

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

**August 9, 2015**

<b>Clergy</b>	Rev. Blair Lewis	<b>Organist</b>	Martha Vickers
<b>Office Adm.</b>	Isabel Clouston	<b>Greeters</b>	Linda Newell
<b>Custodian</b>	Alan Wilcox		Chesley Eddy

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>II Samuel .18:5-9,15,31-33</i> <i>Psalm 34: 1-8</i> <i>Ephesians 4:25-5:2</i> <i>John 6:35,41-51</i>	<i>I Kings 2:10-12;3:3-14</i> <i>Psalm 34: 9-14</i> <i>Ephesians 5:15-20</i> <i>John 6:51-58</i>

**THE COMMUNITY GATHERS**

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

**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: O come let us sing to God;  
**All: let us shout with joy to the rock of our salvation.**  
 One: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;  
**All: let us joyously shout to God with songs of praise.**  
*Psalm 95:1, 2*

**Welcoming One Another:**

**Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:**

**Announcements:**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle:**

One: Give me a candle of the Spirit, O God,  
 as I go down into the depths of my being.

**All: Show us the hidden things,  
 the creatures of our dreams,  
 the storehouse of forgotten memories and hurts.**

One: Take us down to the summer of our lives  
 and tell us our nature  
 and give us our place and role in life..

**All: In lighting the Christ candle  
 my prayer is that with your help  
 I will discover freedom to grow,  
 so that I may become that self,  
 the seed of which you planted in me at my making.  
 Out of the depths I reach out to you, O God.**

**Call to Worship:**

One: God has given us this beautiful earth,  
 all that grows, all that lives upon it.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

One: God has given us breath to live and spirit to sing.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

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

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

**Prayer of Approach:**

**Loving God, open our hearts  
 that we may feel the breath and play of your Spirit.  
 Unclench our hands  
 that we may reach out to one another,  
 and touch and be healed.  
 Open our lips  
 that we may drink in the delight and wonder of life.  
 Open our eyes  
 that we may see Christ in friend and stranger.  
 Breathe your Spirit into us,  
 and touch our lives with the life of Christ.**

**\*Opening Hymn:** 'God of the Bible' #28 MV

God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,  
Hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,  
You are our centre, daylight or darkness,  
Freedom or prison, you are our home.

**Refrain:**  
***Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, You do not change,  
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.***

God in our struggles, God in our hunger,  
Suffering with us, taking our part,  
Still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit  
Feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.

**Refrain:**

Hope we must carry, shining and certain  
Through all our turmoil, terror and loss,  
Bonding us gladly one to the other,  
Till our world changes facing the Cross.

**Refrain:**

**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**Prayer for Understanding:**

**God, the words you speak have power:**  
**power to create,**  
**power to disturb,**  
**power to heal.**  
**Help us to hear your Word for us today.**  
**Amen.**

**Scripture Readings:** Chesley Eddy

**New Testament Reading:** Ephesians 4:25-5:2  
**Responsive Psalm** Psalm #80 Pg. 794-795  
**Gospel Lesson:** John 6:41-51

**\*Hymn:** 'Bread of Life, Feed My Soul' #194 MV

Bread of life, feed my soul,  
As the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.  
Bread of life, fill my heart  
With the grace and mercy you impart.

I have heard your voice calling,  
"Come, my friend, and share  
In the feast that is laid out for you  
To show how much I care."

Bread of life, help me live  
A life as pure and true as Jesus did.  
Bread of life, help me see  
The boundless love of Christ for you and me.

I have heard your voice calling,  
"Come, my friend, and share  
In the feast that is laid out for you  
To show how much I care."

Bread of life, feed my soul,  
As the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.  
Bread of life, fill my heart  
With the grace and mercy you impart.

**Meditation:** "Where do you find your strength?"

**Anthem:** 'Bring Many Names'

**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)

**In the name and in the spirit of Jesus,  
we bring our gifts to you, O God.  
Help us to give with them  
a ready mind,  
a willing spirit,  
and a joyful heart. Amen.**

**Prayer of Confession:**

One: When we have afflicted others  
whether by our own power  
or by our silent support of systems  
which oppress, enslave, and crush,

**All: break us, Lord.**

One: When we have perplexed others  
and purposely confused them for our own gain  
or driven them to despair,

**All: break us, Lord.**

One: When we have persecuted others,  
casting them out of our community  
leaving them forsaken and alone,

**All: break us, Lord.**

One: When we have struck down others  
casting stones on their dreams and hopes  
until they are destroyed,

**All: break us, Lord.**

One: Then broken, we carry in our bodies  
the death of Jesus  
so that the life of Jesus  
may be made visible in our bodies.

