

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

August 21, 2022

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Greeter** Cheryl Brewster
Custodian Lester Scott Dave Brewster

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 Hebrews 12:18-29 Luke 13:10-17	Jeremiah 2:4-13 Psalm 81:1, 10-16 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:7-14
<i>We welcome Isabel & John Clouston, today's vocalists, and thank them for the beautiful 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

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE *(responsively)*

Creator and Creating One,

in a time of change and confusion,

we need a source of unwavering light.

In a time of transition and change,

we need a light to show us the way.

May the light of Christ be that light for every one of us.

May it shine in our hearts forever.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP - "Praise to the Lord"

VU #835 *(Verse 1)*

Praise to the Lord, all of you, God's servants.

Blessed 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!

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – "Let All Things Now Living" – VU #242

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving

to God our Creator triumphantly raise;

who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,

by guiding us on to the end of our days.

God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,

a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;

till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,

as forward we travel from light into Light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses

and sun in its orbit obediently shine;

the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.

We too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;

with glad adoration a song let us raise:

till all things now living united in thanksgiving,

to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

PRAYER OF HUMILITY (*responsively*)

Healing One,

when we shoulder burdens not ours to carry,

unfold us with your grace.

When we clench our fists and our hearts with rage and anger,

unfold us with your grace.

When we let ourselves become overwhelmed with things around us
and ignore people,

unfold us with your grace.

When we make unwise choices, or ones we know are unfaithful to
your leading,

unfold us with your grace.

When we allow our doubts to shut us down rather than open us up to
new wonderings and new possibilities,

unfold us with your grace.

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.***

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

May the God of love and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

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

Jeremiah 1:4-6

***SINGING A SONG** – “We are Companions on the Journey”

Refrain

*We are companions on the journey,
breaking bread and sharing life;
and in the love we bear is the hope we share
for we believe in the love of our God,
we believe in the love of our God.*

No longer strangers to each other,
no longer strangers in God’s house;
we are fed and we are nourished
by the strength of those who care,
by the strength of those who care.

Refrain

We have been gifted with each other,
and we are called by the Word of the Lord:
to act with justice, to love tenderly,
and to walk humbly with our God,
to walk humbly with our God.

Refrain

We will seek and we shall find;
we will knock and the door shall be opened;
we will ask and it shall be given,
for we believe in the love of our God,
we believe in the love of our God.

Refrain

We are made for the glory of our God,
for service in the name of Jesus;
to walk side by side with hope in our hearts,
for we believe in the love of our God,
we believe in the love of our God.

Refrain

***BAPTISMAL HYMN**

VU #444

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

[Participants gather near baptismal font during hymn.]

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

(Cheryl Brewster – Secretary of Christian Development Team)

On behalf of the congregation of First United Church, I present the following persons for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism:

Genisee Lillie McKay—daughter of Sarah Elizabeth VanReenen & Bradley Robert McKay.

Navayah Isabel McKay—daughter of Sarah Elizabeth VanReenen & Bradley Robert McKay.

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND PROMISES

COMMITMENT OF PARENTS

COMMITMENT OF GODPARENT

(Melissa Dawn McKay, Genisee & Navayah's aunt)

Recognizing that many persons nurture and influence the life of a child, will you support Genisee, Navayah and their parents as they grow in faith?

I will, God being my helper.

***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)*

Genisee Lillie McKay,

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)*

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

Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS *(responsively)*

Genisee, 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.]

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

Amen.

[The candle is passed to Genisee's parents.]

PRESENTATION OF A BIBLE *(responsively)*

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

Amen.

[A Bible is presented to Genisee's parents.]

BAPTISMAL STOLE *(responsively)*

[Baptismal Stole is draped around Genisee's shoulders.]

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

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

DECLARATION AND CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

[A Certificate of Baptism is given to Genisee's parents.]

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

[The congregation is invited to applaud.]

BLESSING *(responsively)*

Genisee,

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

Amen.

THE ACT OF BAPTISM *(responsively)*

Navayah Isabel McKay,

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)*

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

Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS *(responsively)*

Navayah, 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.]

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

Amen.

[The candle is passed to Navayah's parents.]

PRESENTATION OF A BIBLE *(responsively)*

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

Amen.

[A Bible is presented to Navayah's parents.]

BAPTISMAL STOLE *(responsively)*

[Baptismal Stole is draped around Navayah's shoulders.]

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

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

DECLARATION AND CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

[A Certificate of Baptism is given to Navayah's parents.]

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

[The congregation is invited to applaud.]

BLESSING *(responsively)*

Navayah,

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 READINGS

Isabel MacLaggan

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Luke 13:10-17

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

***OFFERING PRAYER** *(responsively)*

Holy One, in Christ, we receive a new room, a dwelling place that can't be shaken.

We, therefore, give thanks and offer a pledge of our commitment, as a sign of our gratitude.

Accept our offerings, we pray. May the Spirit's fire refine them for your service.

Refine us as well, setting us free to minister in your name.

Amen

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(responsively)*

Let us listen, Holy One, to those who challenge us with prophetic voices,

that we might understand their passion for life, and see things from a new perspective, that we might make new and deeper connections with them.

Let us listen to children,

when they talk about grownups, talk about church, and talk about God, that they might be ministers among us.

Let us listen to the women long silenced by religion,

that we might see what they saw, hear what they heard, and feel what they felt.

Let us listen to the elders,

not only to their stories of the past, but also to their dreams for the future, that we might gain their wisdom and draw strength from their faith.

Let us listen to those who live with disabilities—their own or someone else's—

that we might gain new insight on what it means to welcome others.

Let us listen to those who speak anonymously

in statistics of death, persecution, and unsolved disappearances, that we might gain a new appreciation for the freedoms we enjoy and work for the same for all people.

Let us listen to those who love the earth

and give voice to its needs, its wounds, its potential, that we might be drawn into a deeper communion with creation, of which we're but a part.

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.

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

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** (*responsively*)

...Touched by the presence of the Holy,

we go to be a healing presence in the world.

Uplifted by Christ's Spirit,

we stand firm for all that's just and true.

Go, knowing,

the community of the Christ goes with us.

Amen

***CHORAL CLOSING** – "When You Walk from Here" – VU #298

***When you walk from here,
when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy,
and with God's humble care.***

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

Church News

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

Peanut Butter Update - As of August 18th, 2022, 213 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 **447** including what has been purchased with monetary donations.

TAKE OUT BBQ Beef Supper will be held on Thursday, September 15th from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM. Tickets will be available starting August 22nd - **\$17** 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 Hatheway Auto Group***



SCRIPTURE READINGS *(New Revised Standard Version)*

JEREMIAH 1:4-10

4 Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

6 Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy."

7 But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you,

8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord."

9 Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth.

10 See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

LUKE 13:10-17

10 Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath.

11 And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight.

12 When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment."

13 When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God.

14 But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day."

15 But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water?

16 And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?"

17 When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.