

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

April 4, 2021

Easter Sunday

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Greeters** Mike Kierstead
Custodian Steve White Margaret Payne-Chenard

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 John 20:1-18	Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1 - 2:2 John 20:19-31
<i>The bulletin today is in loving memory of Teri McLean Disney placed by her parents, Eldie & Nora McLean</i>	

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

GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Christ candle is lit.



CENTERING FOR WORSHIP "Come Build a Church"

***Come build a church with soul and spirit,
come build a church of flesh and bone.
We need no tower rising skyward;
no house of wood of glass or stone.
Come build a church with human frailty,
come build a church of flesh and blood
Jesus shall be its sure foundation,
it shall be built by the hands of God.***

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsively*)

Jesus said to Mary, "Woman, why do you weep?"

Mary wept because all she could see was death in front of her. She had lost her beloved friend and teacher.

Jesus says to us, "My people, why do you weep?"

Because, so often, all we can see is death in front of us. We lose sight of the path because of our fears and tears.

When Mary recognized the Christ, he said, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."

And so we look for the Christ in the new life that grows within and without. We remember that death has lost its sting. We celebrate that we are one with the risen Christ—part of the household and family of God.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN**

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

VU #155

Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!
suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!

Hymns of praise then let us sing hallelujah!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!
sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!

But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!
our salvation have procured; hallelujah!
now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!
where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!

Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!
praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!
praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!
praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

CHORAL RESPONSE "Kyrie Eleison" MV #68

***O God have mercy,
O God have mercy,
O God have mercy,
have mercy on us.***

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

SINGING A SONG "Small Things Count" VU #361

Small things count, so Jesus said:
cups of water, crumbs of bread,
small things done because we're kind
count as big things in God's mind.

Small things make the big things grow:
grains of yeast inside the dough,
puffs that fill a big balloon,
notes that make a happy tune.

Every hair that's on our head,
every sparrow, Jesus said,
God takes care of, counts and knows,
God loves us from top to toes!

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Breanna & Jodie Lee

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

John 20: 1-18

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

"Morning Has Broken"

Isabel & John Clouston

RESPONDING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

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

**Holy One,
in response to all we've received,
we offer our gifts and our lives.
Amen**

MUSICAL REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(responsively)*

As purple gives way to gold, Holy One, hear our prayers for times of suffering, in a world that's unjust for too many.

May we live towards wholeness.

As thorns give way to crowns, hear our prayers for oppression in our land by trade that's imbalanced.

May we live towards liberation for all.

As tombs give way to gardens, hear our prayers for worries that keep us from flourishing in your care.

May we live towards your shalom.

As yesterday gives way to tomorrow, hear our prayers for the future that holds too much uncertainty or loneliness.

May we live towards your vision.

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.**

COMMUNING

COMMUNION HYMN – “Companions on the Journey”

Refrain

*We are companions on the journey,
breaking bread and sharing life;
and in the love we bear is the hope we share
for we believe in the love of our God,
we believe in the love of our God.*

No longer strangers to each other,
no longer strangers in God's house;
we are fed and we are nourished
by the strength of those who care,
by the strength of those who care.

Refrain

We have been gifted with each other,
and we are called by the Word of the Lord:
to act with justice, to love tenderly,
and to walk humbly with our God,
to walk humbly with our God.

Refrain

We will seek and we shall find;
we will knock and the door shall be opened;
we will ask and it shall be given,
for we believe in the love of our God,
we believe in the love of our God.

Refrain

We are made for the glory of our God,
for service in the name of Jesus;
to walk side by side with hope in our hearts,
for we believe in the love of our God,
we believe in the love of our God.

Refrain

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

The God of love and peace be with you.

And also with you.

INSTRUCTIONS

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(responsively)*

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give thanks and praise.

...The day of resurrection has come, scattering fear and gloom. And so we rejoice with all people of every time and place, and with angels and archangels, to proclaim your name:

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

MV #203

***O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heaven, creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name
always!***

...In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:

**On Good Friday he died.
On Easter he rose again.
Today he lives forever.**

...So that in the sharing of these simple elements in community, we may taste and see your goodness.

"Great Amen"

MV #205

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!

Amen, amen, O Holy One, Hosanna and Amen!

Jesus Christ, the bread of life.

Jesus Christ, the cup of blessing.

*Congregational Response – "Amen" or "Thanks
be to God"*



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(in unison)*

**Thanks, Holy One, for this feast of life.
We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life.
We are sent forth to live your way and to share your joy.
We're now commissioned to feed as we've been fed, to
forgive as we've been forgiven, and to love as we've been
loved.
Thanks be to God.
Amen**

GOING OUT (as God's people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN

"This Is the Day That God Has Made"

VU #175

Refrain

*This is the day that God has made!
Rejoice! Rejoice, and be exceeding glad!
This is the day that God has made!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Hallelujah!*

Christ has conquered death at last,
left the tomb that held him fast!
Gone the sorrow, gone the night,
Dawns the morning clear and bright!

Refrain

Jesus lives who once was dead,
lives forever, as he said!
Risen now our Saviour King;
songs of gladness let us sing!

Refrain

BLESSING

CHORAL SENDING FORTH "Easter People"

*We are an Easter people
and alleluia is our song!
We are an Easter people
and alleluia, alleluia, alleluia is our song!*

POSTLUDE

Church News

Please note the office will also be closed on Monday, April 5, 2021.

The regular 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 April 1, 2021, 136 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.

Reminder – As the 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, on a delayed basis, as the in-person service will be recorded and then uploaded to the church website and Facebook page in due course.

A series of educational events are being offered by the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council Affirm Standing Committee

- 1). The next event is now open for registration:
April 15, 2021: What is Ableism?
Register now at: https://united-church.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0kf-2qrDMpE9ILop_V5o2JifD5dO9NYSZ8

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the event.

The webinar will take place from **2:00 pm to 3:15 pm (Atlantic)** using zoom video conferencing. Please share this information with your committees/networks and save the date in your calendars!

- 2). **Future Date** (Registration and details to follow closer to the event date):
May 13, 2021: Creating Safe Spaces

- 3). Resources and materials from the first two education events **Gender Diversity and Becoming an Ally** and **Becoming an Anti-Racist Church** are now available on the regional website: <https://ucceast.ca/affirm-committee/>.

A graphic with the words "Happy Easter" in a stylized, bubbly font. The letters are filled with a gradient of colors from purple to yellow, and have a dark purple outline and a drop shadow effect.

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

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

2 Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

 14 The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

15 There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;

16 the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly."

17 I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

18 The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

20 This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

21 I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

JOHN 20:1-18

- 1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.
- 2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."
- 3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.
- 4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.
- 5 He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.
- 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there,
- 7 and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.
- 8 Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;
- 9 for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.
- 10 Then the disciples returned to their homes.
- 11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;
- 12 and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.
- 13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."
- 14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

17 Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.