

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

**May 1, 2022**

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

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<b>Lectionary for today</b>	<b>Lectionary for next Sunday</b>
Acts 9:1-20 Psalm 30 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19	Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30
<i>We welcome <b>John &amp; Isabel Clouston</b> as our vocalists this week and thank them for their gift of music</i>	
Today's bulletin is placed in memory of <b>Earl Grenville Smith</b> by Bill Stack	

*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**

... We light the Christ Candle, then, remembering we're made of light and love, remembering—we're called to bring that light and love to others.

*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*)

From the shores of our lives, the Spirit calls us here.

**Let's listen, then, for why we've been called.**

From the edge of our worries and concerns, we're called into hope.

**Let's claim the hope in Christ Jesus then.**

From the shallow places in our hearts, we're called into the depths of love.

**Let's celebrate, then, the gift of Jesus' love.**

From the breaking waves of sadness in our lives, we're called into joy.

**Let's renew our spirits in Jesus' joy then.**

From the rising tides of our conflicts, we're called onto the shores of peace.

**Let's rest, then, in Jesus' peace.**

**GATHERING PRAYER**

**\*GATHERING HYMN - "Fresh as the Morning" MV #28**

God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,  
hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,  
you are our centre, daylight or darkness,  
freedom or prison, you are our home.

*Refrain*

*Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.  
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.*

God in our struggles, God in our hunger,  
suffering with us, taking our part,  
still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit,  
feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.

*Refrain*

Those without status, those who are nothing,  
you have made royal, gifted with rights,  
chosen as partners, mid-wives of justice,  
birthing new systems, lighting new lights.

*Refrain*

Not by your finger, not by your anger  
will our world order change in a day,  
but by your people, fearless and faithful,  
small paper lanterns, lighting the way.

*Refrain*

Hope we must carry, shining and certain  
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,  
bonding us gladly one to the other,  
till our world changes facing the Cross.

*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, 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*

*Anne Wilson, Helen Knowles & Huckleberry*

**\*SINGING A SONG** – "Sweetgrass and Candle"

*(Words: John Oldham)*

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**

*Helen Knowles*

Acts 9:1-20

John 21:1-19

**REFLECTION**

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**GIFT OF MUSIC** "Will Your Anchor Hold"

*Isabel & John Clouston*

*RESPONDING*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

*Bev Murphy*

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

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

**Creator and Creating One,  
we dedicate ourselves to being open  
to the movement of the Spirit.  
And, to being open to moments  
where we might be agents  
of healing and change in today's world.  
Use our gifts, we pray, to show people  
your presence in their everyday lives.  
Help us be a means for encountering the risen Christ  
in a sometimes broken world.  
Amen**

**SHARING OUR CONCERNS**

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

Holy One, we pray,

may First United, our Community of Faith here, be a place of welcome, a home to all, a community of forgiveness, a place to learn how to be together, a way of growing closer together, learning from each other, beginning to trust one another.

**May we let go of any prejudice of people.**

**May we see the variety of life in all rather than live ever more suspiciously with one another.**

**May we believe love can transform.**

**May we refuse to let life make us bitter with one another and grant ourselves the time to love life again.**

Creator and Creating One,

May we be the change that opens our community to the impossible, that accepts people can change and be renewed, and that your patience and time is long enough for us to find the right time to come to believe love is stronger than hate, goodness is stronger than evil, life is stronger than death.

**Hear us, we pray, as we dedicate ourselves and our futures,  
trusting your grace-filled love can change everything.**

**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**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN –**

“Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”

VU #559

Come, O Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing your grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing  
call for songs of endless praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning,  
giving thanks for having come,  
come to trust, at every turning,  
God will guide me safely home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God,  
came to rescue me from danger,  
precious presence, precious blood.

O, to grace how great a debt  
or daily I am drawn anew!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to you.  
Prone to wander, I can feel it,  
wander from the love I've known:  
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,  
seal it for your very own.

**\*BLESSING (responsively)**

...Go and extend God's circle of love. Go and offer a healing touch to the world. Go and celebrate the Spirit's presence in all.

**Okay. Our eyes have been opened and we're filled with new visions of the way. Now, all that remains, is for us to register what we see, and then follow where the Spirit leads.**

**Amen**

**\*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**

***Thank you to our volunteers in April***

**Counters** – Shirley Sealy and Jini Palmer; **Greeters** – Margaret Payne-Chénard and Mike Kierstead; **Minute for Mission** – Bev Murphy; **Scripture Readers** – Gary Branch, Sandra Boone, Isabel MacLaggan, Helen Knowles, Brenda Parrott and Anne Brooks; **Vocalists** – John and Isabel Clouston; **Sharing a Story** – Jennifer Oliver-Lavigne, Cheryl Brewster, Sandra Boone, Anne Wilson and Torey Smith; **Lent Challenges** – Jennifer Oliver-Lavigne and Margaret Payne-Chénard; **Sound System** – Brenda Parrott, Shirley Allain and Ralph Jamieson; and **Videographer** – Don Eddy

# Church News

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

**Peanut Butter Update** - As of April 28<sup>st</sup>, 2022, 115 jars of Peanut Butter has been collected to go to the Bathurst Volunteer Center and \$1,000 in cash donations has allowed us to purchase 202 jars that have been dropped off directly at the Centre. Peanut butter can be dropped off at the church office anytime during office hours. We have an additional \$40 collected for the next group purchase.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> with your dedications. Please have your dedications in by Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**TAKE OUT Ham & Scallop Potato Supper** will be held on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM. Tickets are \$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***

**West Bathurst Cemetery Committee** will meet on Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Ruth Morrison Room.

