

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

**May 15, 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 11:1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35	Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5 John 14:23-29
<i>We welcome <b>John &amp; Isabel Clouston</b> as our vocalists and thank them for their gift of music</i>	
The bulletins are in memory of my parents and husband placed by Margaret Payne-Chénard <b>"death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal"</b> (Anonymous)	

*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*)

... Imagine... Just imagine... This as that place.

**One voice, one joy, one faith, one love—together.**

**GATHERING PRAYER**

**\*GATHERING HYMN** – VU #333  
"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" – (*Tune Blaenwern*)

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver;  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee,  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

### **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** (*with those of all ages*)

*Cheryl Brewster & Mya Brewster*

John 13:34-35

**\*SINGING A SONG** – “Friend to Friend”

*(Seasons of the Spirit vol. 7)*

Let us now as God’s own people,  
give the sign of peace,  
proclaiming our love for one another,  
binding friend to friend.

*Chorus*  
*Christ Jesus calls us to love one another,  
to be one in him, friend to friend,  
in love to each other, we shall give our hands.*

In our care for one another,  
by each kindly word,  
by ev’ry loving deed,  
we make known the love of Jesus Christ.

*Chorus*

We feed the hungry,  
clothe the naked,  
give drink to those who thirst,  
for Jesus came in love as a servant and we follow him.

*Chorus*

*ENGAGING*

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

#### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*Brenda Parrott*

Revelation 21:1-6

Acts 11:1-18

#### **REFLECTION**

#### **MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

#### **GIFT OF MUSIC**

*RESPONDING*

#### **MINUTE FOR MISSION**

*Bev Murphy*

#### **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

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

**Giver of Life,  
we dedicate these gifts  
as we rededicate ourselves  
to preparing the way  
for a new heaven and renewed Earth,  
where all people and all creation  
know the full measure of peace.  
May these gifts reflect gratitude for the work you do,  
drawing us ever deeper  
into the richness of relationship  
upon which we all depend.  
Amen**

**SHARING OUR CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**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** – “In the Bulb There Is a Flower” – VU #703

In the bulb there is a flower;  
in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise:  
butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter  
there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence,  
seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness,  
bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future;  
what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning;  
in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing;  
in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection;  
at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

**\*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 Candles are extinguished.)*

**POSTLUDE**

# Church News

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

**Peanut Butter Update** - As of May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 131 jars of Peanut Butter has been collected to go to the Bathurst Volunteer Center and \$1,050 in cash donations has allowed us to purchase 218 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.

**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***

**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.

**Thank you from the Property Management Team** to everyone who came to the church on Saturday and helped with the clean-up of grounds.

**UCW Open Circle Members** will hold a business meeting Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM in the Ruth Morrison Room.

**Ways & Means Team** will meet on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM in the Ruth Morrison Room.

All UCW members are invited to join in the **Miramichi Presbyterial Executive Meeting** scheduled to be held in the gymnasium here at the Donald Eddy Hall on Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. If you are planning on attending please bring a bagged lunch. There will be several tables set up to ensure social distancing between groups of people.

# Church News

**An invitation from our Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region:**

**Stroll For Your Soul – May 14 – June 3, 2022** offers 21 days of accompaniment through a brief email delivered early each morning to your inbox. Each email will offer a practice, or a reflection, or a video, or a photograph giving direction and encouragement to your time spent strolling (or rolling, skateboarding or running.) The Stroll emails will help you notice the glories of the Divine present in Spring. They offer practice at paying attention and being in the present moment. Weave silence and mindful reflection into your daily walk around the neighborhood or even over to a door or window to look out with intention. Our 2022 Theme is "Weathering Our Days." For information on an Individual or Group subscription, please visit the Prayer Bench Shop <https://prayerbench.ca/shop/>

As Bev outlined in last week's "Minute for Mission", **Gifts with Vision - the United Church's giving catalogue** - has just unveiled its latest gifts to help Ukraine. A gift of \$25 will provide a hygiene package containing items like toothpaste, laundry detergent & disinfectant. A \$38 gift provides a food basket with staples such as cooking oil, buckwheat, canned fish, dried peas and condensed milk. Please visit Gifts with Vision webpage [https://giftswithvision.ca/products/support-refugees-from-ukraine?\\_pos=1&\\_sid=f0a31fc75&\\_ss=r](https://giftswithvision.ca/products/support-refugees-from-ukraine?_pos=1&_sid=f0a31fc75&_ss=r) or by calling 1-844-715-7969.

*The flowers in the front of the sanctuary are in loving memory  
of Loretta Smyth from the family.*

# Community News

**Parish of New Bandon** in Clifton - LOBSTER TAKE-OUT SUPPER –, June 4, 2022. Tickets \$25 for adults - \$12.50 for children under 12. Tickets sold in advance. For tickets phone Kay Addison (350-0960), Darlene Dempsey (546-6997) or Elaine Good (546-2970). Suppers to be picked up between 3PM and 4:30 PM.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS** *(New Revised Standard Version)*

### **REVELATION 21:1-6**

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them;

4 he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

5 And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

6 Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

### **ACTS 11:1-18**

1 Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God.

2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him,

3 saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?"

4 Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying,

5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me.

6 As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air.

7 I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.'

8 But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'

9 But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.'

10 This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.

11 At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were.

12 The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.

13 He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter;

14 he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.'

15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning.

16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

17 If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?"

18 When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Stories of a spirit-filled community moving into the world lead us through the Easter season. In times together and times apart, we look to ways we are a testimony to new life.



Throughout the Season of Easter, we hear the call to disciples everywhere to live as Easter people, in the power of the risen Christ and continuing the story of Jesus.

.....

Peter's experience on the rooftop reminds us of our call to go beyond human set boundaries, challenges us to question the walls we build, and invites us to build bridges.

*Seasons of the Spirit™* SeasonsFusion Lent, Easter 2022

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