

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

April 24, 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
Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18	Acts 9:1-20 Psalm 30 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19
<i>We welcome John & Isabel Clouston as our guest vocalists and thank them for sharing their gift of music</i>	
<i>The bulletin today is in loving memory of George Jardine placed by his wife, Bernice</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*)

...The blue of the lakes and seas, refreshing us. The brown of the earth, grounding us. The orange of a blazing sunrise, uplifting us.

We affirm God's nurturing love.

The pink of a gentle sunset, comforting us. The green of trees and forests, sheltering us. The black of night, bringing peace and rest.

We affirm God's caring love.

The yellow of inspiration, encouraging us. The red of embracing life, energizing us. The purple of imagination, emboldening us.

We proclaim God's empowering love, one that calls us to care for all of creation.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

VU #288

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.

Refrain

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

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.***

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

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

SHARING A STORY (*Land Acknowledgment*) (*with those of all ages*)
See Orange Insert

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.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Anne Brooks & Judy Losier

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC "The Earth Is The Lord's"

Isabel & John Clouston

The earth is the Lord's and its fullness
is granted to us as a trust
to cherish, protect and to care for,
and give the respect that we must.
For all of our world then is sacred,
the source of the life that it feeds.
Each forest and marsh has a purpose,
there's breath of divine in each seed.

God lends us the sun and the water
and soil that gives bountiful yields,
but much is reserved for the wealthy
while hunger remains unrepealed.
Why are we at odds with our planet
consuming far more than we need?
But greed or indifference blinds us
and nature continues to bleed.

What's left for the next generation,
when finite resources are drained,
when earth is defiled by its people
and widespread extinctions profane?
Our garbage pollutes distant oceans,
our tailpipes promote climate harm.
Must remedies wait on our neighbours;
will we remain deaf to alarms?

For progress to have lasting value,
our actions must be what sustains
the health and the balance of nature;
as stewards, we tend God's domain.
So use this inheritance wisely,
and learn to live amply with less.
Then keep this eighth day of Creation
a covenant bond we can bless.

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RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*OFFERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

**Creator and Creating One,
may these gifts, given gratefully,
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 those here in our communities and
throughout the world.
Amen**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER – VU #921 (Ecumenical Version) *(in unison)*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CLOSING HYMN – “Like a Healing Stream”

MV #144

Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth...
like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation,
yearning for an end to want and need...
like a gentle rain.

Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel in a new direction,
calling for an end to hate and war...
like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide!
Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,
like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

*BLESSING

*CHORAL CLOSING –

MV #222

“May the Peace of God Be Your Peace”

***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

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

Flowers for Mother’s Day - We will be having flowers placed in our sanctuary in honor of Mother’s day. Those wishing to contribute to the Mother’s Day flower fund may place an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday morning or drop it in at the office during the week between 9 AM and 3 PM. Please mark clearly on the face of the envelope – **Mother’s Day Flowers** with your *name, PAR or envelope number*. An insert will be included in the bulletin on Mother’s Day, May 10th with your dedications. **Please have your dedications in the office by Tuesday, May 3rd.**

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.

Christian Development Team will meet on Thursday, April 28th at 7 PM via Zoom. A reminder email with the Zoom information will be sent on Tuesday, April 26th.

Ways & Means Team will meet on Monday, April 25th at 9:00 AM in the Ruth Morrison Room.

Property Management Team will meet on Monday, April 25th at 6:00 PM in the Ruth Morrison Room.

Purses Plus – The Community Outreach Sub Team extends thanks to all who generously contributed and continue to contribute supplies to this project. In fact, the response has been so positive that 3 deliveries have been made to Passage House & all 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.

Church News

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.

TAKE OUT Ham & Scallop Potato Supper will be held on Thursday, May 19th from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM. Tickets will be available starting April 27th - \$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 drop by the church office. **Sponsored by McDonald Restaurant, Bathurst**

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?

