

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

September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Minister** Rev. Neal Palmer  
**Office Adm.** Christina Doucet  
**Custodian**

**Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**Greeters**

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<u>Lectionary for Today</u> Joel 1:8-10, 17-20 Psalm 18:6-19 Romans 8:18-27 Matthew 20:1-16	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u> Genesis 8:20-22; 9:12-17 Psalm 104:27-33 Revelation 22:1-5 Matthew 21:23-32
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GATHERING

**MUSIC AS WE GATHER**

**WELCOME**

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP**-“Praise to the Lord” - VU #835 (Vs. 1)

*Praise to the Lord, all of you, God’s servants.  
Blessed be the name of our God now and ever.  
From the rising up of the sun—may the Lord be praised,  
praise to the name of the Lord!*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**GATHERING PRAYER**

**GATHERING HYMN** – “God who gives to life its goodness, VU 260”

God who gives to life its goodness,  
God creator of all joy,  
God who gives to us our freedom,  
God who blesses tool and toy:  
Teach us now to laugh and praise you,  
Deep within your praises sing,  
Till the whole creation dances  
For the goodness of its King.

God who fills the earth with beauty,  
God who binds each Friday to friend,  
God who names us co-creators  
God who wills that chaos end:  
Grant us now creative spirits,  
Minds responsive to your mind,  
Hearts and wills your rule extending  
All our acts by Love refined.

**PRAYER OF HUMILITY**

**CHORAL RESPONSE** – “And When You Call for Me” – MV #96

*And when you call for me,*

*I have already answered.*

*And when you call for me,*

*I am already there.*

**GREETING ONE ANOTHER** (responsively)

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**SHARING A STORY** (with children of all ages)

Matthew 20:9-12

**SINGING A SONG** – “God of the sparrow”- VU 229

God of the sparrow  
God of the whale  
God of the swirling stars  
How does the creature say Awe  
How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake  
God of the storm  
God of the trumpet blast  
How does the creature cry Woe  
How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow  
God of the cross  
God of the empty grave  
How does the creature say Grace  
How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry  
God of the sick  
God of the prodigal  
How does the creature say Care  
How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbor  
God of the foe  
God of the pruning hook  
How does the creature say Love  
How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages  
God near at hand  
God of the loving heart  
How do your children say Joy  
How do your children say Home

*ENGAGING*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*Bev Murphy*

Joel 1:8-10, 17-20

Romans 8:18-27

Mark 1:9-13

**REFLECTION**

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

*RESPONDING*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

*Bev Murphy*

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**OFFERING PRAYER** (in unison)

**We are called, Holy One, to step out beyond our homes and to see the world, to be adventurers who meditate on the vastness of the universe.**

**Bless us and the gifts we bring, Holy One, to your vibrant, diverse world of life. We're all, after all, on a lifelong journey to the very heart of your presence.**

**Amen**

**SHARING OUR CONCERNS** – “Jesus, Remember Me” – VU #148

*Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** – VU #921 (Ecumenical Version) (in unison)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

*GOING OUT (as God's people)*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**CLOSING HYMN** – “It moves in creation”

It moves in creation and flows through our lives,  
The Spirit that joins us, the vision that thrives.  
A yearning for justice, a questing for peace  
Reveal God's reflection, when hope is increased.

### **Refrain**

**For God has many faces, far more than we can see,  
And where we meet the sacred, we touch eternity.**

The earth is our garden to tend and sustain;  
A gift to be treasured, a sacred domain.  
For we are God's children, the daughters and sons,  
Whose work is to nurture, what God has begun.

### **Refrain**

The hungry, the desperate, the grieving, the lost,  
Show God's face in suffering and bearing its cost.  
Yet we are connected, a part of the whole  
And what harms the lowest, on all takes a toll.

### **Refrain**

A gesture of kindness or loving embrace,  
A world of encouragement offered with grace  
Our patient endurance or comforting deed,  
Are quietly holy and soulfully feed.

### **Refrain**

Words and Music A. Baer, 2010. Arr: S. Porter  
**Gathering** Pentecost 2 2014. Used with permission.

## **BLESSING**

**CHORAL SENDING FORTH** – “May God's Sheltering Wings” – MV  
#214

***May God's sheltering wings, his gathering wings protect you.***

***May God's nurturing arms, his cradling arms sustain you,***

***and hold you in his love,***

***and hold you in his love.***

*(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)*

## Church News

### *In Loving Memory Of Bill McCallum*

*By Dorothy Ann, Bonnie, Jonathan & Derek*

**Peanut Butter Update** To date, 317 jars have been collected and \$885.00 towards the purchase of Peanut Butter has been given to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. Peanut butter can be dropped off at the church office anytime during business hours; cheques can be delivered or mailed to the Bathurst Volunteer Center at 464 King Ave. Bathurst NB E2A 1P5. Please indicate on your cheque that it is for the purchase of Peanut Butter for the First United contribution.

#### **Community announcements:**

"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 2021 calendars for sale at a cost of \$15.00. You are invited to support this initiative with your donation. Gary Branch (546-9208)

([egbranch@rogers.com](mailto:egbranch@rogers.com)) will be taking orders for these calendars until October 13, 2020. Payment can be made in advance by cash or cheque or when the calendars are delivered in November. Cheques are to be made payable to "Help Lesotho".

"The Anglican Parish of New Bandon is again making apple pies and apple crisps for sale on October 3, 2020. Pies are 9" in diameter, and crisps are 8" x 8", at a cost of \$8 each. Orders must be received in advance by Wednesday, September 30, 2020. To order, please call Mitzi Whelton at 545-0298 or by email at [Mitzi.whelton@gmail.com](mailto:Mitzi.whelton@gmail.com) OR Nancy Hodnett at 545-5263 or by email at [jnjb@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:jnjb@nbnet.nb.ca). Pick up will be on October 3 from noon until 2 pm at Christ Church Hall."

#### **Announcements:**

It is that time of year for those of you who are subscribed with Broadview Magazine to renew your subscription, the order will sent out by September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

## **Joel 1:8-10**

<sup>8</sup>Lament like a virgin dressed in sackcloth  
for the husband of her youth.

<sup>9</sup>The grain offering and the drink offering are cut off  
from the house of the LORD.

The priests mourn,  
the ministers of the LORD.

<sup>10</sup>The fields are devastated,  
the ground mourns;  
for the grain is destroyed,  
the wine dries up,  
the oil fails.

## **Joel 1:17-20**

<sup>17</sup>The seed shrivels under the clods,  
the storehouses are desolate;  
the granaries are ruined  
because the grain has failed.

<sup>18</sup>How the animals groan!  
The herds of cattle wander about  
because there is no pasture for them;  
even the flocks of sheep are dazed.

<sup>19</sup>To you, O LORD, I cry.  
For fire has devoured  
the pastures of the wilderness,  
and flames have burned  
all the trees of the field.

<sup>20</sup>Even the wild animals cry to you  
because the watercourses are dried up,  
and fire has devoured  
the pastures of the wilderness.

## **Romans 8:18-27**

### **Future Glory**

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth  
comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the  
creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of  
God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but  
by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation  
itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the  
freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole  
creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only  
the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit,  
groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our  
bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not  
hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we  
do not see, we wait for it with patience.

<sup>26</sup>Likewise 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. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what  
is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints  
according to the will of God.

## **Mark 1:9-13**

### **The Baptism of Jesus**

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized  
by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the  
water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a  
dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the  
Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

### **The Temptation of Jesus**

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He  
was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with  
the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him