

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

July 26, 2015

Clergy	Rev. Blair Lewis	Organist	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Isabel Clouston	Greeters	Gary Branch
Custodian	Alan Wilcox		Pat Thibideau

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>II Samuel 11 ;1-15</i> <i>Psalm 145</i> <i>Ephesians 3:14-21</i> <i>John 6:1-21</i>	<i>II Samuel 11;26-12:13a</i> <i>Psalm 78</i> <i>Ephesians 4:1-16</i> <i>John 6:24-35</i>

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

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

We welcome Linda Knowles-MacPherson today and thank her for leading our music.

Organ Prelude:

***Choral Opening:** *'Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness'* **#375 VU**
Spirit, Spirit of gentleness
Blow thro' the wilderness
Calling and free
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
Stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.

Welcoming:

One: Praise God from the heavens,
Praise God in the heights!
Praise God, Sun and Moon,
Praise God all you shining stars!

**All: God's name alone is exalted;
God's glory is above earth and heaven.**

Psalm 148: 1-3, 13

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**Welcoming One Another:
Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:
Announcements:**

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

One: When we light the Christ Candle
we celebrate life and offer thanks to God.

**All: Thanks be to God.
As we light the Christ candle
we are reminded of the important role
of the light of Christ in our lives.
Thanks be to God.**

One: God has gathered us into a community of care,
learning and worship.

**All: Let us worship God with love,
thanksgiving, and praise.**

Call to Worship:

You shall receive power
when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
and you shall be my witness in Jerusalem
and in all Judea and Samaria
and to the ends of the Earth.

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)

**God our Creator, God behind us, we adore you.
You are the depth of all that is.
You are the ground of our being.
God the Son, God beside us we adore you.
You are the perfection of humanity.
You have shown us what human life should be like.
God the Spirit, God around us, we adore you.
You are the power within us.
You can make us into the men and women
we are meant to be.
Father, Son, and Spirit;
God beyond, beside and around us;
we adore you. Amen**

***Opening Hymn:** *'Great is Thy Faithfulness'* **#288VU**

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THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding:

O God, who has so made us
that we live not by bread alone,
but by every word of thine:
cause us to hunger after the food of your word,
and find in it our daily need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Scripture Readings:

Gary Branch

New Testament Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21
Responsive Psalm Psalm #145 **Page 866 VU**
Gospel Lesson: John 6:1-14

***Hymn:** *'Jesus Loves Me'* **#365 VU**

Meditation: "The Love of Christ"

Anthem: *'Love Lifted Me'*

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

Presentation of Self and Gifts to God:

Musical Offering: *'How Long Has It Been'*

*Choral Response:

'Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow' **#541 VU**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low,
Give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.***

*Prayer of Dedication: (in unison)

**O God, author of all goodness,
who has entrusted us with material possessions
and made us stewards of your bounty:
accept the offering which we now present to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession:

**All: O God we confess the blindness
that is not even aware of sitting;
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 is 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.
Grant O Lord that we may be forgiven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

One: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

All: have mercy on us.

One: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

All: have mercy on us.

One: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

All: grant us peace. 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.***

Assurance of Pardon:

Now let us be comforted and be glad,
and here the good tidings of the gospel:
God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish
but have eternal life.

Pastoral Prayer:

One: In prayer we bring everything to God—
good things and bad things.
And God always hears us when we pray.
Let us pray

Almighty God, our Creator, you love all and forget no one,
we bring to You our prayers for all of your people.
For all that we love, and for those with whom we share life;

All: we beseech you to hear us, O God.

One: for all prisoners and captives,
and all who suffer from oppression,
that you will manifest your mercy toward them,
and make the heart of humankind as merciful as your own;

All: we beseech you to hear us, will God.

One: for all who bear the cross of suffering, the sick in body or mind;

All: we beseech you to hear us, oh God.

One: for all those who are troubled by the sin
or suffering of those they love;

All: we beseech you to hear us, oh 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 know the secret and blessed fellowship of the cross;

All: we beseech you to hear us, oh God.

One: for all who were perplexed by the deeper questions of life,
and overshadowed with doubt,
that light may arise in their darkness;

All: we beseech you to hear us, oh God.

One: for all who are tried by passionate temptations,
or mean suggestions,
that your mercy may be their salvation;

All: we beseech you to hear us, oh God.

