

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

October 31, 2021

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Greeters** Lester Scott
Beth Sullivan

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Ruth 1:1-18 Psalm 146 Hebrews 9:11-14 Mark 12:28-34	Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 Psalm 127 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44
Leading us in worship this morning is Rev. Blair Lewis and sharing her gift of music is Linda Knowles MacPherson. Welcome and Thank You!	
The bulletins today are placed in loving memory of George Jardine by Bernice Jardine	

*The asterisk * identifies those times in the service where the congregation is invited to stand as able.*

GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

Welcoming:

Eternal God,
you are the light of the minds that know you,
the joy of the hearts that love you,
and the strength of the wills that serve you;
grant us so to know you that we may truly love you,
and so to love you that we may fully serve you,
whose service is perfect freedom,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Augustine 354-430

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

One: On this All Saints Sunday, we come to light our Christ candle. We give thanks, first of all, for all the saints who have held the Christ light for us when we had no strength to hold it ourselves.

All: **We give thanks for all the saints whose lives stand as a witness to light and love, and who invite our lives to join theirs.**

One: We give thanks also for those who work for peace and justice, inspiring us to learn, grow, and discover our own light in this good work of healing the world with God's love.

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:

Sculpting God,
you give galaxies their form, shape granite mountains,
and design butterfly wings.
Dancing God,
you choreograph the paths of stars
and the flight of Canada geese.
Singing God,
your divine song is sung by sparrows, flowing streams,
and the rushing winds.

**Wonderful God,
we rejoice to be a part of the divine world
which you love and sustain.**

PRAYER OF APPROACH:

**O God,
where hearts are fearful and confined,
grant freedom and daring;
where anxiety is infectious and widening,
grant peace and reassurance;
where impossibilities close every door and window,
grant imagination and resiliance.
Where distrust reshapes every understanding,
grant healing and transformation;
where spirits are daunted and dimmed,
grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN:**

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

VU #315

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

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

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Jesus taught us not to be anxious
about our lives or about tomorrow.
Are there anxieties that cause us to feel separated
from the peace which Christ promises?
Let us turn to God in prayer.

**God of love and of grace,
you know the secrets of our hearts:
how blind we are to our own faults,
yet harsh in judging others;
how swift we are to take for gain,
yet slow to give for others;
how proud we are of our success,
yet grudging in our praise of others.
Remember, O God,
your tender care and love unailing.
Do not remember our sins and offences,
but remember us in your goodness,
in accordance with your endless mercy.**

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.***

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

According to the riches of God's grace
that God has lavished upon us
and sealed for us by the Holy Spirit,
hear this good news, in Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and
blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us strong in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ill
of this world in the next.

All praise and thanks to God
for all that has been given,
the Son and Spirit blest
who dwell in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

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

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING:

God, the words you speak have power:
power to create,
power to disturb,
power to heal.
Help us to hear your Word for us today. **Amen.**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Psalms 24 (See below)

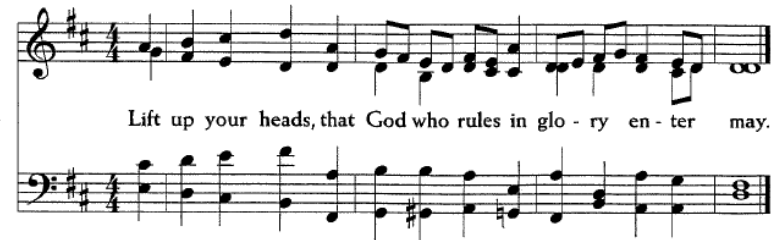
John 11:32-44

Psalm 24

PSALTER 751

Refrain

*Andrew Mitchell Thomson
arr. F.R.C. Clarke 1974*



Arrangement copyright © 1974 F. R. C. Clarke

The earth is God's, and all that is in it;
the world, and those who live upon it.
For God founded it upon the seas,
planted it firm over the waters beneath. R

Who may ascend the mountain of God?
Who may stand in God's holy place?
Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
who have not set their minds on deceit,
nor made false promises;
they shall receive God's blessing,
righteousness from the God who will save them.
Such are those who seek God,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. R

Lift up your heads, you gates!
Lift yourselves up, you everlasting doors,
that the One who rules in glory may enter.

Who rules in glory?
It is God, valiant and strong,
God, who is mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, you gates!
Lift yourselves up, you everlasting doors,
that the One who rules in glory may enter.

Who rules in glory?
It is God of Hosts,
God who rules in glory. R

REFLECTION: "The Communion of Saints"

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

Linda Knowles MacPherson

"Shall We Gather at the River"

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**

**Gracious Triune God,
we thank you for the suffering love of Jesus Christ,
and for your presence with us in times of joy and of sorrow,
sickness and health, faithfulness and brokenness.
We bring our offering as a sign of our gratitude
and as tools in the Ministry of the church.
Use our offering and us to make known the good news
of your healing love and renewing power,
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS:

VU #400

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

***Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!***

PASTORAL PRAYER:

Holy God, you are the beginning and the end of all that is;
you are the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
You sent the Holy Spirit to help us in our praying.
Open our senses to your creation
and our hearts to the needs of others.

