

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

April 1, 2018
Easter

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Minister | Rev. Blair Lewis | Organist | Martha Vickers |
| Office Adm. | Isabel Clouston | Greeters | Margaret Payne-Chénard |
| Custodian | Alan Wilcox | | Mike Kierstead |

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| <u>Lectionary for today</u> | <u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u> |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Acts 10:34-43</i> | <i>Acts 4:32-35</i> |
| <i>Psalm 118</i> | <i>Psalm 133</i> |
| <i>I Corinthians 15:1-11</i> | <i>I John 1:1-2:2</i> |
| <i>John 20:1-18</i> | <i>John 20:19-31</i> |

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

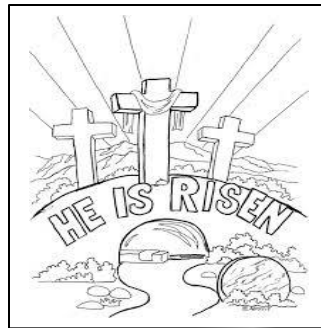
THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Musical Prelude:

Choral Opening

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Hearts to heav'n and voices raise
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise.
He who on the cross as Saviour
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,
now is risen from the dead.

(Tune Hymn to Joy VU 232)



Welcome:

Jesus said:
 "I have come that they may have life,
 and may have it in all its fullness."

John 10:10

Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:

Announcements:

Service of the New Fire:

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
 Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!
 This is the day that the Lord has made;
 let us rejoice and be glad in it.
 Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Lighting the New Fire:

Lighting the Christ Candle:

Easter Proclamation: (in unison)

Jesus' rising from the dead assures us
that we too have been given new life.
We live our lives before God and one another;
certain of God's love and mercy.

Call to Worship:

One: Christ has risen.
All: Christ has risen indeed.
 One: God is alive . . .
All: new birth is given.
 One: Hope is alive . . .
All: a new age is dawning.
 One: Joy is alive . . .
All: redemption is here.
 One: Love is alive . . .
All: death cannot harm us.
 One: We are alive . . .
All: new life is within us.
 One: The church is alive . . .
All: God's Spirit is within us.
Let us celebrate the God of resurrection!

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)
**Creative God, you who breathe life into dust
and bring new life out of death.
We are gathered as your Easter people;
raised up with Christ in resurrection hope.
We come with hurts and confusion,
with despair,
with the pain of Good Friday still clinging to us.
Yet you, Lord, invite us to step out
into new life in the way of Jesus.
We thank you for this great gift;
may our whole life express our gratitude.
We pray in the name of our risen Saviour. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn:** *'Jesus Christ is Risen Today'* # 155VU

Children of All Ages:

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding: (in unison)
**Almighty God, in whom are contained
all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge;
open our eyes that we may behold
wonderful things in your word.
Give us grace to understand your will clearly,
and to choose freely the way of your wisdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Scripture Readings: Gary Branch
Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 25:6-9
Responsive Psalm: Psalm 118 #837 Parts 1,2 &3
Gospel Readings: Mark 16 :1-8

***Hymn:** *'This Is the Day'* #122 MV
This is the day that God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad!
This is the day that God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad!

Singing hal-le-lu, Singing hal-le-lu
Singing hal-le-lu
We will rejoice and be glad!
Singing hal-le-lu, Singing hal-le-lu
Singing hal-le-lu
We will rejoice and be glad!

Message: "Jesus Christ is Risen"

Anthem: *'Sing to the Lord with a Joyful Sound'*

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

Presentation of Gifts and Self to God:

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.***

Offering Prayer: (in unison)
**Holy God, you shower us with gifts
so abundant that we cannot measure them all.
You give us life itself and the power
to befriend our companions in this world.
Bless these gifts for the sake of those in need.
We dedicate our offering to you our God, Creator,
Sustainer and Redeemer.**

Prayer of Confession:
One: Easter morning takes us by surprise,
awakening us to the doubt and despair
that have been rooted in our lives.
Let us now confess to God.