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

All: we beseech you to hear us, oh God.

One: For the all living with vulnerability,
illness and for the elderly.
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 beseech you to hear us, oh God.

One: for all forgotten by us, but dear to You:

All: we beseech you to hear us, oh God.

**O God, have regard to our intercessions,
answer them according to your will,
and make us the channels
of your incident grace and helpfulness.
May the words of our mouths
and the meditations of our hearts
be acceptable in your sight.
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Silent Prayer/Reflective Music:

The Lords Prayer:

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***Closing Hymn:** *'It is No Secret'*

Refrain:

***It is no secret what God can do
What He's done for others He'll do for you
With arms wide open He'll pardon you
It is no secret what God can do***

The chimes of time ring out the news
Another day is through
Someone slipped and fell
Was that someone you?
You may have longed for added strength
Your courage to renew
Do not be disheartened
For I have news for you

Refrain:

There is no night for in His light
You never walk alone
Always feel at home
Wherever you may roam
There is no power can conquer you
While God is on your side
Take Him at His promise
Don't run away and hide

Refrain:

***Commissioning:** (in unison)

**Living God, we put our trust in you—
risking disappointment, risking failure,
working and waiting expectantly.
We sing in solidarity with all people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation.**

***Blessing:**

May God bless you and keep you.

May God's face shine upon you
and be gracious to you.

May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

Choral Closing: 'When You Walk From Here' #298 VU

When you walk from here,

When you walk from here,

Walk with justice, walk with mercy,

And with God's humble care.

Organ Postlude:

*We are each of us
angels with only one wing,
and we can only fly
by embracing one another.
~Luciano de Crescenzo~*

Church News

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2015 **900**

Total to Date **463**

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect
19-20 jars of peanut butter per week.

The Volunteer Center supplies, on average, 430 households monthly.

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

Summer Hours: Starting June 1st – Sept 1st the First United Office hours will be Tuesday – Thursday, 8-4pm. For security reasons, starting June 1 and continuing for the summer months (June - August), 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.

Pictorial Directory: First United along with Universal Portrait Studios, will be compiling a Pictorial Directory this fall. The photos will be taken Sept 22-26 and, if needed, Sept 28- Oct 2. Universal Portrait studios will be contacting you to set up an appointment time for your photo shoot starting Sept.1st. If you wish, you can set up a time convenient to you online at www.universalportriats.com

*I don't care how poor a man is;
if he has family, he's rich.*

~Colonel Potter~

*M*A*S*H*

Community Events

Saint George's Anglican Church Hospitality Days Breakfast

432 King Avenue, Saturday, July 25, 2015, 8 – 10:30 a.m.

Tickets – Adults \$ 7.00 Children (12 and under) \$ 4.00

Available in advance or at the door

Tickets available form Don/Maxine Goodspeed (546-5387) or at the Church Office (546-3225).

Herman J. Good VC Branch 18, The Royal Canadian Legion

Summer BBQ, Sunday, August 23, 2015

Bingo: 2:30pm, Meal: 5:00pm-6:00pm

Cost: \$14.00 Tickets are on sale at the Legion.

The War Museum is now open for the summer the hours are Monday- Saturday 9am – 5pm (closed for Lunch from Noon- 1:00pm).

Bathurst Christian Women invite you to their "Mid-Summer Garden Party " Luncheon Wednesday, July 29, 2015 at Danny's Inn and Conference Center \$15.00, 11:15 to 1:00 pm. Relax, enjoy punch and be entertained by Brandon Vienneau in the gazebo. Indoors Hank Veenhuis, NS resident, delivers his inspiring message of "Sometimes the Road is Rough". Reservations are necessary. Call Edith 548-3924 or Connie 546-2127

Breathe.

Let go.

*And remind yourself
that this very moment
is the only one you know
you have for sure.*

~Oprah Winfrey~

Ephesians 3:14-21 New International Version (NIV)

A Prayer for the Ephesians

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father,

¹⁵ from whom every family^[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name.

¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,

¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

John 6:1-14 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

⁶ Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias),

² and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick.

³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples.

⁴ The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"

⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages^[a] to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up,

⁹ "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there).

¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."

¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

¹⁴ After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."