Pärt (1935-) and Ola Gjeilo (1978-), among others. At First United Church, Sunday, March 25, at 3 pm. Tickets on sale at the door: \$25; Free for students. For further details www.concertnb.ca

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

Royal Canadian Legion Meal of the Month

BBQ Chicken

Dessert – Tea & Coffee included

Sunday, April 8, 2018 5 p.m.

Cost: \$15.00 Take-Outs Available

Tickets can be purchased at the Legion Office.

Message to Classical Music Goers!

Please be reminded of the **New Brunswick Emerging Artists TOUR** featuring fifteen music students from Mount Allison University and the Université de Moncton. Enjoy beautiful voices, guitar, percussion, French horn, piano, trumpet and flute.

Free Admssion for all Jeunesses Musicales Season ticket holders + young ones aged 7 to 17

Tickets: \$15 adult, \$10 student (18 +)

Welcome all on Sunday, March 18 at 2:00 pm at École secondaire Népisiguit. Information : 458-8847

*For each petal on the shamrock
This brings a wish your way -
Good health, good luck, and happiness
For today and every day.
~Author Unknown~*

Jeremiah 31:31-34 New International Version (NIV)

³¹ “The days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah.

³² It will not be like the covenant
I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant,
though I was a husband to ^[a] them, ^[b]”
declares the LORD.

³³ “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel
after that time,” declares the LORD.
“I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

³⁴ No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,”
declares the LORD.
“For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.”

John 12:20-33 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Predicts His Death

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to
worship at the festival.

²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a
request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.”

²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be
glorified.

²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground
and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces
many seeds.

²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates
their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my
servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

²⁷ “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save
me from this hour?’ No, it was for this very reason I came to this
hour.

²⁸ Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will
glorify it again.”

²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered;
others said an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰ Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine.

³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of
this world will be driven out.

³² And I, when I am lifted up ^[a] from the earth, will draw all people
to myself.”

³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.