

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

**March 25, 2018**  
**Palm Sunday**

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

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Psalm 118</i> <i>John 12:12-16</i>	<i>Acts 10:34-43</i> <i>Psalm 118</i> <i>I Corinthians 15:1-11</i> <i>John 20:1-18</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

*'Come Into the Streets with Me'*

*Come into the streets with me!*  
*Come to where the crowds will be,*  
*See a strange and gentle king*  
*On a donkey travelling.*

**Refrain:**

*Come and follow my leader,*  
*Come and follow my leader,*  
*Jesus Christ is riding by,*  
*Come and follow my leader!*

*All the people shout his name,*  
*Waving branches, sing his fame,*  
*Throw their coats upon his road*  
*Glad to praise the Son of God.*

**Refrain:**



*If the soldiers draw their swords,  
will we dare to sing these words,  
be his friends for just a day,  
cheer him on, then run away?*

**Refrain**

*Jesus goes where things are rough,  
Jesus knows when life is tough,  
always comes to us, his friends,  
so his story never ends.*

**Refrain**

### Welcoming:

In the Spirit of Jesus Christ,  
who calls us to be the church  
and to celebrate God's presence;  
let us worship.

### Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:

### Announcements:

### Call to worship:

One: The crowds have gathered along the way – – –.

**All: We gather to cheer and celebrate!**

One: Who are you cheering for?

**All: We are cheering for Jesus!**

One: What are you cheering?

**All: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest heaven!**

One: Why are you cheering?

**All: We are celebrating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as the Messiah, who will save us from oppression.**

One: Then let us join the parade and cheer for the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

**All: Hosanna in the highest!**

**Let us worship with gratitude and joy!**

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

(1 candle is lit before the service.)

One: Today is the sixth 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 last Lenten candle.  
This candle represents helplessness.  
As the candle is extinguished,  
let us pray in silence  
for God to remove helplessness within us,  
empowering us to believe that when we work with God  
we can change ourselves  
and can make the world a better place.

*(Extinguish the sixth 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:**

God of donkeys and children,  
God of palm branches and parades,  
we gather to celebrate your presence in our lives  
and in our church family.  
We celebrate the courage and wisdom of your son, Jesus.  
We open ourselves to the grace of your spirit.  
May it move us, inspire us, and enliven our faith  
this day and always in Jesus name we pray. Amen.

## **\*Opening Hymn:**

*'He Came Riding on a Donkey'* #124 VU

## **Children of All Ages:**

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

## **THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**

### **Prayer for Understanding:**

As we pray we search for Good News!  
Good News for all of your people!  
With your help may we wish to hear  
and be able to open our ears  
to hear what is happening in the hearts of a people  
who have begun to awaken.  
Those who wish to see must open their eyes,  
to see what is happening in the hearts of a people  
who have begun to walk together.

*Latin America*

### **Scripture Readings:**

Anne Brooks

#### **Old Testament Lesson:**

Isaiah 50:4-9a

#### **Responsive Psalm:**

Psalm 4 #727

#### **Gospel Readings:**

John 12 :12-16

**\*Hymn:** 'Hosanna, Loud Hosanna' #123 VU

**Message:** "The abbreviated Power of Presence,  
a Parade of Palms."

**Anthem:** 'He Comes in the Name of the Lord'

## **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: As we dedicate our offering  
we think about all that you give to us O God,  
you amaze us.

**All: We look up at the skies,  
we consider the ocean depths,  
we think about the forest and the farmlands,  
and are aware of all you have gifted to us.**

One: Our gifts given this morning  
are a way of returning thanks to you our God:

**All: they will enable praise and prayer  
to be offered joyfully Sunday by Sunday;  
they will enable the words of Jesus Christ  
to be made clear,  
and the way of Jesus to be followed.**

One: Loving God, as we are giving  
we offer thanks to you for the ultimate gift  
of the supreme sacrifice of your Son  
our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Prayer of Confession:**

**All: God of the ages,  
we come to you this day to confess  
the ways in which we failed  
to live up to what we profess to believe.  
We have shouted,  
"hosanna" one day and "crucify him" the next.  
We have professed undying loyalty one hour  
and denied even knowing Jesus the next.  
We follow Jesus only when it is convenient.  
Forgive us.  
Restore us.  
Strengthen us to follow the path of faith. Amen.**

**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.**

**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 the Creator brings you new life,  
forgives and redeems you.  
Take hold of this forgiveness,  
and live your life in the spirit of Jesus.

**Silent Prayer / Reflective Music:**

**Pastoral Prayer:**

One: Holy God, your Son humbled himself, even to death,  
to show us the power of loving service.  
Guide those holding positions of power,  
that their decisions give rise to the mutual flourishing  
of the world you so love.

**All: O Lord, your mercy is great.**

One: Grieving God,  
your Son consoled others in life and in death.  
We pray for all who are distressed, broken, or sorrowful,  
that together with Christ in his suffering  
we may be healed and raised in you.

**All: O Lord, your mercy is great.**

One: Healing God, your Son is betrayed and crucified  
in our violent world each day.  
Raise us to a new and rightly ordered world  
to the reconciling love of Christ,  
where all victims of violence, persecution, shame,  
or terror may stand together with you in peace.

**All: O Lord, your mercy is great.**

**We ask all this in the name of Jesus,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and forever. Amen.**

## THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

**\*Closing Hymn:** 'All Glory, Laud and Honour' #122 VU

**Commissioning:** (in unison)

**May the God who dances in creation,  
who embraces us with human love,  
who shakes our lives like thunder,  
bless us and drive us out with power,  
to fill the world with justice.**

**Blessing:**

May the grace of God,  
deeper than our imagination;  
the strength of Christ,  
stronger than our need;  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
richer than our togetherness;  
guide and sustain us today  
and in all our tomorrows.

**\*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:**

*Our Lord has written  
the promise of the resurrection,  
not in books alone,  
but in every leaf in spring-time.  
~Martin Luther~*

# Church News

## This Week at First United –March 26- March 31

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
Friday	Closed	Good Friday
	10:00am	Good Friday Church Service

The bulletin today has been placed  
*in loving memory of Andrea Clowater,  
Hudson Clowater and Kenneth Bernier*  
from Wayne, Colette Clowater and family.

### Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2018 **900**

Total to Date **171**

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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

## Community Events

**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

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](http://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.

### **Family & Community Breakfast**

Saturday, April 14, 2018 8:00 – 10:00 am

Saint George's Church Hall 432 King Avenue

## Isaiah 50:4-9 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue,  
to know the word that sustains the weary.  
He wakens me morning by morning,  
wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.

<sup>5</sup> The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears;  
I have not been rebellious,  
I have not turned away.

<sup>6</sup> I offered my back to those who beat me,  
my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from mocking and spitting.

<sup>7</sup> Because the Sovereign LORD helps me,  
I will not be disgraced.  
Therefore have I set my face like flint,  
and I know I will not be put to shame.

<sup>8</sup> He who vindicates me is near.  
Who then will bring charges against me?  
Let us face each other!  
Who is my accuser?  
Let him confront me!

<sup>9</sup> It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me.  
Who will condemn me?  
They will all wear out like a garment;  
the moths will eat them up.

## John 12:12-16 New International Version (NIV)

### Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

<sup>12</sup> The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem.

<sup>13</sup> They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,  
“Hosanna!<sup>[a]</sup>”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”<sup>[b]</sup>

“Blessed is the king of Israel!”

<sup>14</sup> Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

<sup>15</sup> “Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;  
see, your king is coming,  
seated on a donkey’s colt.”<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>16</sup> At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.