

*The United Church of Canada*  
*Bathurst Pastoral Charge*  
First United Church, Bathurst  
[www.firstunited-bathurst.ca](http://www.firstunited-bathurst.ca)

**November 21, 2021**

**Minister** Rev. Neal Palmer    **Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Margaret Daniels    **Greeters** Shirley Sealy  
Dorothy Ann McCallum

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<b><u>Lectionary for today</u></b>	<b><u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u></b>
2 Samuel 23:1-7	Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalms 132: 1-18	Psalms 25: 1-10
Revelation 1:4b-8	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
John 18:33-37	Luke 21:25-36

*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:** *(responsively)*

In a world that can be chaotic and frightening,

**we light a candle of hope.**

*The Christ Candle is lit.*

In a world where the way can be uncertain,

**may Christ's light show us the way.**

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP:** "This is the Day" MV #122

**This is the day that God has made;**

**we will rejoice and be glad!**

**This is the day that God has made;**

**we will rejoice and be glad!**

**Singing hal-le-lu, singing hal-le-lu,  
singing hal-le-lu! We will rejoice and be glad!**

**Singing hal-le-lu, singing hal-le-lu,  
singing hal-le-lu! We will rejoice and be glad!**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(responsively)*

...Grace to you and peace from the One who is, and who was, and who is to come.

**And you as well!**

We gather in the love of Christ to be centered and stilled.

**We open our hearts to receive anew.**

We open our hearts to the mercy of Christ, who is our healing and wholeness.

**We open our minds to receive anew.**

We open our ears to the wisdom of Christ, who's our grounding and inspiration.

**We open our lives to receive anew.**

**GATHERING PRAYER**

**\*GATHERING HYMN**

VU #217

"All creatures of Our God and King"

All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing:

hallelujah, hallelujah!

Bright burning sun with golden beam,  
soft shining moon with silver gleam,

sing praises, sing praises,

hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

O rushing winds and breezes soft,

O clouds that ride and winds aloft

sing praises, hallelujah!

O rising morn, in praise rejoice;  
O lights of evening, find a voice:  
sing praises, hallelujah,  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Earth, ever fertile, day by day  
brings forth rich blessings on our way:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
The flowers and fruits that verdant grow,  
Let them God's glory also show:  
sing praises, hallelujah,  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

And everyone of tender heart,  
forgiving others, take your part:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
All who long pain and sorrow bear,  
praise God and yield up your care:  
sing praises, hallelujah,  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship God in humbleness:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
Praise God eternal, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, three in one:  
sing praises, hallelujah,  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

#### **PRAYER OF HUMILITY**

**CHORAL RESPONSE:** "Jesus, You Fill Our Hearts" MV #101

***Jesus, you fill our hearts with your love,  
our minds with your peace,  
and our lives  
with your joy.***

**\*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:**

"Seek Ye First the Kingdom"

VU #356

Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
and God's righteousness;  
and all these things shall be added unto you.  
Hal-le-lu, hal-le-lu-jah!

Ask and it shall be given unto you;  
seek and you shall find;  
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.  
Hal-le-lu, hal-le-lu-jah!

We do not live by bread alone,  
but by every word  
that proceeds from the mouth of God.  
Hal-le-lu, hal-le-lu-jah!

*ENGAGING*

#### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READING:**

*Wayne Lord*

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

**REFLECTION**

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**GIFT OF MUSIC**

*Martha Vickers*

*RESPONDING*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

*Bev Murphy*

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

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

**Holy One,  
alive to the hope that's within us  
and inspired by the vision of the reigning Christ,  
we bring these gifts and offer our lives.  
Use them, we pray, as you continue to use us  
in the generous sharing of your mercy and love.  
Amen**

**SHARING OUR CONCERNS:** *(Meditative music)*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:** *(responsively)*

Into this circle of your covenant and hope, Holy One, we offer our prayers for ourselves and others.

**We lift our voices to you, Reigning One, who was, who is, and who is to come.**

...For new commitments to participate more deeply in community life, support them with guidance.

**We lift our voices to you, Reigning One, who was, who is, and who is to come.**

...For those who struggle with the ending of a job, support them with your consolation and creative spirit.

**We lift our voices to you, Reigning One, who was, who is, and who is to come.**

...For those who govern, support them with direction and wisdom.

