

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

September 11, 2022

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

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Job 39:1-8, 26-30	Job 28:20-27
Psalms 104:14-23	Psalms 29
1 Corinthians 1:10-23	1 Corinthians 1:21-31
Luke 12:22-31	Luke 8:22-25

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

MV #41 (Verse 2)

"O Beautiful Gaia"

Refrain:

O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia, calling us home.

O beautiful Gaia, calling us on.

Waves crashing on granite, O Gaia, calling us home.

Waves crashing on granite, calling us on.

Refrain:

O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia, calling us home.

O beautiful Gaia, calling us on.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsively)*

The Creating One, maker of plants and animals, invites us to this place.

We are happy to be here.

The One who has created *all* things invites us to this place.

We are happy to be here.

The One who calls us to care for Earth and all its inhabitants invites us to this place.

We are happy to be here.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – "For Beauty of Prairies"

VU #303

(tune St. Denio VU 223)

For beauty of prairies, for grandeur of trees,
for flowers of woodlands, for creatures of seas,
for all you created and gave us to share,
we praise you, Creator, extolling your care.

As stewards of beauty received at your hand,
as creatures who hear your most urgent command,
we turn from our wasteful destruction of life,
confessing our failures, confessing our strife.

Teach us once again to be gardeners in peace;
all nature around us is ours but on lease;
your name we would hallow in all that we do,
fulfilling our calling, creating with you.

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

CHORAL RESPONSE "Don't Be Afraid" MV #90

Don't be afraid.

My love is stronger,

my love is stronger than your fear.

Don't be afraid.

*My love is stronger and I have promised,
promised to be always near.*

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

May the God of peace be with you all.

And also with you.

SHARING A STORY (*with those of all ages*)
Brenda Parrott & Sandra Boone

Luke 15:4-7

***SINGING A SONG** – "God of the Sparrow" VU #229

CELEBRATING BAPTISM

***BAPTISMAL HYMN** VU #444

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

[Participants gather near baptismal font during hymn.]

Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign;
with this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.

Child of love, our love's expression,
love's creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits,
into joy and laughter lead.

Child of joy, our dearest treasure,
God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you;
live as one who bears Christ's name.

Child of God your loving Parent,
learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,
trusting in God's love and care.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

(Brenda Parrott – Chair of Christian Development Team)

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

Jessie-Kym Mallet-Dow—daughter of Jessica Mallet & Jason Bailey
Anthony Dow.

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND PROMISES

COMMITMENT OF PARENTS

COMMITMENT OF GODPARENTS

(Emma Clarkson, Sylvie Mallet & Roger-Gilbert Mallet-Power)

*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 of new life in Christ for all.

Amen.

THE ACT OF BAPTISM *(responsively)*

...Jessie-Kym Mallet-Dow,

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)*

Jessie-Kym, child of God, from this day forward, you bear the sign of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS *(responsively)*

Jessie-Kym, 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 is lit from Christ Candle, signifying the light of Christ, and as a reminder of the link between baptism and Easter.]

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

Amen.

[The candle is passed to Jessie-Kym's parents.]

PRESENTATION OF A BIBLE *(responsively)*

Jessie-Kym, receive this Bible and hear what the Spirit is saying to you and the Church.

Amen.

[A Bible is presented to Jessie-Kym's parents.]

BAPTISMAL STOLE *(responsively)*

[Baptismal Stole is draped around Jessie Kym's shoulders.]

Jessie-Kym, you have put on Christ. In Christ, you have been baptized.

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

DECLARATION AND CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

[A Certificate of Baptism is given to Jessie-Kym's parents.]

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

[The congregation is invited to applaud.]

BLESSING *(responsively)*

Jessie-Kym,

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

Amen.

[Participants return to their pews]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Gary Branch

Psalm 104:14-23

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC - "As the Wind Song Through the Trees"

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

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

When the world was created, Holy One, we were dedicated to be part of the balance of all things good.

Today, we commit ourselves anew to this purpose and ask your blessings on our renewed commitment.

Help us continue, we pray, to delight in the glory of the plants and animals we've been gifted to share life with.

And lead us, in the ways of life, in communion with all Creation.

Amen

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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** – "As a Fire Is Meant for Burning" VU #578
(tune Beach Spring)

As a fire is meant for burning
with a bright and warming flame
so the church is meant for mission,
giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs,
but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations,
finding neighbours everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers;
we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers;
we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions,
we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit,
we would live to God's delight.

As a green bud in the springtime
is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness
mid earth's peoples, many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens
when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance
of God's new and glorious dawn.

***BLESSING**

Take up his song of peace and go into the world.
Take up his song of peace in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives;
lay them down, in peace, lay them down, and take up his song.

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

Church News

Regular office hours are back in effect –
Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Choir Practice for this week only will be Tuesday at 6:30 PM

Peanut Butter Update - As of September 8th, 2022, 227 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 **517** 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**

There will be a musical hour featuring The Treble Makers held at First United Church, on Friday, September 23rd, starting at 2 PM. There will be no admission fee, however, a goodwill offering towards the life and work of First United Church and/or a donation of a jar of peanut butter for the local food bank would be very much appreciated. The group will play a variety of music including songs such as: "Sentimental Journey", "I'll Fly Away", "Five Foot Two", "Let Me Call You Sweetheart", "Mansion Over the Hilltop", lively jigs, etc.

Please join us for this **Peanut Butter *♪♪* and Jam *♪♪*** session☺

Masks encouraged but are not mandatory.

Church News

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".

Anglican Parish of New Bandon is holding an Apple Pie/Apple Crisp sale. \$10 each, prepaid, ready for your freezer. This year we are offering either a pastry (2 crust pie) or a crumb topping pie To place your order please phone **Elaine Good at 546-2970** Limited amount is being made, so please call early.

SCRIPTURE READING *(New Revised Standard Version)*

Psalm 104:14-23

14 You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth,

15 and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart.

16 The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

17 In them the birds build their nests; the stork has its home in the fir trees.

18 The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the coneys.

19 You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.

20 You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.

21 The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God.

22 When the sun rises, they withdraw and lie down in their dens.

23 People go out to their work and to their labor until the evening.

May God bless to our understanding this significant part of our Christian story...

