

The United Church of Canada
Bathurst Pastoral Charge
First United Church, Bathurst

www.firstunited-bathurst.ca

May 24, 2020

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Isabel Clouston **Greeters**
Custodian Steve White

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Lectionary for Today	Lectionary for next Sunday
Acts 1:6-14	Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 68:1-10, 31-35	Psalm 104:24-34. 35b
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
John 17:1-11	John 20:19-23

GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

WELCOME (including our friends worshipping by CD)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (responsively)

Jesus' life and ministry, his death and resurrection,
and the story and experience of Easter
teach of the immense dimensions of God's grace,

**a grace that enfolds with comfort and healing,
peace and promise, hope and nurture, life and death.**

As we acknowledge and imagine all of that, we remember as well—

there's always more.

(The Christ Candle is lit.)

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP - "There Is Room for All" – MV #62

***There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;
there is room for all, sheltered in God's love.
And I rejoice and sing, "My refuge and my rock,
in whom I trust."
There is room for all, there is room for all!***

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

...We carry the joys and the worries of our week,
the weight of our personal experience,
the anxieties of all that the future may hold.

We gather in prayer and preparation.

**We knit ourselves into a community,
we hold one another in compassion,
we remember that the work we've been called to do—
we don't do alone.**

GATHERING PRAYER

GATHERING HYMN – "We Praise You, O God" – VU #218

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.
When perils o'er take us, you will not forsake us,
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.

With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, for ever be praise!

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

CHORAL RESPONSE – "Kyrie Eleison (Guarani)" – MV #68

***Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison,
kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison.***

GREETING ONE ANOTHER (responsively)

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

SHARING A STORY (with children of all ages)

SINGING A SONG – “Praise Our Maker” – VU #316

Praise our Maker, peoples of one family:
God is love, God is love!
Praise our Maker, peoples of one family:
God is love, God is love!

Love our Saviour, followers of Jesus:
God is love, God is love!
Love our Saviour, followers of Jesus:
God is love, God is love!

Care for others, children of the Spirit:
God is love, God is love!
Care for others, children of the Spirit:
God is love, God is love!

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 1:6-14
John 17:1-11

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

“The Perfect Wisdom of our God” *Emma Vickers*

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Jini Palmer

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER (in unison)

**Life-giving One,
we bring gifts of time, talent, and treasure.
We pray,
bless all that we offer,
that it might be for the stewardship and nurture
of all creation.
Through these gifts,
may your presence in the world be made known.
By these gifts, may we embody your grace and love to all.
Amen**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS –

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” – VU #400
***Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER – VU #921 (in unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN – “To Show by Touch and Word” – VU #427

To show by touch and word devotion to the earth,
to hold in full regard all life that comes to birth,
we need, O God, the will to find
the good you had of old in mind.

Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most,
our hearts to long for truth till pride of self is lost.
For every challenge that we face
we need your guidance and your grace.

Let love from day to day be yardstick, rule, and norm,
and let our lives portray your word in human form.
Now come with us that we may have
your wits about us where we live.

BLESSING

CHORAL SENDING FORTH

*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 (Tune Promise VU #703)

Announcements

The Bathurst Volunteer Centre depends on the generosity of members of the congregation of First United Church to supply it with 900 jars of peanut butter yearly. Because of the restrictions put in place regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, our donations have dropped off considerably. It is our feeling that those who want to continue donating peanut butter during this time can best do it by making out a cheque to the Bathurst Volunteer Centre and sending it directly to the centre at 464 King Avenue, Bathurst, NB, E2A 1P5. It should be clearly marked First United Church Peanut Butter in the lower left corner so that the peanut butter purchased by the centre can be credited to the church. The need is real. The Volunteer Center would like to thank all those for their continued support of the Peanut Butter Program. A number of cheques have been received by them for the purchase of peanut butter on behalf our church family.

Community Events

Central United Church will be having a plant sale on May 30 from 9 until noon at the hall.

*I ask not for a lighter burden,
but for broader shoulders.
~Jewish Proverb*



Raise your
words
not
your voice.
It is rain that
grows flowers
not thunder.

— Rumi

Simple Reminders
SIMPLEREMINDERS.COM

Acts 1:6-14 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The Ascension of Jesus

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.

¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away.

¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of ^f[a](#) James.

¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

John 17:1-11 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

¹⁷ After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you,

² since you have given him authority over all people, ^a to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do.

⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you;

⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.

¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.