

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

October 3, 2021

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Greeters** Lester Scott
Custodian Steve White Elizabeth Sullivan

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Job 1:1; 2:1-10 Psalm 26 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16	Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Psalm 22:1-15 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31
The bulletin today has been placed in loving memory of <i>our father, Sprague Wiseman,</i> by Holly & Randy Vibert and family & in loving memory of John M. Daley by Helen and family	

*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

...We light this candle to remind us of the light that never goes out.

The Christ candle is lit.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP

"Come Build a Church"
(Seasons of the Spirit – volume 7)

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 or 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 hand of God.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsively)*

We gather as fellow travellers,

awake to possibility but worn by life's demands.

We come, sometimes broken, yet ever hopeful. Weary, yet expectant.

At home in God, enfolded by love, we come to be encouraged and renewed in the peace and wholeness, that for us, lies in Christ.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN:**

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore You"

VU #232

Joyful, joyful we adore you
God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
sound their praise eternally.

You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing,
let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals join the mighty chorus,
which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Take, O Take Me as I Am"

MV #85

***Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me, in me.***

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

***SINGING A SONG**

"I Am a Child of God"
(Seasons of the Spirit Songbook – volume 8)

Verse 1

I am a child of God, I am a glimpse of God's new creation.
I am a child of God, I am a child of God.

Verse 2

I am an endless prayer, I am a yearning for contemplation,
I am an endless prayer, I am an endless prayer.

Verse 3

I am an angry voice, I am compassion and consternation,
I am an angry voice, I am an angry voice.

Verse 4

I am a cry for peace, I am commitment and dedication,
I am a cry for peace, I am a cry for peace.

Verse 5

I am a song of joy, I am the moment of jubilation,
I am a song of joy, I am a song of joy.

Words & Music: Bruce & Cheryl Harding © 2002

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Helen Knowles

Job 1:1; 2:1-10

Mark 10:2-16

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

Martha Vickers

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

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

**All that we have, Holy One, comes from you.
With thankful hearts, we now offer our gifts in return.
Amen**

COMMUNING

COMMUNION HYMN "All Who Hunger" VU #460

All who hunger, gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering.
Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers;
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together;
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table
live their lives in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

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

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

And also with you.

INSTRUCTIONS

INVITATION

WORDS OF REMEMBERING

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION *(responsively)*

In the name of the Party-Maker, soup-kitchen with five loaves and two fish, and Daily Bread, Amen.

God, bless the spoons, chopsticks, flatbread, and fingers of all your children. Bless every meeting of hunger and generosity. Bless our memories of food shared and our hopes for food justice.

Bless with your Holy Spirit the peace of our common cup, the pieces of our broken bread, and the global holy chaos of Communion in all the world's time zones, that, everywhere, and in this place sacred to us today, it may become a sacred meal and our pledge of an open table, in Christ's name now, and praying the prayer that binds us together...

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.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS *(responsively)*

The bread is blessed and broken like the banquet of grace.

Sharing love, we will never be hungry.

Let us eat the bread—together! [*The Bread is eaten.*]

The cup is blessed and poured like overflowing tears of joy.

Drinking deeply, we will never thirst.

Let us drink the cup—together! [*The Juice is drunk.*]

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(responsively)*

When we are satisfied, Holy One, that we have experienced World Communion and that the global music of “Des Colores,” “Jesu, Jesu,” “Siyahamba,” “In Christ, There Is No East or West” are stilled, and—the tambourine, djembe and singing bowl put away.

The real work of World Communion begins:

To find those lost and broken by the pandemic, to feed all the hungry in body and spirit, to re-unite children with parents, to rebuild places where fire has burned, storms have devastated, and war has been waged, to ask forgiveness of the world’s indigenous peoples...

And, in every season, to make music in our hearts.

Amen.

GOING OUT (as God’s people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN**

VU #684

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your healing power,
and where there’s doubt, true faith in you:

Refrain

*O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace:
where there’s despair in life, let me bring hope,
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there’s sadness, ever joy

Refrain

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we’re born to eternal life.

