

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

July 25, 2021

Minister	Rev. Neal Palmer	Music Director	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Margaret Daniels	Greeters	Bev Murphy
Custodian	Steve White		Pat Thibideau

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<p><u>Lectionary for today</u> 2 Samuel 11:1-15 Psalm 14 Ephesians 3:14-21 John 6:1-21</p>	<p><u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u> 2 Samuel 11:26—12:13a Psalm 51:1-12 Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35</p>
<p><i>Today's Guest Music Leader – Linda Knowles-MacPherson Thank you for leading our music today</i></p>	

*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

Friends, the light is all around us — a sign of the season.

The Christ candle is lit.

...Thanks be to Creator for fire and sun, for flame and symbol, for Christ's light.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP

VU #375

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

(Refrain)

***Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
 blow thro' the wilderness
 calling and free,
 Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
 stir me from placidness,
 Wind, wind on the sea.***

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsively)*

In a world full of the unfamiliar and challenging,

we come to this familiar place to be restored and renewed in the Spirit. We come to experience what sometimes eludes us when we don't pause. We come seeking new life.

Let's, then, experience the source of all life

as we listen, smile, gesture, and pray.

GATHERING PRAYER

GATHERING HYMN "Jesus Laughed Out Loud"

MV #133

Jesus laughed out loud
 to see the children play;
 his joyful presence drew a crowd
 we could not send away.

Jesus healed a child
 by asking her to rise,
 and doubtful people wept and smiled
 to see her open eyes.

Jesus felt the need;
 we made the crowd sit down.
 A boy had faith and all were fed,
 though we were far from town.

Jesus climbed a hill
to pray and rest alone;
we wondered why we felt the chill
of wind and wood and stone.

Jesus called my name
when he was passing by;
my life will never be the same;
this love will never die.

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** (*responsively*)

.....Peace be with you!

And also with you.

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

SINGING A SONG "Draw the Circle Wide" MV #145

(*Refrain:*)

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, No one stands alone,
Standing side by side
Draw the circle wide*

God the still-point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms.

(*Refrain:*)

Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call.

(*Refrain:*)

Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door.

(*Refrain:*)

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Gary Branch

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

Linda Knowles-MacPherson

"On Eagle's Wings"

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

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

**Generous One,
like the child who shared their lunch with Jesus and helped
feed a crowd, may the offerings we bring today add to your
generosity.**

**May they make a difference for those who need support, encouragement, and practical help.
May they make a difference to us as we participate in your work.
Amen**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS (*Meditative Music*)

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 "Just as I Am" VU #606

Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

BLESSING (*responsively*)

...Go now...

**We go to share the lives of our friends, our families, and our communities. And the Spirit, who's able to accomplish far more than we can ask or even imagine goes with us.
Amen**

CHORAL CLOSING "Take Up His Song" MV #213

***Take up his song of peace and go into the world.
Take up his song of peace in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives;
lay them down in peace, lay them down,
and take up his song.***

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE



Church News

Summer Hours - the church office will be closed on Fridays. The hours are now Monday to Thursday 9 AM to 3 PM Closed 12 to 12:30

Peanut Butter Update – As of July 22, 2021, 349 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 **Thursday** 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. 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.

Rev. Neal Palmer will be off on vacation and study leave as of Tuesday, July 27th through to August 31st. Rev. Sue White from Central United Church, Clifton, will be available for pastoral emergencies. Rev. Sue may be reached by calling 547-5745.

***The flowers in the front of the church are
in loving memory of Viva Hinton,
placed by the family.***

West Bathurst Cemetery Update – On Saturday, June 5, 2021, I received a phone call from a Bathurst City Police Officer informing me that a car had gone off St. Anne Street and had caused damage to a gravestone, the ornamental gate to the cemetery, and a large section of the fencing along St. Anne Street. I was told I would receive a phone call from the investigating office, but this has not happened to date. Pictures were taken of the damage and estimates for the repair work were obtained. The cost of replacing the gate which recently had been refurbished by Boucher Machining and paid for by Hugh Young and repairing the damaged fence is \$10, 322.40. The cost of repairing the McGee family gravestone is \$517.50.

Hugh Schryer, on behalf of the cemetery committee, made inquiries to the Police Department, and, unofficially, it appears the driver was not insured. He was told the police report would probably be completed by June 30, 2021, and a formal request on behalf of First United Church has been made for a copy of the police report on this accident. If the driver does not have insurance, the report is needed to apply to the "Uninsured Automobile Fund".

At present, we are still waiting for a copy of the police report so we can apply for funding to have the needed repair work completed.

Submitted by, Gary Branch,
Secretary of the West Bathurst Cemetery Committee



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
L'ÉGLISE UNIE DU CANADA



LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND.
God's call to love our neighbours
has NEVER BEEN STRONGER.



Good news!

**The Government of Canada will match your donation
dollar for dollar until September 6.**

You can purchase one vaccine with a donation of \$25, or as many as you like, through [Gifts with Vision](#). We're working with our Mission & Service partners and UNICEF to make sure the vaccines get where they're most needed.

No one is safe until everyone is safe.

By now, you've probably heard that a hundred times. And here in North America, we're doing what we can to keep everyone safe from COVID-19.

[But today, we are asking you to go further.](#)

Our Mission & Service partner ACT Alliance reports that out of all the vaccines administered around the world, **less than 2% reached Africa and less than 7% reached South America**. Many countries in the global South and East won't even be able to start a vaccine program until 2022. If this continues, these countries won't reach vaccination goals until 2024...if ever.

People in these countries need access to the COVID-19 vaccine now, not in 2022 or 2023 or 2024. And we have a way for you to help make that happen.

This is your chance to make a gift that will express how much you care, not only for your family member or friend, but for the person who will receive the vaccine. **We hope you'll take a moment to [give that life-saving gift today](#).**

To donate online please go to:

<https://giftswithvision.ca/collections/featured/products/pay-it-forward>

By Phone: Call 1-844-715-7969 toll free and have your credit card handy and ask for Vaccine purchase.

By Mail: Make cheque payable to The United Church of Canada. In the memo line write: Vaccine purchase. Mail to Gifts with Vision, c/o The United Church of Canada, 3250 Bloor Street West, Suite 200, Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4.

SCRIPTURE READINGS –

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,

15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.

16 I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit,

17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

18 I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,

21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

JOHN 6:1-21

6 After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias.

2 A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick.

3 Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples.

4 Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near.

5 When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?"

6 He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do.

7 Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little."

8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him,

9 "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?"

10 Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all.

11 Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.

12 When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost."

13 So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.

14 When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

15 When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea,

17 got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.

18 The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing.

19 When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified.

20 But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."

21 Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.