

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

**November 20, 2022**

**Minister** Rev. Neal Palmer      **Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Margaret Daniels      **Greeters** Charles Ramsey &  
**Custodian** Lester Scott      Linda Knowles-MacPherson

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<b>Lectionary for today</b>	<b>Lectionary for next Sunday</b>
Jeremiah 23:1-6 Luke 1:68-79 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43	Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:1-14 Matthew 24:36-44
<i>Today's bulletins are in loving memory of</i> <b>David Gammon</b> by Shirley & family	
We welcome and thank <b>Rev. Blair Lewis</b> for is leading us in worship this morning	

*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** *(in unison)*

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

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:**

Arise, shine, for your light has come;  
and over you the glory of God has dawned.  
*Isaiah 60:1*

"I am the light of the world," Jesus said.  
"Whoever follows me will have the light of life."  
*John 8:12*

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.  
*Psalm 119:105*

A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

*The Christ Candle is lit.*

**Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand and it gives light to everyone in the house.**  
*Matthew 5:14-15*

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP:** *(responsively)*

What does the Lord require of us?

**With what shall we come before God on high?**

This is what God requires of us:

**To do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with God. Let us worship God.**

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP:** "Come Build a Church"  
*(Seasons of the Spirit – volume 7)*

***Come build a church with soul and spirit,  
come build a church of flesh and bone.  
We need no tower rising skyward;  
no house of wood or glass or stone.***

***Come build a church with human frailty,  
come build a church of flesh and blood.  
Jesus shall be its sure foundation.  
It shall be built by the hand of God.***

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**CALL TO WORSHIP:** *(responsively)*

Beloved, let us love one another,

**because love is from God.**

God's love was revealed among us in this way,

**Jesus Christ came into the world.**

Since God loved us so much,

**we are called to love one another.**

**Come, let us worship.**

*1 John 4:7*

**GATHERING PRAYER:**

Almighty God,

as your Son our Saviour was born of a Hebrew mother,

but rejoiced in the faith of a Syrian woman

and of a Roman soldier,

welcomed the Greeks who sought him,

and suffered a man from Africa to carry his cross;

so teach us to regard the members of all races

as fellow heirs of the kingdom of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**\*GATHERING HYMN** – "Rejoice, the Lord is King" - VU #213

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

Your risen Lord adore!

Rejoice, give thanks and sing

and triumph evermore:

***Refrain:***

***Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:***

***rejoice; again I say, rejoice!***

Jesus the Saviour reigns,  
the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our sins,  
he took his seat above.

***Refrain***

God's kingdom cannot fail;

Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;

the keys of death and hell

are to our Jesus given.

***Refrain***

Rejoice in glorious hope,

for Christ, the Judge, shall come

to glorify the saints

for their eternal home.

**We then shall hear the archangel's voice;**

**the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!**

**PRAYER OF HUMILITY:** *(in unison)*

**Light has come into the world**

**but we love the night.**

**Love has come into the world**

**but we continue to hate.**

**Grace has come into the world**

**but we cannot forgive.**

**Hope has come into the world**

**but we are surrounded by despair.**

**New life has come into the world**

**but we are tired.**

**Peace has come into the world**

**but conflict continues.**

**Joy has come into the world**

**but we are sad.**

***silence***

**Judge us, O God, by your gracious love.  
Forgive us, O God, and set us free. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

In Christ, God says to us,  
"Arise, shine, for your light is come."  
In Christ, God says to us,  
"Love one another as I have loved you."  
In Christ, God says to us,  
"Your sins are forgiven you."  
Thanks be to God for love and hope!

**CHORAL RESPONSE** – "And When You Call for Me" MV #96

*And when you call for me,  
I have already answered.  
And when you call for me,  
I am already there.*

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

...The Peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

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

**\*SINGING A SONG** – "Praise Our Maker" – VU #316

Praise our Maker, peoples of one family:  
God is love, God is love!  
Praise our Maker, peoples of one family:  
God is love, God is love!

