

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

April 3, 2022

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Greeters** Mike Kierstead
Custodian Lester Scott Margaret Payne-Chénard

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8	Luke 19:28-40 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
<i>We welcome John & Isabel Clouston as our guest vocalists this week and thank them for their gift of music</i>	

*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

Christ the Life of the World,

as we travel through this Lenten journey, lead us
from ignorance to enlightenment, from shadows
to brightness, from death to life.

The Christ Candle is lit.



CENTERING FOR WORSHIP

MV #79 (*Refrain*)

"Spirit, Open My Heart"

*Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING PRAYER (*responsively*)

...Renew us, we pray, and lead us

on a path of transformation.

Amen

***GATHERING HYMN**

MV #87

"Water Flowing from the Mountains"

Water flowing from the mountains.
Water flowing o'er the earth.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water gives us birth.

Refrain

Drink deep this source of life.

Drink deep and know.

*For living water sings, and living water brings
the love that makes our spirit grow.*

Water rushing down the rivers.
Water rushing to the sea.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water makes us free.

Refrain

Water springing from the dry place.
Water springing in the sun.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water for each one.

Refrain

Drink deep this source of life.

Drink deep and know.

*For living water sings, and living water brings
the love that makes our spirit grow.*



TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE *(A Lenten Spiritual Practice)*

Lent Challenge 5

Jennifer Oliver Lavigne

CHORAL RESPONSE "Silent Spring Song" *(Verse 5)*
(Words by Shirley Erena Murray/Music by Ron Klusmeier)

***We take the bounty of all you give,
we are the sorrow that makes you grieve,
God, help your children mindfully listen:
mindfully choose how the world will live!
Silent spring,
silent spring.***

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

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

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

John 12:1-2

***SINGING A SONG** – "Circle Song" *(X 3)*
(Seasons of the Spirit vol. 5)

Come and join the circle, come and take my hand.

Come and join the circle, come and be my friend.

Gather round and see
what the world can be.
Come and join the circle,
come and share God's word with me.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Gary Branch

Isaiah 43:16-21 (paraphrased) *(responsively)*

Those who had been slaves found freedom as they walked through
mighty waters.

Look! God is doing something new.

A clear path opens up in the wilderness, and rivers flow in the dry
desert.

Look! God is doing something new.

Wild animals sing and howl and roar in praise of their creator.

Look! God is doing something new.

We who once were thirsty now drink deeply of the water of life.

Look! God is doing something new.

John 12:1-8

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

Isabel & John Clouston

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*OFFERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Holy One,
we offer these gifts with gratitude.
Through them, we pray,
may hope come to those who know despair,
may love come to those who feel alone,
may healing come to those who endure pain.
May these gifts, then, be a sign of our commitment
to serve in the world.
Amen

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(responsively)*

...for freedom whenever oppression reigns.

We ask for justice.

...for ingenuity where challenges seem insurmountable.

We ask for imagination.

...for all those who grieve.

We ask for healing.

...remembering every gift of beauty and mercy we've been offered.

We offer our gratitude.

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 Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CLOSING HYMN – "I See a New Heaven"

VU #713

Refrain
I see a new heaven.
I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.

There, there on the banks of a river bright and free,
yielding her fruit, firm in her root,
the Tree of Life will be.

Refrain

There, there where death dies and our lives are born again,
body and soul, struggling but whole
like flowers after the rain.

Refrain

There, there where the darkness brings visions from above.
There where the night, bearing new light,
reveals the promise of love.

Refrain
I see a new heaven.
I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.

There, there where we work with the love of healing hands.
Labour we must, true to our trust
to build a promised new land.

Refrain

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL CLOSING** – “An Old Irish Blessing”

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be ever at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face
and the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again, and until we meet again,
May you be held in the hollow of God’s hand.

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

The flowers at the front of the sanctuary and
on the table in the narthex are placed by
the United Church Women - Open Circle

COVID-19 Procedures Update

As we have all worked so diligently to keep our community and our First United Church family as safe as possible, we are moving cautiously to reduce the pandemic restrictions. The plan our COVID-19 Response Team has developed is as follows:

Effective March 14, 2022:

- Prior registration to attend worship services is discontinued.
- Signing-in at the entrances is discontinued.
- Hand sanitization **will** continue at the entrances.
- We welcome and encourage all who would prefer to wear masks and continue to maintain physical distancing to do so. Wearing of masks and physical distancing are no longer requirements though.
- If you have symptoms of a respiratory illness, please do not attend the church.
- Deep cleaning of the church building will continue, and our ventilation system will remain turned on during the Services and office hours.
- The Minister will not wear a mask while in the Chancel, and speakers may choose not to wear a mask.
- Congregational singing and occasional soloists will continue – with and without masks depending on the person’s preference.