We remember all who are ill in the hospital or at home;
We remember all who are undergoing diagnostic tests or treatments.
We remember all those who are struggling with the changes that they
are experiencing in their lives. May the inner peace that comes from
you be their source of strength and hope.

**Grant us faith, hope, and imagination
to see your vision of the fullness of time
when weapons will be crushed by peace,
and stomachs will be filled
by abundant harvests generously shared.**

**We pray for the day when our thirst is quenched by pure rain
falling from clean skies;
when diseases will be healed; minds made clear,
and bodies made new,
so that all things will reveal oneness in Christ.**

Today we are mindful that we are living through the COVID-19
pandemic; a time of challenge, a time of unexpected change, a time
when our world in many ways is unrecognizable. We pray for all who
strive for a meaningful direction forward for their lives. We pray for
those who are suffering, comfort those who mourn and let us be glad
and rejoice in the gift of your salvation.

Even now, our Creator,
empower us by the power of the Spirit to serve Christ and experience
love. May we share your vision and work in the world
for which Christ died and rose
and brought forward completeness in his resurrection.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

**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:** "For All the Saints" VU #705

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
all who by faith before the world confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever bless'd.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

You were their rock, their fortress, and their might;
you were their captain in the well-fought fight;
you, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

Oh, bless'd communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine,
yet all are one within your great design.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors come their rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the bless'd.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day
the saints triumphant rise in bright array:
as God to glory calls them all away.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

COMMISSIONING:

**Hear our prayers, God of grace.
Help us to fulfill them
working according to your purpose
in peace, justice, and mercy in all we do;
through Jesus Christ to whom
with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all power and glory
now and forever.**

***BLESSING:**

May the love of God,
the power of Christ,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
dwell richly in you forever.

***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:

*Thank you to Gary Branch and Gwen Sturgeon for
their Thanksgiving decorating efforts.
The sanctuary was beautiful!*

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 October 28, 2021, 488 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.

Rev. Neal will be on Continuing Education leave from Tuesday, November 9th through to Monday, November 15th. Rev. Sue White will be covering for any pastoral care emergencies. She can be reached by calling 547-5745.

TAKE OUT TURKEY SUPPER will be held on November 25th 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 contact the church office at 546-3532.

*Sponsored by
Kenny's Trucking Ltd. & Shine House
(A Division of Stothart Automotive)*

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.

Church News

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.

Annual Remembrance Service - Each year, on the Sunday immediately prior to Remembrance Day, we honour our war veterans as well as those who lost their lives in war. Our Remembrance Service will be held Sunday, November 7th. Those wishing to place memorial crosses in the sanctuary are reminded to contact the Legion office no later than **November 3rd** either by telephone 546-5280 or drop by the Legion located at 1220 Bridge Street. Note proof of full vaccination, ID and masks are required to enter the Legion.

***Thank you for supporting our veterans
and the Legion.***



The crosses will be placed in the church on
November 4th.

Community News

The North Shore Shrine Club are raising funds to help sick children by the sale of calendars and fruit cakes. The funds are used to pay for the transportation of sick children to the hospital in Montreal. The calendars are \$20 each and you have the chance to win \$25 each day of the year. The fruit cakes - 3 cakes per box - are \$20 per box. To order a calendar or cakes please contact Harvey Spence at 546-2742. Thank you!

YOU ARE INVITED!

Join your colleagues/friends/neighbours in the three Atlantic Regions in an on-line book study through 4 weeks in November. We'll read together Canadian Senator (Retired) Hugh Segal's recent book: [Bootstraps Need Boots; One Tory's Lonely Fight To End Poverty in Canada](#) (UBC Press, Vancouver, 2019).

The four Zoom sessions are to be held on Wednesdays, November 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th at 7:00 to 8:30 PM Atlantic Time; 7:30 to 9 NL time. Each session will be 1½ hours duration. Meetings will be hosted by Marion Pardy (NL), Karen & Hal Llewellyn (NS) and Rose-Hannah Gaskin (NB).

We ask those who register to make a commitment to read through the book and to participate as fully as possible in the sessions. The plan is to go through 5 chapters each evening of the 3rd, 10th, and 17th. We have Senator Hugh Segal himself confirmed for November 24th discussion and final session.

The registration form can be accessed <https://ucceast.ca/64326-book-study-bootstraps-need-boots-one-torys-lonely-fight-to-end-poverty-in-canada/> Registration deadline is October 31st.

There is no charge for the course. We invite participants, however, to consider making a free-will offering to the Mission and Service Fund of The United Church of Canada.

The books can be purchased through the United Church Resource Centre, St. John's, NL at a subsidized cost of \$25 (plus shipping, if necessary). United Church Resource Centre, 320 Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's, NL A1B 1T9; by telephone at 1-800-268-3781, extension 6141; or email Leona Laundry at LLaundry@united-church.ca.

SCRIPTURE READING – NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

ECCLESIASTES 3:1-8 –

Everything Has Its Time

1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

2 a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

3 a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;

4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

5 a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

6 a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

7 a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

8 a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

JOHN 11:32-44

32 When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

34 He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."

35 Jesus began to weep.

36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days."

40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me.

42 I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me."

43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."