

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

August 2, 2015
Communion

Clergy	Rev. Blair Lewis	Organist	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Isabel Clouston	Greeters	Marg Demmings
Custodian	Alan Wilcox		Chesley Eddy

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>II Samuel 11;26-12:13a</i> <i>Psalm 78</i> <i>Ephesians 4:1-16</i> <i>John 6:24-35</i>	<i>II Samuel .18:5-9,15,31-33</i> <i>Psalm 34</i> <i>Ephesians 4:25-5:2</i> <i>John 6:35,41-51</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:

Sing a new song,
rejoice in our days,
and in dancing we praise.
For the timeless is present in every moment,
and takes pleasure in our joy.

Psalm 149
-1-

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

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

One: As we light the Christ Candle
we prepare for worship and offer thanks to God.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: We live in an ever changing world,
may your light show us the way
as we look back over the past years and plan for tomorrow.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: God has gathered us into a church family
where friendship, support and life giving empowerment
are an important part of daily life
we thank you for friends and neighbours.

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

Call to Worship:

One: We have gathered to worship God.

**All: We have come seeking comfort,
inspiration, community, and insight.**

One: We have come to open ourselves
to the power of God’s presence in our midst.

**All: We have come to offer up the seasons
and the turnings in our lives,
and to ask God’s help in our learning
and in our growing.**

Prayer of Approach:

One: Our God, how great you are!

**All: On the first day of the week
we commemorate your creation of the world
and all that is in it.
Thank you for the light
which wakes us morning by morning,
and for the greater light which shines in Jesus Christ.**

One: Our God, how great you are!

**All: On the first day of the week
you raised Jesus from the dead.
Raise us with him to a new quality of faith and life.**

One: Our God how great you are!

**All: Again on the first day of the week
you sent your spirit on your disciples.
We pray that we will live in unity with your spirit,
through the power of your Holy Spirit
may we be renewed in life day by day. Amen**

***Opening Hymn:** *'There's a Wideness in God's Mercy'* #271VU

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding:

Oh God we pray that the gospel of your Son will come to us,
not in words alone, but in power.
Let your Holy Spirit teach us,
so that we may receive with understanding
what you have revealed to us.
May we eagerly follow your direction as we live our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Scripture Readings:

Oliver Family

New Testament Reading: Ephesians 4:1-16

Responsive Psalm Psalm #51 Pg. 776-777 VU (ref. #2)

Gospel Lesson: John 6:24-35

***Hymn:** *'Tell Me the Stories of Jesus'* #357 VU

Meditation: "The Bread of Life"

Anthem: *'Stay with Us through the Night'*

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

Presentation of Self and Gifts 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: (in unison)

**God of all peoples and God of all places,
we present these offerings,
that they may be used to extend your liberating reign.
With them, we offer our varied ministries,
that each of us may be part of your answer
to the cries of the world. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession:

One: O God of mystery,
we confess that, more than deep questions,
we love easy answers;
explaining away miracles, disarming the Good News,
we domesticate your wild ways.

**All: Teach us to love our questions, O God.
Teach us to struggle with faith.
Teach us to live with your holy mysteries.
God of all creation,
you love us into being,
yet we often flee our rightful place in your creation.
We confess that we exploit the gifts
you place around us,
and dominate the richness of the natural order.
Forgive our greedy grasping.
We confess our part
in the devastation of our planet home,
mirrored in the violence of cities,
and the brokenness of hearts.
Forgive and restore us, O God.
Nurturing God, remind us of other ways to live
and of a place called home,
where creation reflects your goodness
and each thing lives in balance with all others.
Come and find us, set us right again,
and take us home.**

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:

Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether;
the past is finished and gone;
everything has become fresh and new.
Friends, believe the Good News of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Silent Prayer/Reflective Music:

Pastoral Prayer:

One: The Spirit helps us in our weakness;
for we do not know how to pray as we ought,
but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.
Romans 8:26

Let us pray.

Oh God, we thank you for all great and simple joys:
for the gift of wonder, the joy of discovery
and the everlasting freshness of experience:

All: We thank you, God.

One: For all that comes to us through sorrow and sympathy,
through joy and achievement:

All: We thank you, God.

One: For musicians, poets and craftsman;
for all who work in form and colour
to increase the beauty of life;

All: We thank you, God.

One: For the likeness of Christ in men and women,
their forbearance, courage and kindness;

All: We thank you, God.