**All: Make us, Lord.**

One: With the power which belongs only to you,  
make us into your treasure.

**All: Make us, Lord.**

One: We are the clay, and you are the potter.  
We are the work of your hands.

**All: Make us, Lord.**

One: Do not be exceedingly angry  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

**Choral Response:** *'How Deep the Peace'*  
***How deep the peace, the confidence.  
Of those whose wrongs are forgiven.  
How deep the peace, the confidence.  
Of those whose hearts are healed.***

**#95 MV**

**Assurance of Pardon:**

**All: Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether;**

One: the past is finished and gone;  
everything has become fresh and new.  
Friends, believe the Good News of the gospel:

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**Silent Prayer/Reflective Music:**

**Pastoral Prayer:**

One: O Great Spirit,  
whose voice we hear in the winds,  
and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear us.  
We come before you as your children.

**All: We are small and weak;  
we need your strength and wisdom.**

**Let us walk in beauty,  
and make our eyes ever behold  
the red and purple sunset.  
May our hands respect the things you have made,  
May our ears be sharp to hear your voice.**

One: Make us wise,  
that we may know the things you have taught your people,  
the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.  
We seek strength,  
not to be superior to our brothers and sisters,  
but to live in harmony with ourselves and all your creation.  
Help us to be ever ready to come to you,  
so when life fades as a fading sunset,  
our spirits may come to you without shame.

**All: We pray for all who suffer the pain of sickness,  
loneliness, fear or loss,  
that those whose names are in our hearts,  
in the hearts of others,  
or known to you alone,  
may receive strength and courage.**

Oh God in our prayer this morning  
we share our thoughts and our feelings with you.  
We know that words are so an adequate to express what  
needs to be expressed;  
in prayer we share with you our Creator the innermost  
nature of who we are,  
asking only in your will may it be.

Amen.

In one voice we share with you the prayer that Jesus  
taught us to pray.

The Lord's Prayer:

## THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

\*Closing Hymn: 'Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah' #651 VU

\*Commissioning: (in unison)

God, you have promised  
that when two or three are gathered  
together in your name,  
you will grant their requests:  
fulfill now the desires and petitions of your people  
as may be best for us,  
granting us in this world knowledge of your truth,  
and in the world to come life everlasting;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

*based on Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom*

\*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:

## Church News

The bulletin today has been placed  
*in loving memory of Arthur Young*  
by the family.

### Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2015 **900**

Total to Date **486**

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 1<sup>st</sup> – Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.universalportriats.com)

### MINISTER'S ABSENCE

Rev Lewis will be on vacation from August 10th to 31st. During his  
absence, Helen M Knowles will be pulpit supply & available to help  
address pastoral needs. You may reach her by phoning at 546-9563  
(home) or if not, at 252-2878 (cell).

August 16th Worship, Theme: *The Gifts of Music* with solo by Kurt Hadley  
August 23rd Worship, Theme: *Religion at its Best* with solo by Kurt Hadley  
August 30th Worship, Theme: *Slowing Down*

-8-

## 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.

*Sometimes a silent hug  
is the only thing to say.  
~Robert Brault~*

## *Summer Pleasures*

*Sunshine beaming golden heat  
For lots of fun outdoors;  
Vacations, for a sweet retreat  
To mountains, plains and shores.*

*Kids in constant summer motion,  
Free from teacher's rule,  
Head to toe in suntan lotion,  
At the beach or pool.*

*Inflatable rafts on which to float,  
Camping and fishing gear,  
Rowing or sailing or waterski boat,  
Tell us summer's here.*

*Things we can't do the rest of the year  
Are summer's special treasures;  
Oh summer, summer, linger long,  
And give us all your pleasures!*

*By Joanna Fuchs*

### **Ephesians 4:25-5:2 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>25</sup> Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

<sup>26</sup> "In your anger do not sin"<sup>[a]</sup>: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,

<sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold.

<sup>28</sup> Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

<sup>29</sup> Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

<sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

<sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

<sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

<sup>5</sup> <sup>1</sup> Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children  
<sup>2</sup> and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

### **John 6:41-51 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>41</sup> At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."

<sup>42</sup> They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

<sup>43</sup> "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered.

<sup>44</sup> "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.

<sup>45</sup> It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.'<sup>[a]</sup> Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me.

<sup>46</sup> No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.

<sup>47</sup> Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.

<sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life.

<sup>49</sup> Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died.

<sup>50</sup> But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die.

<sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."