

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

February 5, 2023

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Audio & Visual Technicians Brenda Parrott & Donald Eddy
Greeters Shirley Sealy & Jini Palmer

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Isaiah 58:1-12	Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 112:1-10	Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 2:1-16	1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:13-20	Matthew 5:21-37

*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 to worship, let's 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 this land, and live in peace and in friendship with its people.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

...May this candle and the light it produces be a symbol and sign of all of these things...

The Christ Candle is lit.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP - "I Am Becoming Peace" (2x)

I am becoming peace.
I am becoming peace.
A well of patience, well of grace,
make my soul a holy place.
I am becoming peace.

Final Ending:
I am becoming,
I am becoming,
I am becoming peace.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsively)*

To a society that sometimes lives in the shadowed recesses of doubt and fear, **we are called to be light.**

To a world where every greed is sometimes fed until there's no taste to life, **we are called to be salt.**

To a time when loyalties are sometimes discarded as easily as the clothes we wear, **we are called to be faithful.**

GATHERING PRAYER *(responsively)*

Light of the world, **be our light this day.**

Creator of life, **preserve our life this day.**

Holy One, **pour out righteousness on us this day.**

Light of the world, **we gather this day to give praise, with our hearts, song, and minds.**

Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN** – “Worship the Lord” –

VU #401 (*Vs. 1, 2, 3 & 5*)

Refrain:

*Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!*

Raising our hands as a sign of rejoicing,
and with our lips our togetherness voicing,
giving ourselves to a life of creativeness,
worship and work must be one!

Refrain

Praying and training that we be a blessing,
and by our handiwork daily confessing:
we are committed to serving humanity,
worship and work must be one!

Refrain

Called to be partners with God in creation,
honouring Christ as the Lord of the nation,
we must be ready for risk and for sacrifice,
worship and work must be one!

Refrain

Now in response to the life you are giving,
help us, O Father, to offer our living,
seeking a just and a healing society,
worship and work must be one!

Refrain

PRAYER OF HUMILITY (*responsively*)

...God of grace, **forgive us.**

In silence, we lament the ways our community has fallen short of
shining a light. (*Time of Silence*)

God of grace, **forgive us.**

For times when we've let the busyness of life dominate and oppress,
forgive us.

For times when we've turned away from needs and troubles of and in
community, **forgive us.**

Guide us, we pray, as we practice righteousness,

and conduct our affairs generously. (*Time of Silence*)

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*)

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

In God's justice is our peace.

Jesus calls us to live in unity.

We seek to live the Spirit of Christ.

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

Autumn & Grace Ronalds

Matthew 5:13

***SINGING A SONG** – “I've Got a Voice”

Verse 1

I've got a voice to sing out loud,
I've got a voice to praise our God.
I've got a voice to sing out loud,
I've got a voice for praising.

Verse 2

I've got a hand to help someone,
I've got a hand to praise our God.
I've got a hand to help someone,
I've got a hand for praising.

Verse 3

I've got a heart to share God's love,
I've got a heart to praise our God.
I've got a heart to share God's love,
I've got a heart for praising.

Verse 4

La la la la la la. La la la la la la.
La la la la la la. La la la la la la.

Verse 5

I've got a voice to sing out loud,
I've got a hand to help someone.
I've got a heart to share God's love,
I've got a voice for praising.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:13-20

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC - "Seek Ye First the Kingdom"

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Judy Losier

Martha Vickers

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** (*responsively*)

We can make a difference through our gifts.

We will bring the Word of God to life today.

We can make a difference through our gifts.

We will bring hope to the despairing.

We can make a difference through our gifts.

We will bring love to the unloved.

We can make a difference through our gifts.

We will bring friendship to the lonely.

We can make a difference through our gifts.

We will care for the hopeless.

We can make a difference through our gifts.

We will bring freedom to the oppressed.

Loving God, receive and bless our offerings, we pray,
and through the Spirit, work joyfully with them.

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 kingdom 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 kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** – “Be Thou My Vision” – VU #642

Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL CLOSING** – “Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light”
MV #211 (2x)

***Go now in peace,
guided by the light of Christ,
so you may be
nourished by the Word of Life.***

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

Mission & Service - February 5, 2023

Fighting Racism at Home & Abroad

When was the first time you became aware of discrimination or oppression?

Adele Halliday, the United Church's Anti-Racism Equity Lead, says that parts of her work focus on racial discrimination—and she encounters many people across the church who are surprised by the ongoing systemic racism in church and society.

