

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

February 13, 2022

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

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| <u>Lectionary for today</u> | <u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u> |
|---|--|
| Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26 | Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38 |
| <i>Today's bulletin is placed in loving memory of Gordon & Ethel Vance by the family</i> | |

GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP MV #12 (*Verse 2*)
"Come Touch Our Hearts"

***Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;
create a space for spirit to grow in us,
let life and beauty fill us,
come touch and bless our souls.***

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsively*)

Young and old and middle-aged, individuals and families, soft-spoken and outspoken,

we hear our names being called to gather.

Our community is a place to pursue the Spirit's vision for all people:

unity and faith and joy expressed through many different gifts.

GATHERING PRAYER (*responsively*)

Happy are those who speak with you, Holy One, because—

they will be heard.

Happy are those who are honest with you, because—

they will be pardoned.

Happy are those who open up their real selves, because—

they will be loved.

Happy are those who long for change, because—

their living will be renewed.

Happy are those who put themselves in your hands, because—

they will be held.

Happy are those who long for a fairer world, because—

they will be given vision.

Happy are those who seek you always, because—

they will be shown the way.

Amen

GATHERING HYMN - "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" VU #375
(Emma Vickers – previously recorded May 31, 2020)

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.

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.

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.*

You swept thro' the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with their idols and lies,
then you spoke thro' your prophets to open their eyes.

Refrain

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

Refrain

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
with bold new decisions your people arise.

Refrain



PRAYER OF HUMILITY *(responsively)*

When we hoard things, Holy One, and don't share,
inform us.

When we think we have it made and don't need others,
enlighten us.

When we laugh at others' misfortunes, and say "it serves them right,"
educate us.

When we care more about what others think of us, than in doing
what's right,

change us.

When we'd rather follow our way instead of yours,

forgive us.

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)*

Carter Lavigne & Jennifer Oliver Lavigne

Luke 6:18-20

SINGING A SONG -

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

RESPONDING

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

Wayne Lord

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Luke 6:17-26

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

"Life's Railway to Heaven"
(John & Isabel Clouston - previously recorded July 26, 2020)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER (in unison)

**Holy One,
may these gifts provide comfort for all in need.
May we be more blessed by giving than in receiving.
May we desire only the power of Christ's resurrecting love.
Amen**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS – "Jesus, Remember Me" – VU #148

***Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

The Pastoral Council will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 4 PM. **Team Committee Reports** are required in order to prepare 2021 Annual Report. Please email the reports to the church office **no later than February 21, 2022** as we have statistical data reports to submit by the beginning of March. If you have already submitted your committee report, thank you.

CLOSING HYMN – “Healer of Our Every Ill”

VU# 619

Church News

Refrain

*Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.*

You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness.
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.

Refrain

In the pain and joy beholding,
how your grace is still unfolding.
Give us all your vision, God of love.

Refrain

Give us strength to love each other,
every sister, every brother.
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.

Refrain

You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing.
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.

Refrain

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

*The flowers at the front of the church are placed by the family in remembrance of **Cynthia Carson** who passed away on Monday, February 7th. A memorial service will be held at a later date.*

*The flowers on the table are in loving memory of
Lynn Vance from Dale and family.*

The regular church office hours are Monday to Friday 9 AM to 3 PM.

Peanut Butter Update As of February 9, 2022, 16 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. To date we have also collected \$375 at the office.

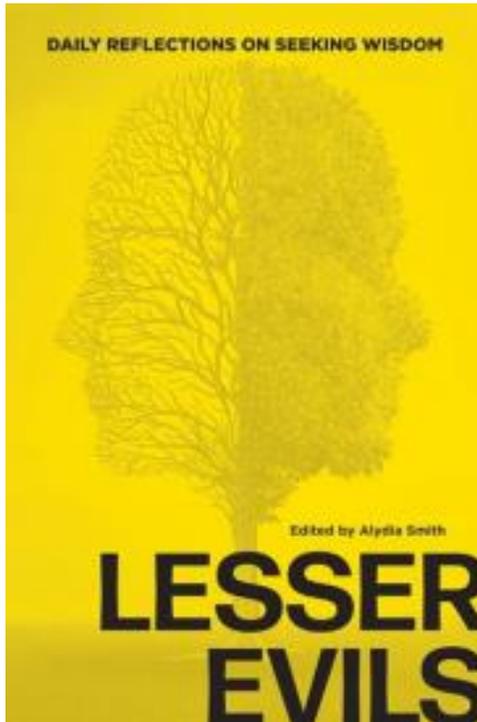
Please Note - In an effort to assist the Bathurst Volunteer Center, should you wish to make a monetary donation you may now do so by **issuing your cheque to First United Church**, indicating it is to be used for the purchase of Peanut Butter. Your donation will be marked as such and will be included on your annual tax receipt. Your cheques can be dropped off at the church office or mailed to 309 St. Patrick Street, Bathurst NB E2A 1E2. Periodically someone from our Community Outreach Team will purchase the peanut butter and have it delivered directly to the Volunteer Center.

Update for in-person services – We are returning to in-person services on Sunday, February 20th. Anyone 5 years of age 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. Physical distancing in the seating arrangements will also continue.

Reminder – you will need to register with the church office, either by telephone (546-3532) or email (firstadmin@nb.aibn.com) before noon each Friday for the following Sunday’s service. This will allow for proper set up with physical distancing and also preparation of the correct number of bulletins.

Ways & Means Team will meet on Monday, February 14th at 9:00 AM in the Ruth Morrison Room.

The United Church's Lenten book and study guide *Lesser Evils* (<https://ucrdstore.ca/collections/lent-and-easter>), published by United Church Publishing House, explores everyday dilemmas of seeking the good while choosing the lesser evil from a Christian perspective. This collection of devotions challenges all followers of Jesus to faithfully attempt to do and seek good in our actions and choices.



Regardless of how righteous we might feel about our decisions, we choose evils every day, hoping that we are choosing the lesser ones. *Lesser Evils* explores everyday dilemmas of seeking the good while choosing the lesser evil from a Christian perspective. This collection of Lenten devotions challenges all followers of Jesus to faithfully attempt to do and seek good in our actions and choices. A study guide is included. Softcover \$15.95 or e-book \$7.95

<https://ucrdstore.ca/collections/lent-and-easter>

*If anyone is interested in ordering a softcover book **please contact the office no later than February 18th** to make arrangements – this will decrease the shipping charges if multiple copies are ordered.*

Join in group discussion of this book with United-in-Learning's Lenten Study webinar series!

Running weekly sessions from March 8th to April 12th

<https://www.united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars/426-lesser-evils-lenten-study>



SCRIPTURE READINGS – NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

JEREMIAH 17:5-10

5 Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

6 They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

7 Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.

8 They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

9 The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it?

10 I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

LUKE 6:17-26

17 He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.

18 They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured.

19 And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

20 Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

21 "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

22 "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.

23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

24 "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

25 "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

26 "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.