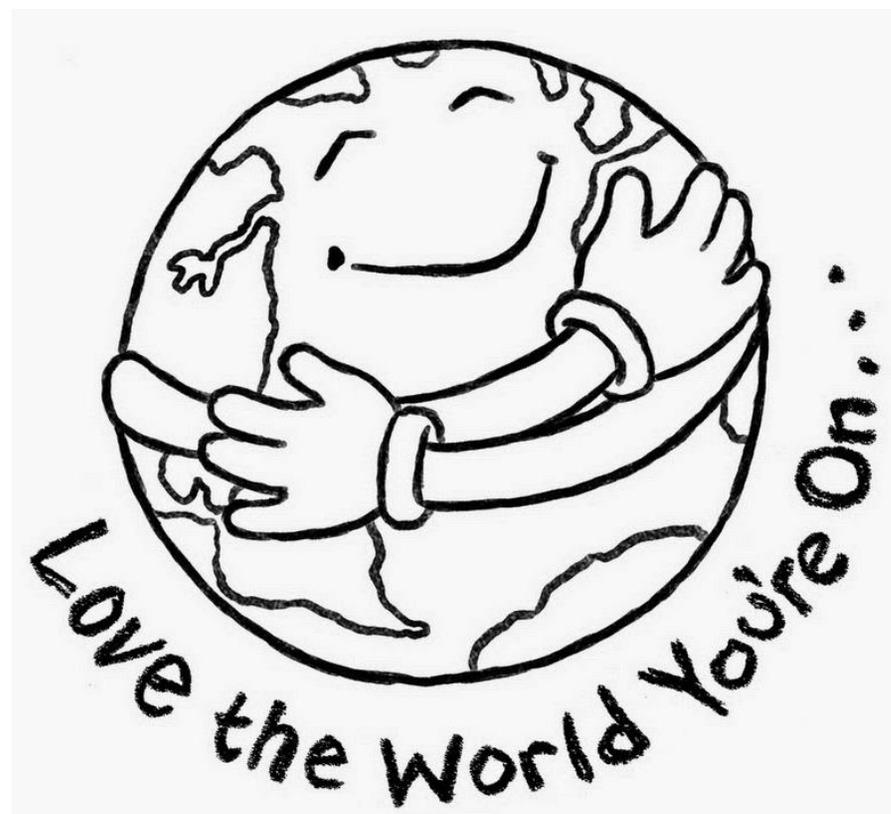
These questions led us to months of research and discussion. We wish to share some of this new knowledge with you. Over the next few Sundays during "**Sharing a Story**" time, we will be sharing what we have learned so far. In addition, please look for a special section printed in the bulletin entitled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

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.

St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, will be holding "**A Family and Community Breakfast**" on Saturday, May 14th from 8 AM to 10 AM. Come and enjoy fellowship and great food. Free will offering at the door.



Huckleberry's Highlights



The Crest of the United Church of Canada

The **Crest** was adopted in 1944 as the official signature of The United Church of Canada, and is used on all legal documents.

For our church members, this insignia is a spiritual and historic reminder. Its **oval shape** is derived from the outline of a fish, a symbol of identity by early Christians. The initials of the words "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour" spell the Greek word for fish.

The "**X**" at the centre, the first letter of the Greek word for Christ, is a traditional symbol for Christ.

In the four corners of the crest are symbols, three of which are representing the Congregational, Methodist, and Presbyterian denominations that united to form The United Church of Canada in 1925.

- The **open Bible** represents the Congregational Churches with their emphasis upon God's truth that make people free.
- The **dove** is emblematic of the Holy Spirit whose transforming power has been distinctive mark of Methodism.
- The **burning bush** is the symbol of Presbyterianism and symbolizes the indestructibility of the church.

The symbols **alpha and omega** in the lower quarter are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. They symbolize the eternal living God, in the fullness of creation.

The Latin words **ut omnes unum sint** that surround the symbols on the crest mean "That all may be one". They are a reminder that we are both a "united" and "uniting" church.

In 1980, a **French translation** of The United Church of Canada-- L'Église Unie du Canada—was authorized by General Council to be added to the crest.

In August of 2012, The United Church of Canada acknowledged the presence and spirituality of **Indigenous peoples** in the United Church by revising the church's crest:

- To include the addition of the **Mohawk phrase** "Akwe Nia Tetewá:neren" (aw gway-- nyah day day waw-- nay renh], which means "All my relations"), and
- To incorporate **yellow, red, black, and white colours** often associated with the Aboriginal Medicine Wheel.
 - The Medicine Wheel reflects respect for diversity and interdependence and teaches us to seek balance in the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects of the circle of life.

Information taken from United Church website www.united-church.ca/

SCRIPTURE READINGS – NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

ACTS 4:5-12

5 The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem,

6 with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.

7 When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?'

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders,

9 if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed,

10 let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.

11 This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone."

12 There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

PSALM 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

1 JOHN 3:16-24

16 We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

17 How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

18 Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

19 And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him

20 whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

21 Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God;

22 and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

23 And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

24 All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

JOHN 10:11-18

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

12 The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.

13 The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.

14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,

15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

16 I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."