

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

April 8, 2018

Minister Rev. Blair Lewis **Organist** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Isabel Clouston **Greeters** Edie & Peter Gammon
Custodian Alan Wilcox

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Acts 4:32-35</i>	<i>Acts 3:12-19</i>
<i>Psalm 133</i>	<i>Psalm 4</i>
<i>I John 1:1-2:2</i>	<i>I John 3:1-7</i>
<i>John 20:19-31</i>	<i>Luke 24: 36b-48</i>

*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.

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Musical Prelude:

Choral Opening:

'This is the Day That God Has Made' **#175 VU**
This is the day that God has made!
Rejoice! Rejoice, and be exceeding glad!
This is the day that God has made!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Hallelujah!

Welcome:

This morning as we gather for worship
we offer praise to God.
In moments of celebration and in moments of challenge
we reach out to God.
We offer thanks to God in our worship for restoring our lives.
We worship God with praise on our lips
and a song in our hearts.
We offer our thanks to God.

Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:

Announcements:

Lighting the Christ Candle:

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

All: Thanks be to God.

One: Worthy is the Lamb slain to receive power and our love.
The Lamb of God has wisdom and might
and honor and glory; he gives us the blessing of God!

All: Thanks be to God.

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

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

Call to Worship:

One: Lord our God, we praise you.

All: We prayed for your help, and you answered us.

One: You have restored our lives;

All: you have rescued us in our time of need.

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)

**Living God, you meet us in unexpected places
and surprise us with the abundance of your love.
Feed us by your word and fill us with your Spirit
so that we may follow you this day and always,
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.**

*Opening Hymn:

'Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks' **#179 VU**

Children of All Ages:

*The Lord's Prayer:

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding:

O God of light,
by the power of your Holy Spirit, restore our sight.
In the words of Scripture and our prayerful reflection
may we see Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Cheryl Brewster

New Testament Lesson: I John 1:1-2:2

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 133 # 856VU

Gospel Readings: John 20 :19-31

***Hymn:** *'The Church of Christ in Every Age'* #601 VUV
(tune Wareham VU 292)

Message: "Blessed are those who have not seen
and yet have come to believe"

Anthem: *'Stay With Us Through The Night'*

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.***

Prayer of Dedication:

**Worthy are you, O God,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing.
Receive these gifts of Thanksgiving and praise
and use them for your glory
and for the good of your people,
in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.
Amen.**

Prayer of Confession:

One: God of love and of grace,
you know the secrets of our hearts:
how blind we are to our own faults,
yet harsh in judging others;
how swift we are to take for gain,
yet slow to give for others;
how proud we are of our success,
yet grudging in our praise of others.
Remember, O God,
your tender care and love unfailing.
Do not remember our sins and offences,
but remember us in your goodness,
in accordance with your endless mercy.

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.

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.***

Words of Assurance:

Rise up from the dust!
Cast off the shroud sorrow and put on the joy of the Lord.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

Silent Prayer:

Reflective Music:

Pastoral Prayer:

O Lord our God, we cry to you for help.
We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith;
give them freedom, peace, and safety.
We pray for those who live
with an all-consuming judgment of others;
with your help may they discover a vision of life
that is empowering and glorifying to you.

We pray for those who work by day and night;
give them satisfaction and rest from their labors.

We pray for those who fear their efforts are in vain;
fill their lives with your providence and grace.

We pray for all who suffer in sickness and grief;
give them healing, hope, and joy.

We pray for the faithful in every nation;
give them voices to praise your name forever.

We ask all these things in the name of Jesus,
who loves us, who feeds us, and who redeems us. Amen.

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***Closing Hymn:** *'I Am the Light of the World'* **#87 VU**

Commissioning: (in unison)
**God of light, we praise you
for the gift of this new day.
By the power of your spirit,
enable us to live in your light,
and seek the holy friendship
of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Blessing:

To the one who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor, and glory and might
forever and ever!
May the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
be with each of us this day and forevermore.
Go forward into this new week
with the Spirit of God by your side.
May God's love be with each of us this day and forevermore.

***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:

*Faith
is putting all your eggs in God's basket,
then counting your blessings
before they hatch.
~Ramona C. Carroll~*

Church News

This Week at First United –April 9- April 14

Monday	9-11am	Badminton
	1:30	UCW – Eddy Room
	6:15	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

The bulletin today has been placed
in loving memory of

Blair Chamberlain

by Betty and family

Teri McLean -Disney

by parents Eldon & Nora McLean

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2018 **900**

Total to Date **191**

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



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



Flowers for Mother's Day. If you would like to
donate towards flowers for our sanctuary in honor or in memory
of your mother or another woman who has played an important
part in your life, donations can be dropped in the offering plate on
Sunday or brought to the office. An insert will be included in the
bulletin on Mother's Day, May 13th, with your dedications. Cut off
day for dedications is Monday, May 7th.

*Mother,
the ribbons of your love are woven around my heart.
~Author Unknown*

Community Events

Country & Gospel Music Night Saturday, April 28, 2018 7pm
Christ Church Hall, Clifton. Featuring: The Country Capers, Bernard Arseneau, John & Isabel Clouston Bill McLean 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

RSVP Ministries invites you to our Golden Oldies Luncheon at House of Lee – Grand Buffet, 315 Main Street, Bathurst on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 \$17.50 from 11:30am - 1:00pm, doors open at 11:00am. "Golden Oldies" Evelyn MacNeil, a gifted musician, will energize us with favourite tunes from former years, and Sandra Scott-Grebenc of Bathurst will deliver her message on "Making Life Decisions". **Reservations and cancellations are necessary before Saturday, April 21.** Please contact Joanne at 542-1118 or ejgodin@rogers.com or contact Connie at 546-2127. Note: for those who have dietary restrictions, please contact Joanne for the alternate meal.

1 John 1:1-2:2 New International Version (NIV)

The Incarnation of the Word of Life

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

⁴ We write this to make our^[a] joy complete.

Light and Darkness, Sin and Forgiveness

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.

⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all^[b] sin.

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

2 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

John 20:19-31 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus Appears to Thomas

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus^[a]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.

²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The Purpose of John's Gospel

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

³¹ But these are written that you may believe^[b] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.