

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

April 17, 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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Lectionary for today	Lectionary for next Sunday
Isaiah 65:17-25 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 John 20:1-18	Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 118:14-29 Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31
<i>We welcome John & Isabel Clouston as our guest vocalists this week and thank them for their gift of music</i>	
<i>The bulletin today is in loving memory of Betty & Cletus Lavigne placed by Judy, Macky and Jennifer</i>	

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

GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

...May the light of this candle be a reflection of the light that shines on us these spring days; gifted by none other than Creator God—the light of Christ.

The Christ Candle is lit.

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*)

In this space and time, we form community:

like singing in unison with the strength of the common word and action, and like singing in harmony with the depth and richness of different notes and themes.

The Christ church is about community:

and we ascribe to that tradition with the joys and struggles that come about in relationship.

We live in community: community with Great Spirit God and community with each other as people of the Spirit.

Let's worship together with God and with each other in our hearts and on our minds, in the building up of the community we are called to be, seeking to be one, just as Jesus prayed we would.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" – VU #155

Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!
suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!

Hymns of praise then let us sing hallelujah!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!
sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!

But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!
our salvation have procured; hallelujah!
now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!
where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!

Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!
praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!
praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!
praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!

PRAYER OF HUMILITY (*responsively*)

We are your disciples, Holy One, your wounded hands and feet in the world today.

We, at times, have been the frightened ones, staying at a distance, worried about our status or reputations.

But you come close, bringing peace and challenge, unlocking our potential and setting us free.

At times, we have been the weeping ones. Filled with grief and lost hope, we're unable to see your presence in our midst.

But you come close, and speak our names, and we discover we're fully known and loved, and our hearts reach out to embrace you.

Now, we come close to you. We come with our fear, our confusion, and our tears

and find ourselves liberated and united

by the love of the resurrected one.

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.***

SHARING A STORY (*Land Acknowledgment*) (*with those of all ages*)
Torey Smith, Anne Wilson & Huckleberry

***SINGING A SONG** – "Sweetgrass and Candle"
(by author Barbara Liotscos)

Sweetgrass and candle, the peace pipe and bible,
the stories of elders and beat of the drum;
these are the symbols of hope, faith and justice.
We gather in circle affirming we're one.

Welcome the stranger for he is our brother
and she is our sister of mother earth.
Care for creation for all life is sacred
and we are united by vision's rebirth.

Join in the circle that will have no ending,
for we are all equal and loved in God's sight.
Praise the Great Spirit! We gather as family
to sing of Love's freedom and dance with delight!

Welcome the stranger for he is our brother
and she is our sister of mother earth.
Care for creation for all life is sacred
and we are united by vision's rebirth.

Sweetgrass and candle, the peace pipe and bible,
the stories of elders and beat of the drum;
these are the symbols of hope, faith and justice.
We gather in circle affirming we're one.

CELEBRATING BAPTISM

***BAPTISMAL HYMN**

VU #444

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

[Participants gather near baptismal font during hymn.]

Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign;
with this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.

Child of love, our love's expression,
love's creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits,
into joy and laughter lead.

Child of joy, our dearest treasure,
God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you;
live as one who bears Christ's name.

Child of God your loving Parent,
learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,
trusting in God's love and care.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE

(Brenda Parrott – Chair of Christian Development Team)

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND PROMISES

COMMITMENT OF PARENTS

***CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT** *(responsively)*

As the congregation of First United Church, do you commit yourselves to support and nurture these persons within a community which worships God, loves and serves others, seeks justice, and resists evil?

We do, by the grace of God.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** "A New Creed" – VU #918 *(in unison)*

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND

THE POURING OF WATER *(responsively)*

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give thanks and praise.

...Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do here, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ.

Amen.

THE ACT OF BAPTISM *(responsively)*

...I baptize you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

MARKING WITH THE SIGN OF THE CROSS *(responsively)*

Archibald, child of God, from this day forward, you bear the sign of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS *(responsively)*

Archibald, may the Holy Spirit, Love’s power, guide you, inspire you, and work within you, all the days of your life.

Amen.

PLACEMENT OF BANNER SHEEP

LIGHTING OF A CANDLE *(responsively)*

[Baptismal Candle lit from Christ Candle, signifying the light of Christ, and as a reminder of the link between baptism and Easter.]

Archibald, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works, and give glory to God.

Amen.

[The candle is passed to Archibald’s parents.]

PRESENTATION OF A BIBLE *(responsively)*

Archibald, receive this Bible and hear what the Spirit is saying to you and the Church.

Amen.

[A Bible is presented to Archibald’s parents.]

BAPTISMAL STOLE *(responsively)*

Archibald, you have put on Christ. In Christ you have been baptized.

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

DECLARATION AND CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

[A Certificate of Baptism is given to Archibald’s parents.]

In the name of Jesus Christ, Archibald has been received into the holy catholic church, the body of Christ in the world.

[The congregation is invited to applaud and Archibald is welcomed further by being brought closer to them by his parents.]

BLESSING *(responsively)*

Archibald, the grace of Christ attend you, the love of God surround you, the Holy Spirit keep you.

Amen.

