

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

August 22, 2021

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Greeters** Peter Gammon
Custodian Steve White Edie Gammon

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Lectionary for today	Lectionary for next Sunday
1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11),22-30,41-43 Psalm 84 Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69	Song of Solomon 2:8-13 Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
<i>We welcome Hugh Ellis and Randy Breckenridge who are leading us in worship today – Thank you!</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:

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. Light is also a symbol of warmth and welcome. All are welcome in this place...all the time.

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)*

God has told you what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

It is good to be together God. Whether we celebrate in person in this place, on CD or video. Together we listen for your voice, united by your Spirit. In this time of worship speak to us of your kingdom of kindness so that we can seek it. Show us your justice. We seek to walk with you humbly, closely, daily.

GATHERING PRAYER

GATHERING HYMN "Let Us Build a House" MV #1

Let us build a house where love can dwell
And all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
Rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions;

(Refrain:)

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
And words are strong and true,
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
And as symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

(Refrain:)

Let us build a house where love is found
In water, wine and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground,
Where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
Is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

(Refrain:)

Let us build a house where hands will reach
Beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
And live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
Bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:

(Refrain:)

Let us build a house where all are named,
Their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed
As words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
Prayers of faith and songs of grace;
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

(Refrain:)

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.

SINGING A SONG "It Is Well with My Soul"

Penned by hymnist Horatio Spafford and composed by Philip Bliss

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

(Refrain)

*It is well, it is well,
with my soul, with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

Though Satan should buffet, tho' trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his blood for my soul.

(Refrain)

My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious tho't:
my sin not in part, but the whole.
Is nail'd to the cross and I hear it no more,
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

(Refrain)

And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
the clouds be roll'd back as a scroll,
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
"even so", it is well with my soul.

(Refrain)

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 6:56-69

REFLECTION "It is Not Easy Following God!"

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

ANTHEM "How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place" *Arnel dC Aquino*

Gifted by *Carol Abfalter, Cindy Doucet, Marlene Noel,
Kim Glendenning, Randy Breckenridge and Hugh Ellis*

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

HYMN "Great is Thy Faithfulness" VU #288

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

(Refrain:)

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—
Great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

(Refrain:)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.

(Refrain:)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

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

**May all that we offer of ourselves this day, from what we have been given, enable us to serve you and one another with faithfulness and thanksgiving. Receive this offering as a sign of our devotion to you and your work in our community and beyond.
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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN "All Who Are Thirsty" MV #4

All who are thirsty,
all who are weak,
come to the fountain.
Dip your heart in the stream of life.
Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away
in the waves of his mercy as deep cries out to deep.

We sing

*Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

All who are thirsty,
all who are weak,
come to the fountain.
Dip your heart in the stream of life.
Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away
in the waves of his mercy as deep cries out to deep.

We sing

*Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Holy Spirit, come.
Holy Spirit, come.
Holy Spirit, come.
Holy Spirit, come.*

COMMISSION: (responsively)

Go forth with a daring and a tender love.
Have faith, hope and love and be secure in the knowledge that God is always with us, always around us, always loving and always supporting us. May we allow time in our lives for those special moments when the Spirit fills and renews our very being.

We go now into the world to share the lives and love of our friends, families and community. May we go humbly, closely, kindly seeking peace and justice.

BLESSING:

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

TAKE OUT Beef BBQ will be held on September 16th from 3:30 PM to 6:00 PM. \$15 for adults and \$6 for children. As there are a limited number of tickets they will be sold on a first come-first served basis. Please contact a member of the *Ways & Means Committee* or drop by the church office.

Sponsored by Hatheway Auto Group

Peanut Butter Update – As of August 19, 2021, 372 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.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS will remain in place until early in the fall except now you may choose to remove your mask when you are at your seat. **Congregational singing is allowed with your mask in place.**

If you plan to attend the service, please call the church office at 546-3532 by **Thursday** morning, if possible, and give Margaret the name(s) and phone number(s) for yourself and anyone who will be with you. The physical distancing seating plan will remain in use. 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 early in the week.

Rev. Neal Palmer is off on vacation through to September 3rd. Rev. Sue White, from Central United Church, Clifton, will be available for pastoral emergencies. Rev. Sue may be reached by calling 547-5745. Please forward any prayer request emails to the office at firstadmin@nb.aibn.com.

Church News

HELP - You are invited to contribute school supplies/monetary donations to the local Volunteer Center from August 15-29, as able, in support of needy families, preparing for school start-up. Most required supplies include: multi colored duo tangs, along with pencils and pens (blue & red). The items may be brought to the office/narthex. If you prefer to give a monetary donation, please write a cheque to the **Bathurst Volunteer Center** & designate it for **1st United School Supplies**. Same may be brought to the church office or mailed to the center at 464 King Ave, Bathurst, NB, E2A 1P5 and in turn, the Center will forward a receipt. For more info, contact Helen Knowles at 546-9563.

Community News

Stonehaven New Bandon Community Chapel Service will hold the annual service this afternoon at 1:00 PM at the chapel in Stonehaven. Reverend Sue White will be the guest speaker. Donations made to the chapel, perpetual care or cemetery fund will be accepted and tax receipts will be issued. Please place your donation in an envelope with your name and address.

St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, will be having a Spaghetti Supper Take-Out on Saturday, September 11th from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for children under 12 and are available from Don Goodspeed (546-5387), the Church Office (546-3225) or at the door. Masks are mandatory and all Covid-19 protocols will be in place.



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 6:10-20

The Whole Armor of God

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

14 Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness.

15 As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.

16 With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

17 Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

19 Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

JOHN 6:56-69

56 Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.

57 Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me.

58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

59 He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

The Words of Eternal Life

60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?"

61 But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you?"

62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?

63 It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

64 But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him.

65 And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

66 Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him.

67 So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?"

68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.

69 We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."