

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

**July 17, 2022**

**Minister** Rev. Neal Palmer    **Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Margaret Daniels    **Greeter** Brenda Parrott  
**Custodian** Lester Scott

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<b><u>Lectionary for today</u></b>	<b><u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u></b>
Amos 8:1-12 Psalm 52 Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10:38-42	Hosea 1:2-10 Psalm 85 Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19) Luke 11:1-13
<b><i>We welcome Rev. Blair Lewis who is leading us in worship today – Thank you!</i></b>	
<i>We welcome <b>John &amp; Isabel Clouston</b> as our vocalists 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**

**GATHERING:**

Ever-present God,  
this day enfolds us and surrounds us:  
be in our speaking and in our thinking;  
be in our life and on our lips;  
be in our hearts and in our souls,  
today and forever. Amen.

**WELCOME:**

Worship the Lord in holy splendour;  
tremble before God, all the earth.  
Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult,  
and everything in it.  
*Psalm 96:9, 11*

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** *(in unison)*

**As we gather to worship together, let us respectfully pause to remember we live and work and worship on lands that are, by law, the unseeded territory of the original Peoples, the Mi'maq. May we live with respect on the land, and live in peace and friendship with its people.**

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:** *(in unison)*

**Give me a candle of the Spirit, O God,  
as I go down into the depths of my being.  
Show me the hidden things,  
the creatures of my dreams,  
the storehouse of forgotten memories and hurts.  
Take me down to the summer of my life  
and tell me my nature  
and my name.  
Give me freedom to grow, so that I may become that self,  
the seed of which you planted in me at my making.  
Out of the depths I cry to you, O God.**

*The Christ Candle is lit.*

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP:**

Ever-present God,  
this day enfolds us and surrounds us:  
be in our speaking and in our thinking;  
be in our life and on our lips;  
be in our hearts and in our souls,  
today and forever.

"Praise to the Lord"

Psalm 113 - VU 835 vs. 1

***Praise to the Lord, all of you, God's servants.  
Blessèd be the name of our God now and ever.  
From the rising up of the sun  
may the Lord be praised, praise to the name of the Lord!***

**GATHERING PRAYER:** *(in unison)*

**Grant unto us, O God, the fullness of your promises.  
Where we have been weak, grant us your strength;  
where we have been confused, grant us your guidance;  
where we have been distraught, grant us your comfort;  
where we have been preoccupied, grant us your life.  
Apart from you, O God, we are nothing;  
in and with you, we can do all things.  
Amen.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN** – "Let Us Build a House" – MV #1

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

*(Refrain:)*

*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
All are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

*(Refrain:)*

*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
All are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

*(Refrain:)*

**PRAYER OF HUMILITY:** *(responsively)*

Jesus taught us not to be anxious  
about our lives or about tomorrow.  
Are there anxieties that cause us to feel separated  
from the peace which Christ promises?  
Let us turn to God in prayer.  
God forgives and heals us.

**We need your healing, merciful God:  
give us true repentance.  
Some sins are plain to us;  
some escape us,  
some we cannot face.  
Forgive us;  
set us free to hear your Word to us;  
set us free to serve you. Amen**

**CHORAL RESPONSE** "How Deep the Peace" – MV #95

***How deep the peace, the confidence,  
of those whose wrongs are forgiven.  
How deep the peace, the confidence,  
of those whose hearts are healed.***

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

We are people of worth and value.  
When we honestly acknowledge the shame  
and guilt of our lives,  
there is a possibility of transformation.  
Let us place our trust in the accepting grace of Christ.

### **\*GREETING ONE ANOTHER** (*responsively*)

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

### **And also with you.**

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

*Anne Wilson & Margaret Daniels*

Luke 10:38–42

### **\*SINGING A SONG** – “Come Touch Our Hearts” – MV #12

Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,  
from failing embers build a blazing fire;  
love strong enough to overturn injustice,  
to seek a world more gracious,  
come touch and bless our hearts.

Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,  
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;  
create a space for spirit to grow in us,  
let life and beauty fill us,  
come touch and bless our souls.

Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,  
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;  
help us to open doors of understanding,  
to welcome truth and wisdom,  
come touch and bless our minds.

Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,  
and in our weakness your great strength reveal;  
that we may rise to follow and to serve,  
steady now our nerve,  
come touch and bless our wills.

Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,  
to break the bread and share the cup of peace;  
that we may love you with our heart, our soul,  
our mind, our strength our all,  
come touch us with your grace.

