**The United Church of Canada**

**Bathurst Pastoral Charge**

**First United Church, Bathurst**

[www.firstunited-bathurst.ca](http://www.firstunited-bathurst.ca/)

**September 2, 2018**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Minister** | Rev. Blair Lewis |  **Organist** | Martha Vickers |
| **Office Adm.****Custodian** | Isabel CloustonAlan Wilcox |  **Greeters** | Cheryl & Gordon Murphy |
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| **Lectionary for today** | **Lectionary for next Sunday**  |
| *Song of Solomon 2:8-13**Psalm 15**James 1:17-27**Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23* | *Proverbs 22:1-2,8-9,22-23**Psalm 146**James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17**Mark 7:24-37* |

*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:

God has given us every perfect gift from above

and called us to living lives intimately linked to his beloved son,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:**

**Announcements:**

*-1-*

**Lighting of the Christ Candle:**

One: As we light the Christ Candle we celebrate life

and offer thanks to God.

**All: Thanks be to God**.

One: At the beginning of the new month of September,

 we are reminded that God has given us

 our world to learn about and our life to discover.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: On this Labour Day weekend

 God has gathered us into a community of care,

 learning and worship.

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

**Call to Worship:**

One: God’s Spirit calls to our spirits,

All: inviting us to worship.

One: God’s Spirit calls to our spirits,

All: inviting us by love.

One: God’s Spirit calls to our spirits,

All: calling us by name,

 calling us to grow in faith,

 calling us to be made new.

One: We come to worship in this season of the Spirit.

**Prayer of Approach:**

One: Our God as we come before you in prayer

 at the beginning of our worship service;

we thank you for meeting us at our point of greatest need and befriending us.

You enable us to live in families and communities for purpose, fellowship and support.

**All: You call us to your service and give us a mission.**

 **You encourage us to hear the affirmation of friends.**

**O God we thank you for not accepting the limitations we place on ourselves.**

**God, loved and trusted one,**

 **in time and beyond time we praise you. Amen.**

*-2-*

**\*Opening Hymn:**

 **‘**O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing’ **#326 VU**

**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**Prayer for Understanding:**

 Eternal God,

 who caused all scriptures

 to be written for our learning.

 Grant that we may so hear them,

 read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them,

 that by patience and comfort of your holy Word,

 we may embrace and hold fast

 the blessed hope of eternal life,

which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen. BCP 16th Century

**Scripture Readings:** Gary Branch

New Testament Lesson: James 1:17-27

**Responsive lesson:** Psalm 45 Page 769 VU

Gospel Lesson: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15

**\*Hymn:** *‘*Long before My Journey’s Start #63 MV

Long before my journey’s start,

When in my youth I searched in my heart,

I would pray for her, wait for her,

Wisdom, my road, my goal, and my star.

From the blossom to the seed,

Long has she filled my cup in need,

May I cling to her vine, taste of her wine,

Wisdom, my life, my perfect design.

When I stretched my hands to the sky,

When in despair my soul raised a cry,

I was saved by her gaze, led in her ways,

Wisdom, my love, the light of my days.

**Message:**

“Stop, Look and Listen, the Purpose of the Law”

 *-3-*

Anthem:

**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)

 **O God, author of all goodness,**

 **who has entrusted us with material possessions**

 **and made us stewards of your bounty;**

 **accept the offerings which we now present to you**

 **through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Prayer of Confession:** (in unison)

 **We repent of our misdoings;**

 **the remembrance of them is a grief to us;**

 **the burden of them is great.**

 **Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us,**

 **most merciful One;**

 **for Jesus Christ’s sake, forgive us all that is past;**

**and grant that we may serve and please you in newness of life,**

 **to the honour and glory of your holy name**

 **through Jesus Christ our Saviour.**

 BCP 16th Century

One: God of the Exodus,

All: you set Israel free.

One: Jesus of Easter,

All: you proclaimed freedom for all.

One: Spirit of Liberation,

All: empower us to live in freedom. Amen.

*-4-*

**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:**

 God is the love that over and around us lies;

 the grace that is totally unearned;

 and the healing that makes the earth whole.

 Give thanks to God; we are forgiven!

