

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

November 22, 2020

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
OfficeAdm Margaret Payne-Chenard **Greeters** Brenda Parrott
Custodian Steve White Shirley Sealy

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<u>Lectionary for Today</u> Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 100 Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u> Deuteronomy 8:7-18 Psalm 65 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Luke 17:11-19
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GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

WELCOME

Lighting of the Christ Candle & Call to Worship:

One: The Christ Candle symbolizes the presence of Christ, the Light of the world,

All: Alive, in our midst, this day & every day.

One: May the light of Christ be with you,

All: And also with you.

One: We are called to be the church,

All: to love God & serve others.

One: And so, we have gathered as brothers & sisters in Christ

All: to once more, worship in joy & in hope.

One: We are not alone.

All: Thanks be to God.

-1-

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" VU #375

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
Blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.*

GATHERING PRAYER

GATHERING HYMN: "Come Let Us Sing" #222 VU

*Come, let us sing to the Lord our song,
we have stood silently too long;
surely the Lord deserves our praise,
so joyfully thank God for our days.*

*O thirsty soul, come drink at the well,
God's living waters will never fail.
Surely the Lord will help you to stand,
strengthened and comforted by God's hand.*

*You dwell among us and cause us to pray,
and walk with each other following your way;
our precious brothers and sisters will grow
in the fulfilling love they know.*

*Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing
to the desire of all living things.*

*Come, all you creatures, high and low,
let your praises endlessly flow*

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

CHORAL RESPONSE – "How Deep the Peace" – MV #95

*How deep the peace, the confidence,
of those whose wrongs are forgiven.
How deep the peace, the confidence,
of those whose hearts are healed.*

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GREETING ONE ANOTHER (*responsively*)

The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

SHARING A STORY: Are you a Servant? (with those of all ages)

SINGING A SONG: "Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands" VU 570

*Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all,
healing pain and sickness, blessing children small,
washing tired feet, and saving those who fall;
Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all.*

*Take my hands, O Jesus, let them work for you,
make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do;
let me watch you, Jesus, till I'm gentle too,
till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.*

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: (in unison)

**God, open our ears to hear new ideas, our eyes to see new visions
& our minds to explore new interpretations for our lives.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Philippians 2: 1-11 Christ's Humility
Isabel MacLaggan

REFLECTION: "A Servant's Heart"

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER (in unison)

**Bless what we offer ourselves, our time, our talents & our
monetary gifts. Bless the ministries of our congregation & those of
the United Church of Canada through the Mission & Service
Fund. Amen**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS: "Put Peace into Each Others' Hands"
MV #173 verse 2

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

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 - "We Are Pilgrims" - VU #595

*We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.*

*Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.*

*I will hold the Christ light for you in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with
you;
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.*

*When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.*

*Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.*

BLESSING

CHORAL SENDING FORTH – "Take Up His Song" – MV #213

Take up his song of peace and go into the world.

Take up his song of peace in ev'ry moment.

In ev'ry moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives;
lay them down, in peace, lay them down, and take up his song.

(The Christ Candle is extinguished)

Church News

Please note the office hours are now 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, closed for lunch from 12:00 to 12:30.

Just a reminder that you need to register at the church office before noon (12:00) each Friday for the following Sunday's service.

Peanut Butter Update To date, 423 jars have been collected and \$1090.00 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 office 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.

Annual Christmas Benevolence Fund: It's that time of year! Giving to this fund is even more important than ever because of COVID-19. Things will be a bit different, but we hope the results will be the same as other years. Should you wish to give, please place your donation in an envelope and drop it in the offering plate, or drop it off at the Church or mail to First United Church, 309 St. Patrick Street, Bathurst N.B, E2A- 1E2. Make your cheques payable to First United Church. Please mark clearly that this donation is for the Benevolence Fund. The proceeds from this fund support the Bathurst Volunteer Center and people in our congregation who need assistance. We thank-you for your generosity.
Community Outreach Sub-Team



Poinsettia Fund: Once again this year we are hoping to have the beauty of our sanctuary enhanced with poinsettias for the Christmas season. Those wishing to contribute to the annual poinsettia fund may place an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please mark clearly on the face of the envelope – Poinsettia Fund with your name, PAR or envelope number. List the names that you wish to have printed in the Christmas bulletin insert. Donations will also be received in the church office – deadline is December 14, 2020.



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Shriners – Each year the Shriners have calendars and fruit cake for sale. All profit goes to help support sick children in our region. Calendars are 20\$ each and fruit cake are 3 in a box for 20\$. If interested please contact Harvey Spence at 546-2742 or by email at colovey@hotmail.ca Thank you for supporting the Shriners!

Team Esperanza – Due to pandemic-related restrictions, our mission team won't be holding a pre-Christmas craft sale. However, note that we have a large variety of crafts suitable for gift giving on hand & Marie is prepared to take orders for hand painted items prior to Dec 1st. As well, we have a limited quantity of chili (individual servings), smoked cheese & lobster paste for sale. For more information, contact Helen Knowles (546-9563) or Marie Oliver (548-3493).

Every situation in life is temporary.
So, when life is good,
make sure you enjoy and receive it fully.
And when life is not so good,
remember that it will not last forever and
better days are on the way.

--Jennie Young

Philippians 2:1-11

New Revised Standard Version

Imitating Christ's Humility

2 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was^[a] in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father