**We lift our voices to you, Reigning One, who was, who is, and who is to come.**

Let us live, Holy One, with joy for what's yet to be, with thanks for what has been, and with trust for the blessings and trials of the day.

**We lift our voices to you, Reigning One, who was, who is, and who is to come.**

**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.**

*GOING OUT (as God's people)*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**\*CLOSING HYMN:** "I Danced in the Morning" VU #352

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;  
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

*(Refrain)*

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
but they would not dance, and they wouldn't follow me;  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and for John;  
they came with me and the dance went on.

*(Refrain)*

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;  
the holy people said it was a shame;  
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,  
and they left me there on a cross to die.

*(Refrain)*

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;  
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;  
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone;  
but I am the dance and I still go on.

*(Refrain)*

They cut me down and I leapt up high;  
I am the life that'll never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

*(Refrain)*

**\*BLESSING**

**\*CHORAL CLOSING**

"May the Peace of God Be Your Peace" MV #222

***May the peace of God be your peace.  
May the love of God be the love you show.  
May the joy of God be the joy you know, and  
May the world that God would see be found in you.***

*(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)*

**POSTLUDE**

***A message from Sarah Charters, Director of Philanthropy  
United Church of Canada – Mission & Service***

**Now more than ever, the world needs us to be church together!** *The COVID-19 crisis won't end for anyone until it ends for everyone. And in some parts of the world, no end is in sight. Our Mission & Service partner ACT Alliance reports that out of all the vaccines administered around the world, less than 2 percent reached Africa and less than 7 percent 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. For just **\$25**, you can save a life by providing a full vaccination to someone in the world who needs one. **Make a gift today!** #GivingTuesdayGiveaVaccination*

# Church News

The church office hours are Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Peanut Butter Update** – As of November 18, 2021, 508 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.

**First United Church is looking for a part-time custodian** to work 20 hours per week. This position will begin immediately. The successful candidate will be required to provide proof of full vaccination for the Covid-19 virus, and provide a Criminal Check at his/her expense.

The job will require regular cleaning of the church premises, including sanitizing when necessary. It will include keeping the St. Patrick and parking lot entrances clear during a snowstorm. A more detailed list of duties will be available upon request.

Remuneration will be at the rate of \$15.00 per hour, and will include vacation and benefits.

Interested candidates should contact Wayne Lord at 543-1476 or the church office at 546-3532.

**Membership** - If you are an adherent of First United Church and wish to arrange for confirmation or transfer of membership please contact the church office at 546-3532.

**TAKE OUT TURKEY SUPPER** is being held on November 25<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 PM to 6:00 PM. Tickets are now sold out. Thank you to everyone who has purchased tickets.

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

**Ways & Means Team** will meet on Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9 AM in the Ruth Morrison Room. Physical distancing will be in place and wearing of a mask is mandatory.

# Church News

**Pastoral Council Team** will meet on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 6 PM via Zoom. A reminder email with the Zoom information will be sent out prior to the meeting.

**Annual Christmas Benevolence Fund:** - It's that time of year! Giving to this fund is even more important than ever because COVID-19 is still affecting lives. Once again this year the process is a bit different, but we hope the results will be the same or better as previous years. Should you wish to give you will find an envelope on the tree in the narthex. Then you may drop it in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office during the week. Make your cheques payable to First United Church. Please mark clearly that this donation is for the Benevolence Fund. The proceeds from this fund support the Bathurst Volunteer Center and people in our congregation who need assistance.

***We thank-you for your generosity  
– Community Outreach Sub-Team***



**Poinsettia Fund:** Once again this year we are hoping to have the beauty of our sanctuary enhanced with poinsettias for the Christmas season. Those wishing to contribute to the annual poinsettia fund may place an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please mark clearly on the face of the envelope – Poinsettia Fund with your name, PAR or envelope number. List the names that you wish to have printed in the Christmas bulletin insert. Donations will also be received in the church office – deadline is December 14, 2020.

**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.

## SCRIPTURE READING – NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

### REVELATION 1:4b-8

**4** Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,

**5** and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood,

**6** and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**7** Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

**8** "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

### JOHN 18:33-37

**33** Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?'

**34** Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?'

**35** Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?'

**36** Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.'

**37** Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'