(silence)
If at times we deny you, O God,
we pray that you will forgive us.
When the risks of discipleship are high,
and we are nowhere to be found:

All: God forgive.

One: When we wash our hands of responsibility:

All: God forgive.

One: When we cast our lot with powerful oppressors
and seek to buy freedom with silver:

All: God forgive.

One: When fear keeps us from witnessing to your truth,
or prejudice keeps us from believing it:

All: God forgive.

**In the bright light of Easter morning, O God,
our sin is exposed
and your grace is revealed.
Tender God,
raise us in your love so that with joy
we may witness to your awesome deeds,
in the name of Jesus the Risen One. 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.***

Words of Assurance:

Blessed be the name of God.
As life bursts forth from the darkness of earth's soil,
so Christ bursts the darkness of despair.
Sadness ends, hope abounds, joy springs forth.
Strength is found to face every tomorrow;
God's wholeness brings healing to all.
The world and all that is in it glows with the glory of God.

Silent Prayer / Reflective Music:

Pastoral Prayer:

One: O God, you are the source of all our hope.

**All: In the times
when we confront despair that deadens,
you come alive!**

One: In the times we refuse to bend to injustice,
you come alive!

**All: In the times we choose to bear pain
to keep our conscience clear,
you come alive!**

One: In the times we glimpse the willingness
of a faithful community
to work joyfully in your name,
you come alive!

(silence)

We have felt the sustaining power of your presence,
Living God;
the peace and grace you give.
Holy One, we give our thanks and praise. Amen

THE SERVICE OF THE TABLE:

An Invitation to the Table:

***Our Communion Hymn:** 'We Come to the Hungry Feast'

We come to the hungry feast,
hungry for the word of peace.
To hungry hearts unsatisfied
the love of God is not denied.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.

We come to the hungry feast,
hungry for a world released
from hungry people of every kind
the poor in body, poor in mind.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.

We come to the hungry feast,
hungry that the hunger cease,
and knowing, though we eat our fill,
the hunger will stay with us: still,
we come, we come to the hungry feast.

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer:

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

One: Blessed are you, gracious God, Creator of light,
Giver of all life, Source of love,
we bless you for all your gifts.
We praise you for this holy Easter day
of hope and for the wonder of this time of joy.

All: We praise you, O God.

All: We thank you, O God.

One: For Jesus Christ, in whom you gather
the hopes and fears of all the years,
we bless your Holy Name.

Joining now with all your people
of every time and place

we share our thoughts and prayers
with God our source of hope.

On this Easter day we celebrate our Easter faith;
your presence is alive
through the power of the resurrection.

Choral Response: (Sanctus and Benedictus # 942VU)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;

holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

One: On the night before Jesus died,
he had supper with his disciples: he took bread;
thanked you, as we have thanked you;
broke the bread and gave the bread to his friends saying:
take this, all of you, and eat it.
This is my body, given for you.
Each time you do this, remember me.
After supper he took the wine; thanked you for it,
and passed a cup of wine to his friends saying:
this cup is the new promise
God has made with you in my blood.
Each time you do this and drink from this cup,
remember me.

Remembering his death and celebrating his resurrection,
we await with hope his coming again
to bring peace and justice to the earth.
We affirm the mystery of our faith:

**All: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

One: Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us
and what we do here; that we, and these gifts,
touched by your Spirit, may be signs of life and love
to each other and to all the world.
Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours,
God most holy, now and forever.
We gather these and all our prayers,
thankful that we may now turn to you in one voice.

All: Our Father, Who art in heaven..... Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup:

Sharing of the Bread and Cup:

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***Closing Hymn: 'Christ is Alive' #158 VU**

Commissioning:

One: Like the woman who ran to share the Good News
of the empty tomb,

All: let us go forth with joy.

One: Like the travellers walking on the Emmaus Road,

All: let us go forth with opened eyes.