Effective later in April if all goes well:

In addition to the above,

- The choir may return!
- Hymnbooks will be available in the chairs and pews.
- Refreshments after church may occur, possibly outside initially.

Many, many thanks to all of you for your continued support, encouragement and eye-smiles during these past two years. We are indeed a people of love and hope!!!

Your COVID-19 Response Team

Church News

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

Peanut Butter Update - As of March 31st, 2022, **81** jars of Peanut Butter have been collected to go to the Bathurst Volunteer Center and an additional **106** jars have been dropped off directly at the Centre from the monetary donations made at the church office. Peanut butter can be dropped off at the church office anytime during office hours. We have an additional \$420 collected for the next group purchase.

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.

Thank You: The Ways and Means team would like to express a sincere thank you to all who helped in anyway with our Take-Out Roast Pork Supper. Because of the generous sponsorship of Kent & White Insurance, the Ways and Means team realized a profit of approximately \$4,200.00. The next Ways and Means team event will be held Thursday, May 19th - **a Take-Out Only Ham & Scallop Potato Supper.**

Thank you to our volunteers in March: **Counters** – Edie Gammon and Gary Branch; **Greeters** – Shirley Sealy and Beth Sullivan; **Minute for Mission** – Bev Murphy; **Scripture Readers** – Isabel MacLaggan, Wayne Lord, Brenda Parrott and Helen Knowles; **Vocalists** – John and Isabel Clouston; **Sharing a Story** – Jini Palmer, Helen Knowles, Brenda Parrott, Sandra Boone and Cheryl Brewster; **Lent Challenges** – Cheryl Brewster, Anne Wilson and Isabel MacLaggan; **Sound System** – Brenda Parrott, Shirley Allain and Ralph Jamieson; and **Videographer** – Don Eddy

News reports of the invasion of Ukraine stir both our hearts and our conscience. As people of faith, The United Church of Canada holds in prayer all those facing fear and violence and seeks the immediate cessation of war. To donate money to help **Ukraine**, through the United Church of Canada, go to this link: <https://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/conflict-ukraine>

Church News

Notice from the FSLDW Region - Spark Newsletter - Do you ever wonder what other communities of faith are up to these days? Maybe you're curious because you have heard there is a new minister around but how do you find out anything about them? Do you have this amazing idea but who can you share it with? Church anniversary is coming up but how do you let people know?

We are launching a newsletter! It will be distributed to all churches but we don't want to stop there! We want you to have your very own Spark. All you have to do is register! You heard me! Monthly Spark can be delivered to your email address and for those without technology, we are exploring ways to get a paper copy (gasp) into your mail box. So...here is the link to start discovering everything our Region has to offer! <https://uceast.ca/66810-fslwd-spark-newsletter>



A donation of 2 boxes of yarn has been given to First United Church. Anyone who wishes to knit items is welcome to use this yarn and return the items to the church for the Community Outreach team to donate. Recommendations are hats, mitts and/or socks.

Purses Plus – The Community Outreach Sub Team extends thanks to all who generously contributed supplies to our new project. In fact, the response has been so positive that 2 deliveries have been made to Passage House & were received with gratitude. Please keep in mind that children/youth are sometimes residents so supplies to address their needs would be welcome. Suggestions include toys & books.

Community News

St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, will be holding **"A Family and Community Breakfast"** on Saturday, April 9th from 8 AM to 10 AM, after an absence of two years. Come and enjoy fellowship and great food. Free will offering at the door.

Lenten Challenges

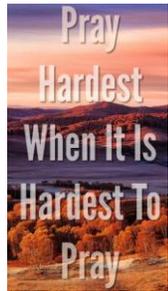
Today is the fifth Sunday in Lent. Each week during Lent this year, a Lenten challenge will be offered. After speaking the words, a symbol of the challenge and a sign with the challenge written on it will be placed on the table.



The first week, we asked everyone to do a random act of generosity.



The second week, we asked everyone to express gratitude to someone they don't usually thank and to name three things for which they were grateful every day.



The third week we asked that you pray for an enemy or someone in your life you have been having difficulties with. Each day we asked you to pray for them or simply send them love and compassion.

Last week we asked that you share your faith with someone else. Tell them about your church, offer them a ride to the service or possibly buy them a ticket to the next supper – telling them it's just to remind them of God's presence.



SCRIPTURE READING – NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

JOHN 12:1-8

- 1 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.
- 2 There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him.
- 3 Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.
- 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said,
- 5 "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?"
- 6 (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)
- 7 Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial.
- 8 You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

May God bless to our understanding these significant parts of our Christian story...