**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 3 deliveries have been made to Passage House & were received with gratitude.

Passage House currently has sufficient toys for children, but would appreciate books in both languages. They always need hand sanitizer along with baby supplies (wipes/diapers/shampoo/etc.). Thank you again.

# Church News

**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?**

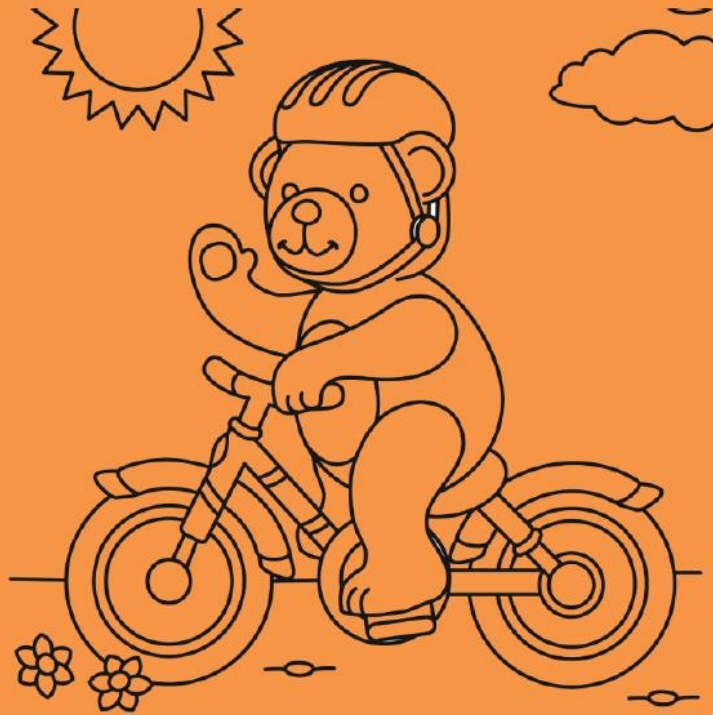
These questions led us to months of research and discussion. We wish to share some of this new knowledge with you. Over the next few Sundays during "***Sharing a Story***" time, we will be sharing what we have learned so far. In addition, please look for a special section printed in the bulletin entitled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

# Huckleberry's Highlights



## Treaties & Red Dress Day

**Treaties:** Treaties are nation-to-nation agreements outlining promises between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people that set out responsibilities, agreements and benefits for both. There are 70 recognized treaties in Canada. Some Treaties did not include the surrender of land, so the land remains **unceded**.

### Peace and Friendship Treaties:

- A series of treaties signed mostly in the 1700s between the British and the Indigenous groups in northeastern North America:
  - to ensure a peaceful relationship between Indigenous groups and the British Crown and settlers
  - to facilitate trade
  - to guarantee the continuation of hunting, fishing, and gathering rights for Indigenous communities
  - to be the basis of an ongoing relationship of co-existence.
- These Treaties are NOT land surrender treaties.

### Why is there a Red Dress hanging in the sanctuary?

Huckleberry has learned that May 5<sup>th</sup> is Red Dress Day, a day designated as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG).

### What is Red Dress Day?

Red dress day is a day of honouring missing and murdered Indigenous people. It's a day to raise awareness and education about missing and murdered Indigenous woman and girls, two spirited, and men.

Red dress day started as REDress project established by Indigenous artist Jamie Black to focus on the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women across Canada and United States in 2020.

The dresses are empty, so that they evoke the missing women who should be wearing them. The colour red was chosen after Jamie Black had a conversation with an Indigenous friend who shared with her "(Red) is really a calling back of the spirits of these women and allowing them a chance to be among us and have their voices heard through their family members and community." Red also symbolizes "our lifeblood and that connection between all of us," and both vitality and violence.

According to Assembly of First Nations from 2019, Indigenous women are three times more likely than non-Indigenous women to be victims of violence, and the average rate, between 2001 – 2014, of homicides involving Indigenous female victims was four times higher than that of homicides involving non-Indigenous female victims.

Social Injustice education is an important part of our commitment to Respectful Relations with Indigenous peoples of Canada. Have you ever noticed the small black wooden signs with a red dress outline around our city? Here are a few links below for more information.

<https://www.kairosCanada.org/missing-murdered-indigenous-women-girls>

<https://wanuskewin.com/isl/uploads/2021/05/Red-Dress-day.pdf>

## SCRIPTURE READINGS – NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

### ACTS 9:1-20

1 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest

2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

3 Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

5 He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

6 But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

7 The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one.

8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.

9 For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

10 Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord."

11 The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying,

12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."

13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem;

14 and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name."

15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel;

16 I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

17 So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized,

19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus,

20 and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

### JOHN 21:1-19

21 After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way.

2 Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples.

3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

4 Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

5 Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No."

6 He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish.

7 That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea.

8 But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

9 When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread.

10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught."

11 So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn.

12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord.

13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

14 This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."

16 A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep."

17 He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

18 Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go."

19 (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."