“I grew up as a racialized person and in a multiracial context, so this always surprises me. There's almost a kind of initial moment of realization,” she says. “In my work, what I encourage people to do is move beyond that moment of realization, asking, ‘So what does that mean for you in your life?’ If you're a person who's benefited from racism, now what? What's your next action? What does it mean for your life in the church and society as a person, as an individual, as a family member?”

Racialized people are among the people who have felt the negative effects of racism. It can take many forms, but all are harmful. And even worse, racism still exists in Canada and in the United Church today.

Your gifts to [Mission & Service](#) support educational initiatives, programs, and partners that work hard to dismantle racism. One of these programs is the 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism, which tackles topics like internalized racism, systemic racism, and anti-Indigenous and anti-Black racism.

While the program was designed for The United Church of Canada, Halliday says the impact is global. “I have gotten messages from people in other denominations and in other parts of the world like the United Kingdom, Australia, and the United States who are excited about the program and who want to use it,” she says.

“There are people who are hurting because of racial injustice and racial trauma,” says Halliday. “The work that we're doing helps us move collectively towards healing as a church and beyond.”

Church News

This Week at First United – Feb 6 th to Feb 10 th		
Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Tuesday	4:00 PM	Finance Team Meeting – RMR
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Thursday	4:15 PM	Choir Practice

Church office hours – Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Peanut Butter – Once again this year we are setting a goal of 900 jars of peanut butter to donate to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. Up to February 2nd we have collected 53 jars.

Please Note – In an effort to assist the Bathurst Volunteer Center, should you wish to make a monetary donation you may now do so by **issuing your cheque to First United Church**, indicating it is to be used for the purchase of Peanut Butter. Your donation will be marked as such and will be included on your annual tax receipt. Your cheques can be dropped off at the church office or mailed. Periodically someone from our Community Outreach Team will purchase the peanut butter and have it delivered directly to the Volunteer Center.

Time for Fellowship – Would you like to assist the members of the Hospitality & Friendship Team to provide/serve refreshments following our church services? We are looking for families, individuals and youth interested in contributing to this enjoyable fellowship opportunity. Please feel free to add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Ruth Morrison Room and talk with a member of the Fellowship Team.

Sunday School has resumed and will continue up to and including Sunday, April 9th. There will be 2 Sundays during Spring Break (March 5th and March 12th) where Sunday School will not be held.

Team Committee Reports will be required in order to prepare 2022 Annual Report. Would the individuals responsible for preparing each report please email them to the church office. The deadline for reports is February 10th. If you have already provided your report – thank you.

Church News

Annual Tax Receipts for 2022 are prepared and are in the narthex for pick up. Anyone who receives a CD or bulletin from the Pastoral Care Team will have their tax receipts with this week's CD/bulletin.

Thank you to our volunteers in January:

Counters – Shirley Sealy and Jini Palmer; **Greeters** – Dave & Cheryl Brewster and Peter & Edie Gammon; **Minute for Mission** – Jini Palmer, Clint Ronalds, Pat MacIntosh, Anne Wilson and Judy Losier; **Scripture Readers** – Jennifer Oliver, Wayne Lord, Isabel MacLaggan, Cheryl Brewster and Anne Wilson; **Sharing a Story** – Jennifer Oliver, Mya Brewster and Brooke Knowles; **Sound System** – Brenda Parrott and Ralph Jamieson and **Videographer** – Don Eddy as well as to Josh Gammon for uploading our services to the website and Facebook.

Community News

The Annual Robbie Burns celebration, organized by Bathurst Chapter, N.B. Scottish Cultural Association, will be held downstairs at Bathurst Curling Club on **Saturday, February 11th, at 4:00 PM**. Bring your favourite finger foods to go with the haggis. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased from Isabel MacLaggan by contacting her by telephone 506-546-5521 or email isabelmac30@gmail.com. Memberships for 2023 will be available. Everyone is welcome but advance notice is requested.

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, February 11th from 8:00 – 10:00 am**. Come and enjoy fellowship and great food. Free will offering at the door.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER will be held at Saint George's Church Hall, 432 King Avenue on **February 21st from 4:30 – 6:00 pm**. Tickets are \$ 10.00 each and take-outs are available. Tickets are available in advance from the Church Office (546-3225) or at the door.

Saint George's Anglican Church is having a **Yard Sale on Saturday, February 25th from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm** in the Church Hall at 432 King Avenue. Hope to see you there.

SCRIPTURE READING *(New Revised Standard Version)*

MATTHEW 5:13-20

13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

19 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

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

