

The United Church of Canada
Bathurst Pastoral Charge

First United Church, Bathurst
www.firstunited-bathurst.ca

August 29, 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
Song of Solomon 2:8-13 Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23	Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 Psalm 125 James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17 Mark 7:24-37
We welcome Helen Knowles who is leading us today in worship - Thank you!	

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

& CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsively)

One: The Christ Candle symbolizes the presence of Christ, the Light of the world.

All: In our midst, today and always.

One: May the Light of Christ be with you,

All: And also with you.

The Christ Candle is lit.

One: Scripture assures us,

All: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them".

One: As we share this time & place, let us sing & gather around the light of Christ.

All: We come to bless & be blessed.

One: So let us worship with joy, for God is among us!

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.**

GATHERING PRAYER:

***GATHERING HYMN:**

VU #395

"Come In, Come In and Sit Down"

(Refrain)

*Come in come in and sit down,
you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found,
and we are a part of the family.*

You know the reason why you came,
yet no reason can explain,
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,
for we are a part of the family.

(Refrain)

God is with us in this place,
like a Mother's warm embrace.
We're all forgiven by God's grace,
for we are a part of the family.

(Refrain)

*Come in come in and sit down,
you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found,
and we are a part of the family.*

There's rest for the weary and health for us all;
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.
So come in and worship and answer the call,
for we are a part of the family.

(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)*

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

And also with you.

SHARING A STORY: Back to School
(with those of all ages)



SINGING A SONG:

VU #357

"Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;
things I would ask Him to tell me if he were here;
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

First let me hear how the children stood round His knee,
and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;
words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,
all in the love light of Jesus' face.

Tell me, in accents of wonder, how rolled the sea,
tossing the boat in a tempest on Galilee!
And how the Master, ready and kind,
chided the billows and hushed the wind.

Into the city I'd follow the children's band,
waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;
one of his heralds, yes, I would sing
loudest hosannas, "Jesus is King!"

Show me that scene in the garden of bitter pain;
and of the cross where my Savior for me was slain.
Sad ones or bright ones, so that they be
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Gary Branch

New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 4: 8-12, 16-18

REFLECTION: "The Will of God?"

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC "The Prayer" *Kurt Hadley*
(Previously recorded August, 2020)

RESPONDING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:

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

**The gifts, we offer today,
join the gifts of all who have come before us
in this congregation, a community of faith.
Let our gifts be a blessing to others,
as the gifts we inherited have been a blessing to us.
We ask this in the name of Christ, who is our greatest
inheritance of all.**

Amen

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:

"All the Way My Saviour Leads Me"

VU #635

All the way my Savior leads me;
what have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy
who through life has been my Guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
here by faith in him to dwell,
for I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.

All the way my Savior leads me,
cheers each winding path I tread,
gives me grace for every trial,
feeds me with the living Bread.
Though my weary steps may falter,
and my soul athirst may be,
gushing from the rock before me,
lo, a spring of joy I see!

All the way my Savior leads me,
O the fullness of His love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
in my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed immortal,
wings its flight to realms of day,
this my song through endless ages,
"Jesus led me all the way!"

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 Regular office hours return Tuesday, September 7, 2021

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

Ways & Means Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 2nd at 9 AM at the Donald Eddy Hall gymnasium. Physical Distancing will be in place and wearing of a mask is mandatory.

Peanut Butter Update – As of August 26, 2021, 386 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.

This number of jars does NOT include those dropped off directly at the Volunteer Center or the monies donated under the First United contribution. An update for these numbers will be forth coming in September, 2021.

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.

Church News

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.

Community News

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.

"Help Lesotho" Calendars - The Anglophone School District – North has been sponsoring "Help Lesotho" since 2006 as part of its global awareness initiative. As a fund raiser where all of the money raised goes to help finance its work with orphans, vulnerable children, and grandmothers in Lesotho, Africa; "Help Lesotho" has 2022 calendars for sale at a cost of \$15.00. You are invited to support this initiative with your donation. Gary Branch (546-9208) (egbranch@rogers.com) will be taking orders for these calendars until October 12, 2021. Payment can be made in advance by cash or cheque or when the calendars are delivered in November. Cheques are to be made payable to "Help Lesotho".



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

2 CORINTHIANS 4: 8-12, 16-18

8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair;

9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

11 For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh.

12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Living by Faith

16 So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.

17 For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure,

18 because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.