[Participants return to their pews]

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Isabel MacLaggan

John 20:1-18

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONDING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

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

**Creator and Creating One,
may these gifts, given gratefully and joyfully,
be brought to life through the power of your creative spirit.
Multiply and use them, we pray, to bring the word and the
touch of Jesus to both people here in our communities and
throughout the world.**

Amen

COMMUNING

***COMMUNION HYMN** – “All Who Thirst for Living Water”

All who thirst for living water,
all who hunger for good bread,
There’s a table in the desert,
come and share the feast that’s spread.
Celebrating earth’s abundance,
gathering hope for days to come,
we with those who’ve gone before us
give you thanks, O Holy One.

Everlasting is the covenant
which the Holy One designs,
Steadfast love a gushing river,
seeds with grace the healing vines;
Seeking life in all its fullness
for all creatures, none denied,
set our hearts to meet each other,
bridging all that sin divides.

Many are the ways you’ve chosen
to reveal the path of life,
wisdom’s truth for all who seek you,
cross our compass, faith our guide;
you the strength in all our wandering,
spring that wells up deep within,
friend who bears both pain and glory,
in your light new life begins.

*Words by Barbara Liotskos Copyright © 2007
by Common Cup Music Society*

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

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

INSTRUCTIONS

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*responsively*)

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give thanks and praise.

...And so, with the risen Christ, who makes all things new,

by the power of his resurrection, we join in a song of a new day, to
sing your praise:

“Holy, Holy, Holy” – MV #203

***O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heaven, creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name
always!***

...This we remember; this we believe.

On Good Friday, Jesus died.

On Easter, he rose again.

Today—he lives forever.

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...**

"Great Amen" – MV #205

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!

Amen, amen, O Holy One, Hosanna and Amen!

The bread of tomorrow.

The cup of new life.

Congregational Response – "Amen" or "Thanks be to God"

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*in unison*)

**For the bread we have eaten,
for the juice we have tasted,
for the life we have received,
we thank you, Creator and Creating God.
Grant that what we've done and have been given here,
may so put its mark on us,
that it may always remain in our hearts.
Grant that we may grow
in Christian love and understanding,
and that ours may be lives of faithful action,
and always.
Amen**

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** – "Christ Is Alive" – VU #158

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war,
where colour, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL CLOSING** – "Easter People"
(Seasons of the Spirit Songbook #6)

***We are an Easter people
and alleluia is our song!
We are an Easter people
and alleluia, alleluia, alleluia is our song!***

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

Church News

The regular church office hours are Monday to Friday 9 AM to 3 PM. The office will be **closed** on Monday, April 18th.

Peanut Butter Update - As of April 14th, 2022, 100 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.

The Land Acknowledgement Sub-team of the Christian Development Team (CD Team) at First United has been hard at work over the past two years; researching Social Action themes important to our Community of Faith.

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada published a list of 94 Calls to Action. One of these called for Churches to respond.

"We call upon all religious organizations and faith groups who have not already done so to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullis." Call to Action #49

Why is this important to our Church? What is our church called to do?

These questions led us to months of research and discussion. We wish to share some of this new knowledge with you. Over the next few Sundays during "**Sharing a Story**" time, we will be sharing what we have learned so far. In addition, please look for a special section printed in the bulletin entitled "**Huckleberry's Highlights**"

We encourage everyone to visit the United Church of Canada website for more information about Social Action and Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice at <https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/reconciliation-and-indigenous-justice>

Church News

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>

The Nominations Team is looking for a third person to represent First United Church at Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional meetings. The Team is also looking for someone who is willing to become a Trustee, as one of the current Trustees has stepped down. If you are interested, or know of someone who is interested in volunteering, please contact Rick Watling to discuss 543-0053.

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 that supplies to address their needs would be welcome. Suggestions include toys & books.

2 boxes of yarn have been donated 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.

Community News

Central United Church in Clifton will be having their Annual Lobster Supper as a TAKE OUT ONLY, on Saturday, May 14, 2021 from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM. There are a limited number of tickets this year, so they will be sold on a first come-first served basis. Tickets are \$25 per person and include one lobster, potato salad, coleslaw, pickles, a roll and dessert. You will have your choice of having the lobster included in the shell or already shelled. If you do not specify when getting your ticket, your lobster will be shelled. For tickets please call Lois Archibald at 548-8927 AFTER APRIL 20TH

Huckleberry's Highlights



Why Acknowledge the Traditional Territory?

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Acknowledging the territory where we gather and the people who have traditionally called it home for thousands of years is a way to continue to live out the church's Apologies to the First Peoples of North America. The acknowledgement supports calls to ourselves and others to pay respect to Indigenous peoples. It is also one way the church can work toward respectful relations—by repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery that assumed the land was empty when European explorers, traders, and settlers first came.

Source: <https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/acknowledging-the-territory.pdf>

<https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/reconciliation-and-indigenous-justice/doctrine-discovery>

<https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/apologies-response-crest.pdf>



Image of "Sweet grass/Bison grass"

SCRIPTURE READING – NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

JOHN 20:1-18

1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.

4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

5 He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.

6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there,

7 and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

8 Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;

9 for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

10 Then the disciples returned to their homes.

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;

12 and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.

13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

17 Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.