Love our Saviour, followers of Jesus:  
God is love, God is love!  
Love our Saviour, followers of Jesus:  
God is love, God is love!

Care for others, children of the Spirit:  
God is love, God is love!  
Care for others, children of the Spirit:  
God is love, God is love!

*ENGAGING*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:** (*in unison*)

**On this Reign of Christ Sunday,  
we long to hear your Holy Word in fresh ways.  
Open our ears to the call of your voice.  
Open our eyes to the dawning of a new day.  
Fill us with anticipation for the future.  
We pray that with your guidance we will live  
in solidarity with Your Son Jesus Christ. Amen**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

*Brenda Parrott*

Luke 1:68-79

Psalm 46 – Page 770 Voices United

Luke 23:33-43

**REFLECTION:** "Every Child Matters"

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**GIFT OF MUSIC:**

*RESPONDING*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:**

*Bev Murphy*

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:**

Receive our gifts, O God.  
May they be used to show forth to the world  
the greatness of your love.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ,  
your perfect gift and our Saviour.

## **THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD**

**\*OFFERING HYMN** – “For the Gift of Creation” – VU #538

*For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,  
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,  
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.  
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.*

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

**Ever-present God,  
with this offering, we present also ourselves:  
all that we have been,  
all that we are,  
and all that we shall become,  
and our resolve to walk in your way.  
Accept us and our offering, we pray for Jesus’ sake.  
Amen**

## **SHARING OUR CONCERNS:**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** *(responsively)*

There is no joy that does not come from God’s hand.  
There is no pain that does not echo in God’s heart.  
Let us bring our thanksgivings and concerns  
before God in prayer.

**God, whose glory the heavens are telling,  
we praise you for light leaping across northern skies  
and for the joys of blade upon ice, ski upon snow,  
fire in the hearth, and friends for celebration.  
We praise you also for your continuing presence  
in a world where wealth has so much say,  
and the wicked prosper,  
and relationships go sour,  
and hearts and dreams are broken.  
In laughter and tears alike we praise you.**

**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 . . .  
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:** *(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** – “Just as I Am” – VU #508

Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
yea, all I need, in thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown  
has broken every barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

\***BLESSING**

Light of God to give us hope  
Power of God to protect us  
Light of God to give us joy  
Peace of God to calm us  
Light of God to give us faith  
Grace of God to save us this day and forevermore.

\***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**

# Church News

## This Week at First United - November 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>

Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
	9:00 AM	Ways & Means Meeting - RMR
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Thursday	3:30 – 5:30 PM	Takeout Turkey Supper - GYM

**Church office hours** - Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Peanut Butter Update** - As of November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 336 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 636 including what has been purchased with monetary donations.

**Memorial Hymn Sing** – The deadline for requests for the hymn sing is drawing quickly coming close. If you have not already done so, please fill out the information and submit it to the office by dropping it in the mail, offering plate or leaving it at the church office **no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>**. Join with us on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 2 PM to sing Christmas Carols that mean so much to us as we remember our loved ones.

**Passage House Update** - Temporarily, this agency was not accepting donations. However, management has informed us that their greatest & only current need is pyjamas, both children & adult in all sizes. Our suggestion is that same would be ideal as White Gifts! Thanks for your ongoing support.



**Poinsettia Fund:** Once again this year we are hoping to have the beauty of our sanctuary enhanced with poinsettias for the Christmas season. Those wishing to contribute to the annual poinsettia fund may place an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please mark clearly on the face of the envelope – Poinsettia Fund with your name, PAR or envelope number. List the names that you wish to have printed in the Christmas bulletin insert. Donations will also be received in the church office – deadline is December 13, 2022.