One: For faithful leaders
and for all obscure and humble lives of service;

All: We thank you, God.

One: As we pray this morning
we remember all who bear the cross of suffering,
the sick in body or in mind;

All: We pray that you will hear us, O God.

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

All: We pray that you will hear us, O God.

One: For all who were absorbed in their own grief,
that they may be raised to share sorrows
of other brothers and sisters,
and know the secret and blessed fellowship of the cross;

All: We pray that you will hear us O God.

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

All: We pray that you will hear us O God.

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

All: We pray that you will hear us O God

One: for those who were approaching the end of life
and 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 pray that you will hear us O God.

One: For all forgotten by us but dear to you;

All: We pray that you will hear us O God.

**Oh God our Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer,
have regard to our intercessions,
answer them according to your will,
and make us channels for your justice
and helpfulness and were they to pray
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

THE SERVICE OF THE TABLE

An Invitation to the Table:

***Our Communion Hymn:** *'Long Ago and Far Away'* #195 MV

Long ago and far away
Jesus lived and worked and prayed
healed the sick and the fearful and lonely
lived his life to show us God's way.

Refrain

*Stretched his arms out as he said
Fill the cup and share the bread
Remember me in love and joy and blessing.*

Jesus gathered the children around him
spoke of Love and the joy to be found
told them stories of wisdom and wonder
God's creation in all that's around.

Refrain

Jesus called all his friends to be with him
share the bread and the cup once again
life to you I will offer it gladly
love will be with you right to the end.

Refrain

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 night of hope
and for the wonder of this time of joy.

**All: We praise you, O God.
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 August summer 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.

Heav'n 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.
And so, 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: 'O God of Bethel' #650 VU

*Commissioning: (in unison)
**Living God, we put our trust in you—
risking disappointment, risking failure,
working and waiting expectantly.
Grant us the grace
to be part of your answer in the world.**

*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:

*When you look at your life,
the greatest happinesses
are family happinesses.
~Joyce Brothers~*

Family

by Faye Cook

*It's knowing where your roots are
That sometimes gives you wings
It's knowing there's a place to go
To escape the awful things.*

*It's knowing there will always be
At least one person on your side.
Who'll listen to your problems
And go along with you for the ride.*

*It's comfort and it's heartache
It's pride and disappointment too.
It's holding on and letting go
Cherishing old and accepting new.*

*It's waiting for the next little one
To come and steal your heart.
And wondering how being called "Grandma"
Is such a warm and fuzzy start.*

*It's watching time go racing by
Days, then weeks, then years
It's missing those who go too soon
To mix your laughter with your tears.*

*It's remembering and forgetting
Loving and arguing too.
It was God's plan from the start
And it's still holding true.*

*So hold each day like precious crystal
That might break if you let go.
For roots and wings are compatible things.
Make sure your children know.*

Church News

The bulletin today has been placed
in loving memory of Howard Pettigrew
by Ina and family.

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2015 **900**

Total to Date **476**

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 Sept. and Oct. 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

Thank you to Edie Gammon and Gary Branch for being our counters for July. Thank also to Cheryl & Dave, Peggy & Francis, Brenda, Pat and Gary for being our greeters for the past month.

Many hands make light work.
~John Heywood~

Community Events

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).

Stonehaven/New Bandon Cemeteries: A work night for maintenance and upkeep of the New Bandon and Stonehaven Cemeteries will be held Tuesday, Aug 11, 2015 at 6:30pm.

A musical program featuring Harlen Knowles and friends will be held, Sunday, Aug. 16, 2015 at 2:30pm in the Chapel at the Stonehaven Cemetery. A free will offering will be taken to be used to replace the Chapel roof.

Central United Church, Clifton will be holding a Blueberry Social on August 15, 2015 @ 2pm. Cost of this event is \$8.00. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. For tickets please call Myrna Daley 546-3084, Hazel Miller 546-3948 or Audrey Edwards 548-4901. Looking forward to seeing you.

*To us, family means
putting your arms around each other
and being there.*
~Barbara Bush~

Ephesians 4:1-16 New International Version (NIV)

Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ

4 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

⁸ This is why it^[a] says: “When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”^[b]

⁹ (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions^[c]?) ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,

¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

John 6:24-35 New International Version (NIV)

²⁴ Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.

Jesus the Bread of Life

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

²⁶ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.

²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

²⁸ Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

²⁹ Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

³⁰ So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?”

³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’^[a]”

³² Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.

³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

³⁴ “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.