

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

August 12, 2018

Minister	Rev. Blair Lewis	Organist	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Isabel Clouston	Greeters	Anne Brooks
Custodian	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</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</i> <i>Ephesians 5:15-20</i> <i>John 6:51-58</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: *'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:

By water and the Spirit,
we are called, claimed, and commissioned:
we are called God's own,
welcomed as children of God;
we are claimed by Christ,
united with Christ.

Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:

Announcements:

Lighting the Christ Candle:

One: Sisters and Brothers,
let us celebrate God's gift of grace
given to us in the light of the Christ Candle.

**All: There is one body
and one Spirit;
we have one hope in Christ.**

One: There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God, Creator of us all.

**All: Out of the water of baptism
we rise with new life;
forgiven, renewed, and one with Christ,
members of Christ's body.**

Ephesians 4:4-6

Call to Worship: (in unison)

**By the power of the Holy Spirit,
our steadfast loving God reaches out to redeem us.
Thanks be to God!**

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)

Wondrous God:
**you touch our lives with healing
and with justice;
new life is your gift.**
**We praise you for the Good News
which is ours through Jesus Christ.
May this time of worship nourish us
with your promise of meaning and purpose.
May we be empowered to carry your goodness
into the coming week.**
We pray in Jesus' name, our Source and Saviour.
Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** *'Worship the Lord'* **#401 VU** vs 1,3&4

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding:

In our struggle to hear your Word, O God,
bless even our doubts, our wonderings,
our wanderings, our soul-struggles,
life's deep questions, and deeper mysteries.
Teach us to love our questions
as well as our answers. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Isabel MacLaggan

New Testament Lesson: Ephesians 4:25-5:2
Responsive lesson: Psalm 130 Page 853 VU
Gospel Lesson: John 6:35,41-51

***Hymn:** *'Break Now the Bread of Life'* #501 VU

Message: "Loss of Sensitivity"

Anthem: 'The River'

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: (in unison)

**God of the hungry,
make us hunger and thirst for the right,
till our thirst for justice has been satisfied,
and hunger has gone from the earth. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

**Jesus, who sat at the table
with outcasts and sinners,
we confess that too often our words and actions
are not consistent with our beliefs.
Often we ignore the needy,
show indifference to the lonely,
and reject those who seem different from us.
Forgive us, we pray.
Empower us to reach out in love and acceptance.
Amen.**

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:

People of God, hope in the Lord!
God in Christ has forgiven us!
God has redeemed us from all of our iniquities
through Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us
as living bread for the life of the world.

Silent Prayer / Reflective Music:

Pastoral Prayer:

One: God, you did not create us to live in isolation.
You have not made us all alike.

**All: We pray for our families
with whom we live day by day.
By all that we do and say,
help us to build up the faith and confidence
of those we love.
When we quarrel, help us to forgive quickly.
Help us to welcome new members
into our families without reserve,
and not to neglect those
who in our eyes have become less interesting
or more demanding.**

We pray for all who are experiencing illness in their lives, those who are in hospital or at home. May the power of your love be a source of ongoing comfort to them during times of challenge and change.

One: We pray for the places where we work, that there we may be workers who have no need to be ashamed. Whether those we work with be many or few, may we help to give them the sense that they are personally wanted and cared for.

All: We pray for the communities to which we belong, that we may be good citizens. Make us willing to accept responsibility when we are called to it; make us willing also to give place to others, that they too may have their opportunity.

One: We pray for the generation to which we belong; those with whom we share a common fund of memory, common standards of behavior and a common attitude toward the world. Grant that the presence of Christ may be so real to us that we may be able to help our generation to see him also as our contemporary.

All: God, into your world we come and from your world finally we must go. We thank you for all those people, great and humble, who maintained the fabric of the world's life in the past and left us a great inheritance. May we take up and encourage what is good, and hand it on to those who come after, believing that our work in your name will not be wasted. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***Closing Hymn:**

'Put Peace into Each Other's Hands' #173 MV

Put peace into each other's hands
and like a treasure hold it,
Protect it like a candle flame,
with tenderness enfold it.

Put peace into each other's hands
with loving expectation;
Be gentle in your words and ways,
in touch with God's creation.

Put peace into each other's hands
like bread we break for sharing;
Look people warmly in the eye:
our life is meant for caring.

Give thanks for strong – yet tender hands,
held out in trust and blessing.
Where words fall short, let hands speak out,
the heights of love expressing.

Reach out in friendship, stay with faith
in touch with those around you.
Put peace unto each other's hands;
the Peace that sought and found you

Commissioning: (in unison)

Living God, we put our trust in you:

**risking disappointment, risking failure,
working and waiting expectantly.**

**We sing in solidarity with all people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation.**

Blessing:

God feeds us forever with the bread of life
and upholds us with steadfast love.
You are blessed, redeemed, and gifted with grace
through Christ our Lord!

***Choral Closing:** *'Take Up His Song'* **#213 MV**

Take up his song of hope

And go into the world

Take up his song of hope

in every moment.

In every moment of the journey,

We're laying down our lives;

Lay them down in peace,

Lay them down,

And take up his song.

Organ Postlude:

*The hunger for love
is much more difficult to remove
than the hunger for bread.*

~Mother Teresa ~

Church News

This Week at First United –Aug. 13 – Aug. 18

Friday	Closed	Summer Hours
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Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2018 **900**

Total to Date **408**

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect 23-24 jars of peanut butter per week.

The Volunteer Center supplies, on average, 500 households monthly.



The Upper Room for Sept. and Oct. are in the Narthex. Please free to take one. A container for donations is located with the publication.

Summer Hours: Starting June 1 until the end of August the church office hours will be Monday - Thursday, 8-4. Closed 12-1.

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.

*There is no distance on this earth
as far away as yesterday.*

~Robert Nathan~

Community Events

RSVP Ministries invites you to our "Heart Lifting Tunes"

Luncheon at House of Lee – Grand Buffet, 315 Main Street, Bathurst on Wednesday, August 29, 2018 \$17.50 from 11:30am - 1:00pm, doors open at 11:00am. Catherine Doucet will bring us heart lifting tunes, and Ruth Allison, Retired Federal employee and certified fitness instructor from Moncton, NB will tell how she moved from duty to delight. **Reservations and cancellations are necessary before Saturday, Aug. 25.** 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.

*Most folks
are about as happy
as they make up their minds to be.
~Abraham Lincoln~*

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

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

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

²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold.

²⁸ 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.

²⁹ 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.

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

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

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

5 ¹ Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children

² 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 6:35, 41-51 New International Version (NIV)

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.

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

⁴² 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'?"

⁴³ "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered.

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

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

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

⁴⁷ Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.

⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died.

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

⁵¹ 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."