**Silent Prayer:**

**Reflective Music:**

**Pastoral Prayer:**

Let us join in our historic prayer of General Thanksgiving:

 Almighty God, Father of all mercies,

 we thine unworthy servants

do give the most humble and hearty thanks

for all thy goodness and loving kindness to us

 and to all human kind.

 We bless thee for our creation, preservation,

 and all the blessings of this life.

Above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,

 for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

We beseech thee, give us that do sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful.

 We show forth thy praise, not only with our lips,

but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

 *-5-*

The Lord’s Prayer:

**THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH**

**\*Closing Hymn:** ‘In Christ There is No East or West’ **#606 VU**

(Tune St. Peter VU 344)

Commissioning: (in unison)

 **Hear our prayers, God of grace.**

 **Help us to fulfill them**

 **working according to your purpose,**

 **in peace, justice and mercy in all we do;**

 **through Jesus Christ to whom**

 **with You and the Holy Spirit,**

 **be all power and glory**

 now and forever.

Blessing:

 Go out into the world in peace;

 have courage;

 hold on to what is good;

 return no one evil for evil;

 strengthen the fainthearted;

 support the weak, and help the suffering;

 honour all people;

 love and serve the Lord,

 rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**\*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:**

 *-6-*

**Church News**

**This Week at First United –Sept. 3- – Sept. 8**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Monday  | Closed | Labour Day |
|  |  |  |

**Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre**



Commitment December 31, 2018 **900**

Total to Date **450**

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.

**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.

**Anniversary service:** On Sunday, September 9, 2018 we will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the opening of our sanctuary. The guest speaker for our anniversary service will be Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, the Executive Secretary, who is the chief executive officer of the United Church of Canada for:

Gaspé Québec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Bermuda, Newfoundland and Labrador. She will be speaking about the evolving changes in the church across Canada.

Please spread the word to your friends and family about this upcoming service of celebration.

Lunch to follow service.

**Thank you** to Anne Brooks and David Cumming for being the counters and to Anne Brooks and Chesley Eddy for being our greeters for the month of August.



**Beef BBQ**

*Thursday, September 27, 2018*

Donald Eddy Memorial Hall

309 St. Patrick Street

5:00 - 6:30 pm

Takeouts available 4:00 – 5:30 pm

$15. Adults $6. Children (under 12)

*All tickets sold in advance.*

*Tickets available at the office 546-3532*

*or from Ways and Means team members.*

**Community Events**

**Family & Community Breakfast** Saturday, September 8, 2018

8:00 – 10:00 am Saint George’s Church Hall, 432 King Avenue

**Meal of the Month** – Roast Beef Supper

Royal Canadian Legion  Sunday, September 9, 2018, 5 p.m.

Tickets - $15.00 Take-Outs Available. Tickets can be purchased at the Legion office.

**“Help Lesotho” Calendars**

The Anglophone School District – North has been sponsoring “Help Lesotho” since 2006 as part of its global awareness initiative. As a fund raiser where all of the money raised goes to help finance its work with orphans, vulnerable children, and grandmothers in Lesotho, Africa; “Help Lesotho” has 2019 calendars for sale at a cost of fifteen dollars. You are invited to support this initiative with your donation. Gary Branch (546-9208) (egbranch@rogers.com) will be taking orders for these calendars until October 9, 2018. Payment can be made in advance by cash or cheque or when the calendars are delivered. Cheques are to be made payable to “Help Lesotho”.

**Anglican Parish of New Bandon Salmon Supper:**

Christ Church Hall, Clifton Saturday, September 22, 2018

Sittings 4pm; 5pm; 6pm Adults $20.00 Children (under 12) $10.00

Al tickets sold in advance. Kay Addison 350-0960, Elaine Good 546-2970, Mitzi Whelton 546-4969, Lorna Veneau 546-2948.

 J**ames 1:17-27 New International Version (NIV)**

17Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

**Listening and Doing**

19My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. 21Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

22Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

26Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. 27Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

**Mark 7:1-8 New International Version (NIV)**

**That Which Defiles**

7 The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus 2and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. 3(The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. 4When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+7%3A1-8%2C+14-15&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-24468a" \o "See footnote a)])

5So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

6He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

“‘These people honor me with their lips,
    but their hearts are far from me.
7They worship me in vain;
    their teachings are merely human rules.’[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+7%3A1-8%2C+14-15&version=NIV#fen-NIV-24471b)]

8You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

14Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. 15Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”