

Sacred memories, sacred future,
sacred present, here and now.
Sacred knowing, sacred being,
sacred living be our vow.

Sacred stories, shared with strangers.
Sacred stories, shared with friends.
Sacred stories, bind us closely,
shaped by ties that will not end.
Sacred waters of baptism,
sacred bread and sacred wine.
Sacred humans, sacred living,
with God's purpose we still shine.

PRAYER OF HUMILITY (*responsively*)

One: Creator and Creating One...
we're joined to every grain of sand:

All: Earth doesn't belong to us – we belong to Earth.

One: We're joined to every shining leaf:

All: Earth doesn't belong to us – we belong to Earth.

One: We're joined to every drop of rain:

All: Earth doesn't belong to us – we belong to Earth.

One: We're joined to every creature's breath:

All: Earth doesn't belong to us – we belong to Earth.

One: We're joined to every beam of light:

All: Earth doesn't belong to us – we belong to Earth.

One: We're joined to every particle of creation:

All: Earth doesn't belong to us – we belong to Earth.

One: We may know this, Holy One, and yet – we confess to our
arrogance, ignorance, and greed in how, from time to time,
we actually treat Creation.

**All: We yearn to be better and are most certainly open to
any Spirit-led direction that may follow.**

CHORAL RESPONSE "Don't Be Afraid" MV #90

***Don't be afraid.
My love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid.
My love is stronger and I have promised,
promised to be always near.***

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

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

And also with you.

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

***SINGING A SONG** "Cosmic Hymn of Praise"
(*Seasons of the Spirit Songbook – volume 9*)

Verse 1

Sun and moon, praise God.
Shining stars, praise God.
Highest heavens, praise God. Let all creation sing.

Refrain

Alleluia! Lift your voices! Join creation's cosmic hymn of praise.

Verse 2

All the earth, praise God.
Deepest oceans, praise God.
Wind and fire, praise God.
Let all creation sing.

Refrain

Alleluia! Lift your voices! Join creation's cosmic hymn of praise.

Verse 3

Hills and mountains, praise God.
Rivers, forests, praise God.
Living creatures, praise God.
Let all creation sing.

Refrain

Alleluia! Lift your voices! Join creation's cosmic hymn of praise.

Verse 4

Let all people, praise God.
Little children, praise God.
All people, praise God.
Let all creation sing.

Refrain

Alleluia! Lift your voices! Join creation's cosmic hymn of praise.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Anne Brooks

Genesis 1:26-28
Philippians 2:1-8
Mark 10:41-45

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

Martha Vickers

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

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

**Generous One,
we offer these gifts with gratitude,
and offer our own personal gifts
with the same generosity
we've been shown.
Amen**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(responsively)*

One: For the gift of air, home to the dragonfly and sparrow; made oxygen-rich by tall standing trees; necessary for breath—

All: we give thanks.

One: For the gift of water, home to plankton and trout; sculpting valleys and coastlines; necessary for life—

All: we give thanks.

One: For the gift of plants, home to the caterpillar and koala; recycling into rich soil; necessary for food—

All: we give thanks.

One: Where these gifts are harmed by debris and pollution, by climate change, by destruction of habitat, by corruption and greed—

All: we pray for healing.

One: Where these gifts are harmed and decisions are needed from all with power to make new choices—

All: we pray for the will to choose wisely.

One: This gift of interdependence, woven into every part of creation, tells us we can't stand apart from all we share with Earth.

All: Guide us, we pray, as we seek to tread gently with Earth, and live in harmony with all.

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**

VU #644

"I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word,
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young.
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL CLOSING**

"May the God of Peace"

MV #224

***May the God of peace and of all good,
may the God of peace and of all good
be always with you. Amen!
May God's peace be with you. Amen!***

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

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.

On Wednesday, September 15th the office will close at **2 PM**.

Peanut Butter Update – As of September 9, 2021, 434 jars of Peanut Butter have been collected to go to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. From January 1st to August 31st an additional 222 jars were dropped off directly to the Volunteer Center making a total of **656 jars** donated under First United Church.

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.

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

Reminder – If you plan to attend the service in-person, 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. 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. Registering for the service also allows for the appropriate number of bulletins to be printed.

Christian Development Team will meet on Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 7 PM via Zoom. A reminder email with the Zoom information will be forthcoming in the next couple of days.

COVID-19 Response Team will meet on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 7 PM. Details for this meeting will follow via email to the team members.

Community News

The Anglican Parish of New Bandon is once again holding an *apple pie/apple crisp* fundraiser with pick-up on Saturday, September 25th from 12:30 pm until 2:00 pm at Christ Church Hall, Clifton. Pies are 9" in diameter and crisps are in an 8"x 8" pan, unbaked. Cost is \$8 each. Pre-orders are required before September 19 by contacting Kay Addison at 350-0960, Nancy Hodnett at 545-5263, or Darlene Dempsey at 480-1078. Please note a maximum of 100 pies and 50 crisps will be prepared so please get your orders in early while quantities last. Thank you

"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".

SCRIPTURE READING – NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

GENESIS 1:26-28

26 Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

27 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-8

1 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy,

2 make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.

4 Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,

8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

MARK 10:41-45

41 When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John.

42 So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them.

43 But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant,

44 and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.

45 For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'