*ENGAGING*

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:**

O God, open our hearts and minds  
by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that as the scriptures are read  
and your Word is proclaimed,  
we may hear what you are saying to us today.  
Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

*Wayne Lord*

Deuteronomy 30: 9-14

\*Responsive Reading - Psalm 15 - Page 736 VU

*(Please stand as you are able)*

### **GOSPEL LESSON:**

Luke 10: 38-42

**MESSAGE:** “Walking Down the Road of Life”

### **MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**GIFT OF MUSIC** – “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

*John & Isabel Clouston*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

*Bev Murphy*

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

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

**God of all peoples and God of all places,  
we present these offerings,  
that they may be used to extend your liberating reign.  
With them, we offer our varied ministries,  
that each of us may be part of your answer  
to the cries of the world. Amen.**

**SHARING OUR CONCERNS:**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:** *(in unison)*

**We pray for the peace of the world, O God,  
and for the peace that only you can give—  
not only the absence of conflict and battle,  
but also the fullness of life that is prosperity for all,  
goodwill among neighbours,  
and welcome for every outsider.**

**Hear us now as we name the situations and nations  
for which we seek your Shalom:  
our own country, Canada as we live in the presence  
of Covid 19 sub variant BA5. . .**

**Japan with the assassination of the former prime Minister at  
a campaign event...**

**The people of Ukraine and Afganistan....  
families buffeted by the storm of economic despair . . .  
war-torn countries . . .**

**our families, our friends, ourselves . . . .**

**We gather these and all our prayers,**

**those spoken aloud and those too deep for words,  
in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**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 a Spirit People)*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** – “Take My Life and Let It Be” – VU #506

Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, all for thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet, and let them be  
swift and purposeful for thee.

Take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from thee;  
take my intellect, and use  
every power as thou shalt choose.

# Church News

Take my will, and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine;  
take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love: and I will pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

## \*BLESSING:

Go out into the world in peace; have courage;  
hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted;  
support the weak, and help the suffering;  
honour all people;  
love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

\***CHORAL CLOSING** – “May the God of Peace” – MV #224

***May the God of peace and of all good,  
may the God of peace and of all good  
be always with you. Amen!  
May God's peace be with you. Amen!***

*(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)*

## POSTLUDE

**The summer church office hours** are now in effect – open Monday to Thursday – 9 AM to 3 PM – closed on Friday.

**We are looking for volunteers to be Greeters** for the last 2 weeks of July as well as for the month August. If you don't feel you can commit for the whole month, then 2 weeks would be appreciated. Please contact Margaret at the church office (506-546-3532) to arrange dates you would be available. We are also in need of Counters for the month of August. Thank you in advance for your consideration of coverage of these duties.

**Peanut Butter Update** - As of July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 195 jars of Peanut Butter has been collected to go to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. **Our goal is 900 jars for the year** and we currently have **429** including what has been purchased with monetary donations.

**Purses Plus** – The Community Outreach Sub Team extends thanks to all who generously contributed supplies to our new project. Passage House currently has sufficient toys for children, but would appreciate books in both languages. They always need hand sanitizer and nail clippers along with baby supplies (wipes – diapers – shampoo- etc.). Thank you again.

# Community News

The addiction crisis is having devastating effects. Come and hear of a faith based approach to helping those who are suffering from addictions and hear testimonies from some who have gained freedom from their addictions. The **Teen Challenge ministry team** will be at **St. Luke's Presbyterian Church**, 395 Murray Avenue, at **4:00 pm on July 24**. Come and listen to the testimonies of students who are gaining freedom from addictions. Teen Challenge is a faith based residential rehab centre located in Memramcook, NB. *On July 25, the entire staff and students will be in the area for their annual deep sea fishing trip.*

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

**DEUTERONOMY 30: 9-14**

**9** and the LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors,

**10** when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

**Exhortation to Choose Life**

**11** "Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away.

**12** It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?'

**13** Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?'

**14** No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

**RESPONSIVE READING – PSALM 15**

**LUKE 10: 38-42**

**Jesus Visits Martha and Mary**

**38** Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him.

**39** She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying.

**40** But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me."

**41** But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things,

**42** but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

736 PSALTER

**Psalm 15**

Refrain .

*Thomas Tallis ca. 1567*



God, who may be a guest in your house,  
or who may dwell on your holy mountain? R

One who leads a blameless life,  
who does what is right,  
who speaks truthfully from the heart;  
one whose tongue is free from malice,  
who never wrongs a friend,  
who utters no reproach against a neighbour;  
one who cannot respect the unworthy,  
but honours those who fear God;  
who stands by a promise given,  
though it be to personal disadvantage;  
one who will not take interest on a loan,  
nor accept a bribe to testify against the innocent.  
Whoever does this shall never be overthrown. R