# Church News

**Ways & Means Team** will meet on Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 9 AM in the Ruth Morrison Room.

**Friends of First United** – We now have 3 rotating teams of individuals who bake and/or help with receptions for funerals. We are still short a few people. If anyone is available to assist with baking or working at the hall please contact Beth Sullivan by telephone at 548-3882 or by email at [wheel309@gmail.com](mailto:wheel309@gmail.com)

**Annual Christmas Benevolence Fund:** - It's that time of year! Giving to this fund is even more important than ever because COVID-19 is still affecting lives. Once again this year the process is a bit different, but we hope the results will be the same or better as previous years. Should you wish to give you will find an envelope on the tree which is now in the narthex. And then you may drop it in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office during the week. Make your cheques payable to First United Church. Please mark clearly that this donation is for the Benevolence Fund. The proceeds from this fund support the Bathurst Volunteer Center and people in our congregation who need assistance.

***We thank-you for your generosity***  
***– Community Outreach Sub-Team***

**TAKE OUT Turkey Supper** will be held on Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM. Tickets are \$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*  
***Kenny's Trucking Ltd. & Shine House***  
***(A Division of Stothart Automotive)***

**Rev. Neal will be on Continuing Education leave** from Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> through to Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, returning to the office on Wednesday morning. Rev. Sue White will be covering for any pastoral care emergencies. She may be reached by calling 547-5745.

# Church News

## **Gifts with Vision**

Are you looking for a gift to celebrate someone special for Christmas, Birthday, Anniversary, Congratulations - for that someone who has everything, or who doesn't want anything more to add to their 'clutter'?

**Gifts with Vision** is the perfect gift for you to give! The United Church of Canada has put together a catalogue and online 'store' of gifts that make a difference in people's lives throughout Canada and the world. Each 'Gift with Vision' provides support for remarkable Mission and Service partners for special projects that address many life-changing issues, such as hunger, poverty, anti-racism, well-building, environment, healing and reconciliation.

There are catalogues, which show a small sample of what is in the on-line store, at the back of the church for you to take - we can get more! The on-line store is at [giftswithvision.ca](http://giftswithvision.ca).

**Thank you for being part of these life-changing activities!**

# Community News

**Central United Church** in Clifton will be having a Roast Pork Take-Out Supper and a Bake Sale, on Saturday, November 26, 2022 from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM. Tickets are \$20 per person. For tickets please call Lois Archibald at 548-8927 or Diane Ellis at 546-6028.

**"All things Christmas Bazaar"** - St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, 395 Murray Ave, Bathurst - Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> 9 AM – 2 PM. Take-Out Soup & Biscuit Luncheon. (Free will offering) Items for sale include crafts, Christmas decorations, books, giftware, Christmas music, anything with a Christmas theme. Free admission.



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

### **LUKE 1:68-79**

68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his child David,

70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant,

73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us

74 that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear,

75 in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days.

76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

77 to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

78 Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

79 to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace."

**PSALM 46 – Page 770 of Voices United – 1<sup>st</sup> Refrain**

**Refrain 1**

**The God of Jacob is for us a refuge strong and sure.**

God is our refuge and strength,  
**a very present help in trouble.**

Therefore we will not fear though the earth should quake, and the mountains fall into the depts. Of the sea,

**though the waters of the sea rage and foam,  
and the mountains tremble at the tumult. R**

There is a river, whose streams make glad the city of God,  
Sanctifying the dwelling of the Most High.

**God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved.**

**God will help at the break of day.**

Nations are in tumult, empires are shaken;  
**for God speaks and the earth melts away. R**

Come and see what God has done,  
the wonders wrought upon the earth.

**God makes wars to cease in all the world,  
God breaks the bow and snaps the spear,  
And burns the shields in the fire.**

Be still and know that I am God,  
**exalted among the nations, exalted in the earth.**

The God of Hosts is with us;  
**The God of Jacob is our refuge. R**

**LUKE 22:33-43**

33 And he said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!"

34 Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day until you have denied three times that you know me."

**Purse, Bag, and Sword**

35 He said to them, "When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?" They said, "No, not a thing."

36 He said to them, "But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one.

37 For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, 'And he was counted among the lawless,' and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled."

38 They said, "Lord, look, here are two swords." He replied, "It is enough."

**Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives**

39 He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him.

40 When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

41 Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed,

42 "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done."

43 Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength.

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



