

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

March 21, 2021

Minister	Rev. Neal Palmer	Music Director	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Margaret Daniels	Greeters	Gayle Ferron
Custodian	Steve White		Shirley Sealy

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33	Mark 11:1-11 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
<p>The bulletin today has been placed in loving memory of: Harold & Edith Payne and Aulay & Florence Scott by Francis and Peggy Scott & Andrea Clowater, Hudson Clowater and Kenneth Bernier by Wayne and Colette Clowater</p>	

*The asterisk * identifies those times in the service where the congregation is invited to stand as able.*

GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

WELCOME

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP "O God We Call" - VU # 411

***O God we call, O God we call,
 from deep inside we yearn,
 from deep inside we yearn,
 from deep inside we yearn for you.***

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsively)*

The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant.

The new covenant of God is written on our hearts.

The days are coming, says the Lord, when I shall be your God and you shall be my people.

The new covenant of God is written on our hearts.

The days are coming, says the Lord, when all people shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

The new covenant of God is written on our hearts.

The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will remember your sin no more.

Thanks be to God.

GATHERING PRAYER

GATHERING HYMN

"Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights" VU #108

Throughout these Lenten days and nights
 we turn to walk the inward way,
 where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
 we live in hope till Easter Day.

The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,
 who found in weakness greater power,
 embraces us, though lost and flawed,
 and leads us to his Rising Hour.

We bear the silence, cross and pain
 of human burdens, human strife,
 while sisters, brothers help sustain
 our courage till the Feast of Life.

And though the road is hard and steep,
the Spirit ever calls us on
through Calvary's dying, dark and deep,
until we see the coming Dawn.

So let us choose the path of One
who wore, for us, the crown of thorn,
and slept in death that we might wake
to life on Resurrection Morn!

Rejoice, O sons and daughters! Sing
and shout hosannas! Raise the strain!
For Christ, whose death Good Friday brings
on Easter Day will rise again!

LENTEN TENEBRAE *(responsively)*

Lent 5 – Psalm 51

...Heal hearts, we pray, that have been wounded by angry words.
Soothe souls that have been denied joy. Open minds that have
refused compromise. Free spirits that have been bound by fear.

(Silent confession as fifth candle is extinguished.)

**God's promise to us is a clean heart, a new and right spirit,
and because of this, we will rejoice in the presence of the
holy; we will dance in the light of God's overwhelming
forgiveness.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New" MV #115

***Behold, behold, I make all things new
beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold, behold, I make all things new,
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.***

***GREETING ONE ANOTHER** *(responsively)*

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

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

SINGING A SONG

"Jesus, Friend of Little Children"

VU #340

Jesus, friend of little children,
let me be one too;
take my hand, and ever keep me
close to you.

Teach me how to grow in goodness,
daily as I grow.
You have been a child, and surely
you must know.

Never leave me, nor forsake me;
ever be my friend;
for I need you, from life's dawning
to its end.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sandra Boone

John 12:20-33

Jeremiah 31:31-34

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

***OFFERING PRAYER** *(in unison)*

**Holy One,
please open our hearts to a new world.
A world where there’s no longer least and greatest, rich and poor.
A world where there’s enough for all, and all are treated as beloved.
Until that day comes, though, please bless our contributions of time, talent and treasures and may they work towards building “all things new.
Amen**

MUSICAL REFLECTION

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.**

GOING OUT (as God’s people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky” VU #509

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people’s pain,
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

BLESSING

CHORAL SENDING FORTH

“An Old Irish Blessing”

Emma Vickers

Previously recorded March 29, 2020

***May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be ever at your back.
May sun shine warm upon your face
and the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
and until we meet again,
may you be held
in the hollow of God’s hand.***

Church News

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.

Peanut Butter Update - As of March 18, 2021, 107 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.

From October 30, 2020 until March 11, 2021 there has been monetary donations in the amount of \$185 made under First United Church. And from January 1st to March 11th a total of 127 jars were donated, including 77 picked up from the church.

