

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

February 14, 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>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
2 Kings 2:1-12	Genesis 9:8-17
Psalms 50:1-6	Psalms 25:1-10
2 Corinthians 4:3-6	1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 9:2-9	Mark 1:9-15

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 *(Based on Psalm 50:1-6)*

GATHERING HYMN

"This is God's Wondrous World" VU #296

This is God's wondrous world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.

This is God's wondrous world: the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world: God shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.

This is God's wondrous world: O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world: why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
God reigns, let earth be glad!

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

Cheryl Brewster

Based on 2 Kings 2:1-12 *(Letter from Mama)*

Mark 9:2-9

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

Martha Vickers

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

**Holy One,
we are transformed by the delight of encountering you.
And we are glowing
as we offer our gifts of time, talent, and treasure.
May we always be filled with amazement
as we commit to sharing.
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 (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

"We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding" VU #104

We have come at Christ's own bidding
to this high and holy place,
where we wait with hope and longing
for some token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance
that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples
for a sign both clear and plain.

Light breaks in upon our darkness;
splendour bathes the flesh-joined Word;
Moses and Elijah marvel
as the heavenly voice is heard.
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
how the Law and Prophets meet:
Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,
stands transfigured and complete.

Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
fearful lest our faith decline,
we like Peter find it tempting
to remain and build a shrine.
But true worship gives us courage
to proclaim what we profess,
that our daily lives may prove us
people of the God we bless.

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.

Reminder - Team Committee Reports are required in order to prepare 2020 Annual Report. Would the individuals responsible for preparing the report please email them to the church office **no later than February 19, 2021** as we have statistical data reports to submit by the beginning of March. If you have already submitted your committee report, thank you.

Peanut Butter Update As of February 11, 2021, 47 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.

Based on 2 Kings 2:1-12 (Letter from Mama)

Dear Son,

If you are reading this, it is because I am gone and you are courageous enough to carry out my dying wishes to continue the work we have been asked to do. You have already, at such a young age, shown yourself to be courageous, strong-willed and especially honest! I know you will not be troubled by what you are about to read. I know you will repeat it even to those who call you a liar. Even if they tell you it is impossible, you will tell them that we have a lot to learn from the impossible.

While you were still tiny, soft and prone to wiggle like a suckling kitten in my arms, Elijah and Elisha came to us out of the wilderness. Elijah was weak with something like homesickness. He sensed his call to another life and all of us could smell the exhaustion in his beard when we greeted him with a kiss.

We pulled Elisha aside and counselled the young man as we would our sons. He asked us to be silent because he knew that all we said would be reliable and true. The young one rushed back to his old companion.

Elijah told the young man that he was called away and Elisha insisted on going along. It was almost as if the boy didn't know what else to do. We all followed, wandering and wondering which one of us would be asked to catch this young man in our arms if he were struck down with the loss of his beloved teacher.

In the next place we stopped, all the other prophets gathered with us and tried to speak to Elisha. He believed us but wouldn't let us speak to him. Finally, Elijah led all of us out to the edge of the Jordan. He removed his covering and spread it like a fishing net over the edge of the river. It slowly seemed to spread out and absorb enough water so that they could walk across it like a cloak spread across a mud road. They went as far as the other shore and we saw a shape like a chariot but made of flames come down, sweep up the faithful prophet and rise until it was nothing more than a speck of light like fire sparks and spittle. Elisha returned to us and confessed he had asked for too much: to have a double share of Elijah's spirit. We comforted him by telling him that perhaps it was not so foolish to want to serve God in

this way. We pledged to help him, knowing that we would need to band together to replace such a prophet as Elijah.

Even if they tell you that this is just a story, I know you will say to your critics that you tell the stories that need to be heard because you are not in the business of convincing anyone that your words are true – that is God's work.

Now that I am gone you will need to question the fanciful stories I gave you. You will not be able to ask me, "Mama, what does it mean?" in the way you used to love to do.

Untangling the knots I tied for you will comfort you in my absence. You will learn in the unravelling how to interpret the old stories with wisdom and heart. Remember, you do not need to interpret this for those who do not want to learn from you - God breaks open the hearts of those who hate the truth you tell.

Learn from this and all the mysteries,

Mama

Mark 9:2-9

² Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them,

³ and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.

⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

⁵ Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'

⁶ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

⁷ Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!'

⁸ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.