

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

February 12, 2023

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 119:1-8 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37	Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9
Today's bulletin is placed in loving memory of Gordon & Ethel Vance by the family	

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 (Based on Psalm 119:1-2) (responsively)

How sacred are those whose path is honest and just,

who boldly stride out in the spirit of God!

Sacred are they that pay attention to Wisdom,

seeking God's inner voice with all their heart.

Friends, be joyful in the kindness of God.

May the Spirit lead us further into the ways of costly love.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – "Joyful, Joyful We Adore You" VU #232

Joyful, joyful we adore you, God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you, centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, sound their praise eternally.

You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing, let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us, joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

One: We want a faith that sets us free.

Two: We need a way that's new and hopeful.

Three: We don't want more laws weighing us down.

One, Two & Three: We desire a faith that sets us free to live and love.

...Renew us, Holy One, with the gift of compassion given to all. And may this unconditional compassion be the wise rule and guide in our lives.

One: We want a faith that sets us free.

Two: We need a way that's new and hopeful.

Three: We don't want more laws weighing us down.

One, Two & Three: We desire a faith that sets us free to live and love. *(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)*

***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 READINGS

Gary Branch

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Matthew 5:21-37

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC - "Three Things I Promise"

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

The Ronalds' family

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

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)**

**Holy One,
whose love teaches us abundance and belonging,
we dedicate these gifts to you.
May they be used
to face the death and adversity
we sometimes bring on ourselves and others.
May we be inspired
by the life and prosperity
infused in 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 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 – "Take My Life and Let It Be" VU #506**

Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.

Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love: and I will pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

***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

Church News

This Week at First United – Feb 13 th to Feb 17 th		
Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
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.

Please note the office will be closed on **Monday, February 20th** in observance of the Family Day statutory holiday.

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 9th we have collected 59 jars.

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.

The Upper Room for March and April are in the Narthex. Please feel free to take one. A container for donations is located with the publication.

Annual Tax Receipts for 2022 are prepared and are in the narthex for pick up.

HELP!!! - The Community Outreach Sub Team will be re-establishing & coordinating a pantry of non-perishables to help the needy & welcomes contributions from the congregation. Keep in mind that some recipients may be homeless, so items that are not canned will be required. Preferred contributions include: reusable grocery bags, granola bars, pasta, crackers, cereal, along with cans of soup, diced tomatoes and tomato sauce, sandwich fillings as well as tea, coffee and/or hot chocolate. *For more information, contact Helen M Knowles at 506-546-9563.*

Please note that if your pantry contributions total \$20 or more, provide receipt & same will be credited to your 2023 givings.

Community News

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.

The Bathurst Heritage Museum is thrilled to have the "Treble Makers" perform at the Museum on Monday, February 20th, 2023 from 2:00-4:00pm. This musical group is a fan-favourite! There is no admission fee. However, those who wish to do so may make a freewill donation towards the museum.

After 3 long years, Heritage Week resumes. From Saturday, February 18th to Friday, February 24th, the Museum will host a variety of events. The schedule will be posted on the Facebook site of the Bathurst Heritage Museum as well as in a number of places around town. Please check it out!

SCRIPTURE READINGS (New Revised Standard Version)

DEUTERONOMY 30:15-20

15 See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity.

16 If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess.

17 But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them,

18 I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live,

20 loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

MATTHEW 5:21-37

21 "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.'

22 But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire.

23 So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you,

24 leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison.

26 Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'

28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

31 "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.'

32 But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

33 "Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.'

34 But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,

35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

36 And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

37 Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

May God bless to our understanding these significant parts of our Christian story...