Exciting News - In-person worship services have resumed. If you plan to attend the service, please call the church office at 546-3532 by Friday morning, and give Margaret the name(s) and phone number(s) for yourself and anyone in your bubble who will be sitting with you. A seating plan will be pre-arranged based on the required physical distancing rules. *As seating capacity will be much less than usual, please call the office if your plans change and you are unable to attend.* On-line services will continue, most likely delayed, as the in-person service will be recorded and then uploaded to the church website and Facebook page.

Upcoming services: Friday April 2, 2021 at 10:00 Good Friday Service

Sunday April 4, 2010 at 10:00 Easter Service
with communion

Thank you - Gayle Ferron and Shirley Sealy for being our greeters and to Mike Kierstead and Margaret Payne-Chenard for being the counters for today and next week.

Sincere Thanks - to those contributing to the continuing online services which are being enjoyed by members of our congregation and many others!

Information Sheet For In-Person Worship in the Sanctuary

Revised March 21, 2021

Please do not attend or plan to attend:

- If you have any symptoms of COVID-19:
 - fever or signs of a fever (such as chills)
 - new cough or worsening of a chronic cough
 - sore throat
 - headache
 - runny nose
 - new onset of fatigue
 - new onset of muscle pain
 - diarrhea
 - loss of taste or smell,
 - purple markings on the fingers and toes in children.
- Or if you answer yes to any of the following questions:
 - Have you been advised by Public Health, a health-care provider or a peace officer that you are currently required to self-isolate?
 - Are you waiting for a COVID-19 test or COVID-19 test results AND have been told you need to self-isolate?
 - Have travelled outside New Brunswick in the past 14 days (unless exempt from self-isolation), or
 - Have had close contact with anyone with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
- You will need to register at the church office before 1.00 p.m. each Friday for the following Sunday's service. Your name and phone number for you and those attending with you in your bubble will be recorded by Margaret.

- On Sunday morning, you will be met at the door by a greeter wearing a mask who will:
 - Ask if your answers to the screening questions are 'no'. The greeter will need to refuse you admittance if you indicate a positive answer to the screening questions.
 - Confirm your name(s) and phone number(s) on the list provided by the church office.
 - If there is sufficient space with physical distancing, attendees who have not pre-registered will be welcome to enter, and their names and contact information will be added to the registration list.
 - Unfortunately, if there is insufficient space, non-registered people will need to be turned away, and will be given information about the church website and Facebook page.
- Each person in the church is expected to:
 - Wear a mask at all times
 - Use hand-sanitizer upon arrival and when leaving
 - Maintain a physical distance of at least 2 metres or 6 feet at all times with anyone outside your bubble/Steady15.
 - Not shake hands or touch or hug others.
- Offering plates will be available on a table in the entry for you to place your offering, on the way in or out.
- Please go directly into the Sanctuary and be seated. You are to remain in place for the whole service. However, if you need to use the washroom, please do so.
- Coats and hats are to be taken into the Sanctuary.
- No congregational or choir singing is allowed.

- There will be no hand-shaking or moving around during the Passing of the Peace. Please smile or wave to others.
- There will be no Sunday School at this time, and children will need to remain in their seats during Sharing a Story time and during the whole service.
- There will be one or two video cameras at the back of the Sanctuary, as the service will be recorded for viewing later on the church website and Facebook page.
- When the service is over:
 - The Minister or worship leader will remain in the pulpit and the organist/pianist will remain at the organ or piano,
 - Please exit pew by pew starting at the back, and go directly to the parking lot or your vehicle,
 - Please take your bulletin home or put it in the blue bin in the narthex,
 - There will be no serving of refreshments, and
 - Please respect the physical distancing requirements while outside in the parking lot.

Many thanks to each of you for helping us meet the Provincial Health requirements. As uncomfortable or difficult as these procedures may be, by all of us doing so, we will help with keeping our families, congregation and community healthy, and allows us to share worship with our church family.

Your COVID-19 Response Team,

Sandra Boone Bev Murphy Ian Oliver Jini Palmer
 Brenda Parrott Lester Scott Martha Vickers
 Rev. Neal Palmer

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

JOHN 12:20-33

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.

21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

22 Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

23 Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

24 Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

25 Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

26 Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

27 "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.

28 Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

29 The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him."

30 Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine.

31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out.

32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

33 He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord.

33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34 No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.