

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

August 28, 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 2:4-13 Psalm 81:1, 10-16 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14	Job 38:1-18 Psalm 104:1-9, 24-26 Ephesians 1:3-10 Luke 5:1-11
<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.

The Christ Candle is lit.

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 *(responsively)*

We who have risen to embrace this day,

we who are weary in body and spirit,

all are welcome in this place.

We who know the abundance of life,

we who are left impoverished by harsh realities,

all receive a sustaining measure of God's love.

We who are strong in mind and soul,

we who are challenged by illnesses of many kinds,

all are whole in the Spirit of God.

We who have a voice and the strength to use it,

we who whisper prayers in our hearts,

all are invited to worship the One we love.

Come, for you too

have a place of honour in the heart of God.

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 (*responsively*)

...When we don’t look beyond our institutional walls,

forgive us, we pray.

When we withhold and restrict the grace of the sacraments,

forgive us, we pray.

When we imagine ourselves as being more valuable than others,

forgive us, we pray.

When we think only of self-maintenance,

forgive us, we pray.

When we don’t live as your people,

forgive us, we pray.

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*)

Jini Palmer & Mike Kierstead

Luke 14:1, 7

***SINGING A SONG** – “Small Things Count”

VU #361

Small things count, so Jesus said:
cups of water, crumbs of bread,
small things done because we're kind
count as big things in God's mind.

Small things make the big things grow:
grains of yeast inside the dough,
puffs that fill a big balloon,
notes that make a happy tune.

Every hair that's on our head,
every sparrow, Jesus said,
God takes care of, counts and knows,
God loves us from top to toes!

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Anne Brooks

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

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

Holy One,
our place to learn and practice the way of Christ is here.
Here, we cultivate mutual love. Here, we honour
relationships that nurture faithfulness and fullness.
Though the gifts we bring and the lives we live, then, we'll
hold loosely to our worldly wealth and share what we have to
do all the good we can.

Amen

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*responsively*)

...With hearts open to compassion, we pray:

let mutual love prevail.

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** – “Will You Come and Follow Me” VU #567

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the “you” you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

***BLESSING**

***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 25th, 2022, 214 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 **504** 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***

HELP! - During the back-to-school season, the Community Outreach Sub Team invites you to contribute lunch bags (suitable for K to gr 8) & back packs (any age) for needy students. Donations may be left in narthex. For more information, contact Audrey Ronalds (543-2225) of Community Schools.

Community News

“Help Lesotho” Calendars - The Anglophone School District – North has been sponsoring “Help Lesotho” since 2006 as part of its global awareness initiative. As a fundraiser where all of the money raised goes to help finance its work with orphans, vulnerable children, and grandmothers in Lesotho, Africa; “Help Lesotho” has 2023 calendars for sale at a cost of \$15.00. You are invited to support this initiative with your donation. Gary Branch (546-9208) (egbranch@rogers.com) will be taking orders for these calendars until October 10, 2022. Payment can be made in advance by cash or cheque or when the calendars are delivered in November. Cheques are to be made payable to “Help Lesotho”.

Call for United Church Calendar Photos

Are you a photographer? We're looking for photos of United Churches from all parts of Canada for the 2024 Canadian Church Calendar.

Submit online -

https://unitedchurch.formstack.com/forms/calendar_submission for the 2024 calendar. The deadline is January 15, 2023.

- We're looking for photos of churches from all parts of Canada, unique or traditional, urban, suburban, and rural.
- Please send interior and exterior shots of church buildings or worship spaces, and architectural and other details.
- For exteriors, we can always use more winter photos.
- Try to avoid distractions such as hydro wires, microphones, etc.

We print a photographer credit and offer a \$100 honorarium for each photo chosen.

Tips

- Make sure calendar photos are horizontal.
- Submit high-resolution JPEG, TIFF, or PNG photos (2-8 MB) via our online form or mail them to us on a USB key accompanied by a contact sheet or colour printout, your contact information, and details about your photos.
- We can't accept responsibility for lost or damaged prints or USB keys. Please send duplicates only, not originals.

Looking to buy the 2023 Canadian Church Calendar? Visit the [United Church Bookstore](#) for more details.



SCRIPTURE READINGS *(New Revised Standard Version)*

HEBREWS 13:1-8, 15-16

1 Let mutual love continue.

2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

3 Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.

4 Let marriage be held in honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers.

5 Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.'

6 So we can say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?'

7 Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.

15 Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.

16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

LUKE 14:1, 7-14

1 On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

7 When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable.

8 "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host;

9 and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.

10 But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you.

11 For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

12 He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid.

13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.

14 And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."