One: Like the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit,

All: let us go forth with peace.

One: Like Thomas, filled with doubt,

All: let us go forth with faith.

One: Like fishers pulling heavy nets,

All: let us go forth with abundant life.

Blessing:

From this Easter festival,
we go forth to live resurrection:
in the name of the God who makes us,
in the name of the Christ who sets us free,
in the name of the Spirit who makes us one.
Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!

***Choral Closing:**

*As we go into the future,
As we tell of the Good News,
We will show our love for others,
Just as Christ has told us to.
We will tell the wondrous story,
Of a love that's made for you,
And it's all because of Easter –
Sing a joyous Hal-le-lu!*

See *Gathering* Lent 2011 pg. 81
"Choral Sending Forth" (Tune Promise VU 703)

Organ Postlude:

*Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer;
Death is strong, but Life is stronger;
Stronger than the dark, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right...
~Phillips Brooks~*

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

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

On behalf of **Evangel Mission Team** our sincere thanks for all
your donations in support of Servant's Heart Ministry in the
Dominican Republic. Your support is greatly appreciated. Glen and
Joyce Daley.

*Easter spells out beauty,
the rare beauty of new life.
~S.D. Gordon~*

Church News

This Week at First United –April 2- April 7

| | | |
|-----------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Monday | Office Closed | Easter Monday |
| Tuesday | 2pm | Bible Study – Eddy Rm |
| | 6:15 | Scouts - DEMH GYM |
| Wednesday | 9am | TAB – Rms 1,2 &3 |
| | 9 -11am | Badminton |
| Thursday | 1:30 | Pastoral Care Team - RMR |
| | | |

The bulletin today has been placed
in loving memory of

Carol, Marion and Ralph Anderson
from the family.

Emily Wiseman
by Irvin & family.

Gladys & Harold Moore
and other deceased family members
by the family.

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2018 **900**

Total to Date **179**

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 are in the Narthex. Please
feel free to take one. A container for donations is located with the
publication.

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 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

Thank You to all who supported the Ham and Scallop Supper held
on March 22nd \$ 3060.00 was raised. Thanks to all the volunteers
who make these events possible. Our next Ways and Means event
will be the Sunrise Breakfast on April 22nd.



Sunrise Breakfast

(pancakes, sausages, baked beans, scrambled eggs, hash
browns, toast, juice, coffee & tea)

Sunday, April 22, 2018

8:30 a.m. to noon

Donald Eddy Memorial Hall

\$10.00 adults - \$3.00 children

Thank you to Lola & Don Nelson and Margaret Payne –Chénard
for being our counters and Gayle Ferron, Shirley Sealy & Pat
Thibideau for being the greeters for the month of March. Thanks
also to the Ronalds, Lavigne, MacLaggan and Woods families for
assisting with the extinguishing of the Lenten Candles.

"Springtime"

*Gentle Spring's around the corner,
Waiting just to show her face
And to bring us flowers and sunshine;
Winter's almost run his race!*

*Be not, then, my friends, discouraged
That there's cold and ice and sleet;
For Springtime soon will be with us,
And the flowers we will greet:*

*Daffodils, so bright and yellow,
Hyacinths of varied hues,
As they nod their heads, in gladness,
Telling us they bring good news...*

~Gertrude Tooley Buckingham~

Isaiah 25:6-9 New International Version (NIV)

⁶ On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare
a feast of rich food for all peoples,
a banquet of aged wine—
the best of meats and the finest of wines.

⁷ On this mountain he will destroy
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.
The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears
from all faces;
he will remove his people's disgrace
from all the earth.
The LORD has spoken.

⁹ In that day they will say,

"Surely this is our God;
we trusted in him, and he saved us.
This is the LORD, we trusted in him;
let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

Mark 16:1-8 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Has Risen

16 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body.

² Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb

³ and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

⁴ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

⁶ "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.

⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

⁸ Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.^[a]