

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

April 25, 2021

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 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18	Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8
<i>We welcome Linda Knowles-MacPherson and thank her for leading our music today</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

...Let's, then, open our hearts and minds, to both the receiving and the giving.

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)*

...In moments where we search for the power to act justly,

let's do so in Jesus' name.

In situations where our lips long for powerful words to speak,

let's do so in Jesus' name.

At times when we feel lost and need to find the power to follow,

let's do so in Jesus' name.

When it's easier to hate, and we desperately need the power to love,

let's do so in Jesus' name.

...Through that, we obtain the power to act, the power to speak, the power to follow, and the power to love.

In all we do and in all we say, let's do so in Jesus' name.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN**

"Come Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love" VU #574

Come let us sing of a wonderful love,
tender and true, tender and true,
out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Jesus, the Saviour, this gospel to tell,
joyfully came, joyfully came,
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame;
seeking the lost, seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.

Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;
why do they roam? why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget;
home, weary wanderer, home!
Wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love!
Come and abide, come and abide,
lifting my life till it rises above
envy and falsehood and pride:
seeking to be, seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.

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.***

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

The God of love and peace be with you.

And also with you.

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

SINGING A SONG "Circle Song"
 (*Seasons of the Spirit Songbook Volume 7*)

(*Chorus*)

Come and join the circle, come and take my hand.
Come and join the circle, come and be my friend.

Gather round and see
what the world can be.
Come and join the circle,
come and share God's word with me.

(*Chorus*)

Come and join the circle, come and take my hand.
Come and join the circle, come and be my friend.

Gather round and see
what the world can be.
Come and join the circle,
come and share God's word with me

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Cheryl Brewster

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

"I Love to Tell the Story" *Linda Knowles-MacPherson*

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

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

**We give thanks, Holy One, for the love we've received—
through hugs, prayers, gifts, words of encouragement,
forgiveness and grace.**

**In recognition of all we've been given, we now commit to
doing love—through sharing, caring, and sacrificing, being
patient, generous, selfless, risking judgement, loss,
disappointment.**

**Let us, Holy One, offer all the love we have in all the ways we
can until our *doing* becomes our *being*.**

**Let us, in other words, *do* love and *be* love, in the name of the
one who *is* love.**

Amen

MEDITATIVE MUSIC

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*responsively*)

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 Are Pilgrims (The Servant Song)" 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 CLOSING

"When You Walk from Here"

VU # 298

***When you walk from here,
when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy,
and with God's humble care.***

POSTLUDE:

*Prayer is when you talk to God;
Meditation is when you listen to God.
~ Author Unknown*

Church News

The regular office hours are Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, closed for lunch from 12:00 to 12:30.

Peanut Butter Update - As of April 22, 2021, 184 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.

Flowers for Mother's Day - We will be having flowers placed in our sanctuary in honor of Mother's day. Those wishing to contribute to the Mother's Day flower fund may place an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday morning or drop it in at the office during the week between 9 AM and 3 PM. Please mark clearly on the face of the envelope – **Mother's Day Flowers** with your *name, PAR or envelope number*. An insert will be included in the bulletin on Mother's Day, May 10th with your dedications. Please have your dedications in by Tuesday, May 4th.

Central United Church in Clifton will be having their Annual Lobster Supper as a TAKE OUT ONLY, on Saturday, May 8, 2021 from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM. There are a limited number of tickets this year, so they will be sold on a first come-first served basis. Tickets are \$25 per person and include one lobster, potato salad, coleslaw, pickles, a roll and dessert. You will have your choice of having the lobster included in the shell or already shelled. If you do not specify when getting your ticket, your lobster will be shelled. For tickets please call Lois Archibald at 548-8927.



Thank you to everyone at First United Church for your prayers, support, and kind words during my mother's recent health problems. Many friends, relatives and others were there with cards and gifts for Mom and food and other help for Dad, Mike and me. We are very grateful that we live in this community and are part of this church family that is so supportive. We cannot begin to thank each person who reached out to us in the past few months. It's just another great day in Bathurst and surrounding area. Thank you – Margaret, Mike, Arthur, Byron, Karen and family.

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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS - NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

ACTS 4:5-12

5 The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem,

6 with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.

7 When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?'

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders,

9 if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed,

10 let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.

11 This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone."

12 There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

PSALM 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

1 JOHN 3:16-24

16 We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

17 How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

18 Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

19 And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him

20 whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

21 Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God;

22 and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

23 And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

24 All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

JOHN 10:11-18

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

12 The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.

13 The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.

14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,

15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

16 I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”