Refrain

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL CLOSING**

VU #298

“When You Walk from Here”

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

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

YOUR SUPPORT IS THERE WHEN DIASTER STRIKES

When emergencies strike, people need help right away. First with the basics—shelter, food, clothing—and then with rebuilding. Increasingly, people around the world are facing a variety of disasters. Climate change, health crises, food insecurity, and violent conflicts that forcibly displace thousands are just some of the catastrophes that affect millions of people every day.

The United Church is part of a worldwide network that makes a difference in the lives of those most at risk. United Church partners and ecumenical relationships in over 120 countries mean that we are on the ground ready to help in times of emergencies.

Recently, generous supporters have helped people struggling as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the devastating explosion in Beirut, and the earthquake in Haiti. From vaccines to hygiene kits to food to farm implements, your support is there when it is needed most. In return, our partners minister to us in a variety of ways, including spiritually.

The United Church of Christ in the Philippines, a Mission & Service partner, shares this prayer with us. Let us pray, together:

Most gracious and merciful God,
amidst the din of howling winds, above the noise of rampaging waves
atop the earthquakes and the shaking of the earth
we hear your voice: "Be still and know that I am God."

Yes, even in times when we are prone not to be still,
at moments when we are sorely tempted to resort to flight,
we hear you and we pause to listen and to reflect, to stand still
and recognize that indeed you are the God who is with us,
that it is not in the wind or waves or in the earth's tremors that you speak,
and that even when we walk through the shadow of the valley of death, that we
are not alone that even when we are put in the crucible of a fiery furnace,
that you are there to save.

In times like these, you speak to reassure us
through that still, small voice
through the concrete acts of solidarity of partners and friends
through those who lovingly stretched out their helping hands
to those ravaged by the storm, to those who are desolate and in despair
to those who are left with a threadbare of hope.

In times like these you assure us that we are not alone; that we have sisters and
brothers who are moved to walk the lonesome valley with us.
We thank you, for in times like these, your love and care are made more manifest
and incarnate, made alive in concrete deeds of lovingkindness and compassion.
To you we return all glory and praise.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

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 September 30, 2021, 465 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 UPDATE – To do our part in keeping the community and our church family as safe as possible, effective September 22, 2021, anyone 12 years or older will be asked to show proof of being fully vaccinated (two doses) or medically exempt when entering the church building. This practice will continue for Sunday services and those visiting the Church office and buildings during the week, until further notice.

We are also required to wear masks at all times while in the church building. The GOOD NEWS is that we are able to continue congregational singing while wearing our masks! Physical distancing in the seating arrangements will also continue.

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.

Thanksgiving – October 10th, 2021 - Anyone wishing to contribute items to decorate the church are encouraged to bring them in by **3 PM Thursday October 7th**. Thank you in advance.

Church News

Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council is looking for lay members to be on the Affirm Committee, and the Archives and Records Committee. They would like to make use of your wisdom, expertise and energy! Please consider these opportunities and if you think you may be interested, please contact Rev. Neal, Martha Vickers, or Jini Palmer for further information.

Headsets/Hearing Accessories for use in the sanctuary – The Finance Team has approved the purchase of 5 additional hearing accessories for use during our worship services. Each unit is valued at approximately \$185. Should anyone wish to contribute to the purchase of these please indicate “headset donation” on your envelope and it will be noted on your annual tax receipt. Donations may also be made at the church office.

If you wish to order one for your personal use only please contact the church office to make arrangements. Please note these headsets will not work with any of your personal items at home such as your television or computer as the receiver is set for the church sound system.

Community News

“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

JOB 1:1; 2:1-10

1 There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

1 One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord.

2 The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it."

3 The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason."

4 Then Satan answered the Lord, "Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives.

5 But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face."

6 The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life."

7 So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

8 Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die."

10 But he said to her, "You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

MARK 10:2-16

2 Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"

3 He answered them, "What did Moses command you?"

4 They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her."

5 But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you.

6 But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.'

7 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,

8 and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh.

9 Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

10 Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter.

11 He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her;

12 and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

13 People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them.

14 But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.

15 Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

16 And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.