

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

January 31, 2021

Minister - Rev. Neal Palmer

Music Director - Martha Vickers

Office Adm - Margaret Daniels

Custodian - Steve White

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<u>Lectionary for Today</u> Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u> Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39
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*The bulletins are placed in loving memory of  
Lawrence Davidson by Dee Dee*

### GATHERING

#### MUSIC AS WE GATHER

#### WELCOME

#### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

...We light the Christ Candle as the light that both shows us the way and helps us imagine the way.

*The Christ Candle is lit.*

#### CENTERING FOR WORSHIP "A Light Is Gleaming" - VU # 82

*refrain*

*A light is gleaming,  
spreading its arms throughout the night,  
living in the light.  
Come share its gladness,  
God's radiant love is burning bright,  
living in the light.*

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

#### GATHERING PRAYER

#### GATHERING HYMN

"Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom" MV #10

Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,  
She who danced when earth was new,  
Follow closely what she teaches,  
For her words are right and true,  
Wisdom clears the path to justice,  
Showing us what love must do.

Listen to the voice of Wisdom,  
Crying in the marketplace,  
Hear the Word made flesh among us,  
Full of glory, truth, and grace.  
When the word takes root and ripens,  
Peace and righteousness embrace.

Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;  
Nurture all who seek rebirth.  
Spirit guide and close companion,  
Bring to light our sacred worth.  
Free us to become your people,  
Holy friends of God and earth.

## 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.*

## GREETING ONE ANOTHER

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

**SINGING A SONG** "Friend to Friend"

Let us now as God's own people,  
give the sign of peace,  
proclaiming our love for one another,  
binding friend to friend.

*(Chorus)*

Christ Jesus calls us to love one another,  
to be one in him, friend to friend,  
in love to each other, we shall give our hands.

In our care for one another,  
by each kindly word,  
by ev'ry loving deed,  
we make known the love of Jesus Christ.

*(Chorus)*

We feed the hungry,  
clothe the naked,  
give drink to those who thirst,  
for Jesus came in love as a servant and we follow him.

*(Chorus)*

*ENGAGING*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Jennifer Oliver-Lavigne*

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

### REFLECTION

### MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

### GIFT OF MUSIC

*Martha Vickers*

*RESPONDING*

### MINUTE FOR MISSION

*Bev Murphy*

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

### OFFERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

**Spirit God,  
we have entered our holy space this day without fear.  
We now leave a piece of our treasure behind, in faith that  
courage will lead to more courage and our willingness to  
continue giving to those who have less.  
Amen**

### SHARING OUR CONCERNS

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" VU # 400

***Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send you 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 (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 forever.  
Amen.**

***GOING OUT (as God's people)***

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CLOSING HYMN** "Healer of Our Every Ill" VU # 619

*"Chorus"*

*Healer of our every ill,  
light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear,  
and hope beyond our sorrow.*

You who know our fears and sadness,  
grace us with your peace and gladness.  
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.

*"Chorus"*

In the pain and joy beholding  
how your grace is still unfolding.  
Give us all your vision, God of love.

*"Chorus"*

Give us strength to love each other,  
every sister, every brother.  
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.

*"Chorus"*

You who know each thought and feeling,  
teach us all your way of healing.  
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.

**BLESSING**

**CHORAL SENDING FORTH**

"Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light" MV # 211

***Go now in peace,  
guided by the light of Christ,  
so you may be nourished  
by the Word of Life***

*(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)*

## *Church News*

**Just a reminder** when in person worship services resume that you need to register at the church office before 1:00 pm each Friday for the following Sunday's service.

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

**Team Committee Reports** will be required in order to prepare 2020 Annual Report. Would the individuals responsible for preparing each report please email them to the church office at your earliest opportunity. If so have already done so, thank you.

**Peanut Butter Update** As of January 28, 2021, 33 jars of Peanut Butter have been collected to go 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.

## 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

### Food Offered to Idols

8 Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. 2 Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; 3 but anyone who loves God is known by him.

4 Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” 5 Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords— 6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

7 It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 8 “Food will not bring us close to God.”<sup>[a]</sup> We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. 9 But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? 11 So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed.<sup>[b]</sup> 12 But when you thus sin against members of your family,<sup>[c]</sup> and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling,<sup>[d]</sup> I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them<sup>[e]</sup> to fall.

## Mark 1:21-28

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

### The Man with an Unclean Spirit

<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup> They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup> Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup> and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup> They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He<sup>[a]</sup> commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup> At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.