

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

February 19, 2023

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

*The asterisk * identifies those times in the service where you are invited to present yourselves, body, mind, and spirit, as is comfortable for you today...*

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)*

...Do we dare to journey?

Yes, for God is there.

...Do we dare to journey?

Yes, for God is there.

...Do we dare to journey?

Yes, for God is here.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – "It Only Takes a Spark" – VU #289

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing:
that's how it is with God's love,
and once you've experienced it:
you spread God's love to everyone,
you want to pass it on.

What wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding,
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring,
you want to pass it on.

I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found---
on God you can depend, it matters not where you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top;
I want my world to know:
The Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.

PRAYER OF HUMILITY (*responsively*)

...when we've walked a more comfortable path, and hidden the way
of love in doing so, we pray...

Have mercy, Gracious One.

...when we've reinterpreted it to suit our way, and hidden the truth of
the gospel in doing so, we pray...

Have mercy, Gracious One.

...by keeping your goodness to ourselves, tipping the scales of justice
in our favour, and leaving folks hungry in doing so, we pray...

Have mercy, Gracious One.

...embarrassed by your truth, and hiding your glory in doing so, we
pray...

Have mercy, Gracious One. (*Moment 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*)

Matthew 17:2

***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

Exodus 24:12-18

Matthew 17:1-9

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC - "Deep in Our Hearts"

RESPONDING

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

Julie Spence

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, we pray,
call us out of our complacency.
Open our ears to your voice,
our eyes to your brilliance,
and our hearts and hands
to share the blessings
made possible through you.
We dedicate, once again,
these gifts and our lives to your service.
Amen**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*responsively*)

Brenda Parrott

...we pray for a world that's open, looking outwards, seeing beyond ourselves.

May this be a holy transformation.

...we pray for a world that shares, recognizing each other's needs, and sharing all challenges together.

May this be a holy transformation.

...we pray for a world that lives in peace, where differences are celebrated, and where variety brings wholeness.

May this be a holy transformation.

...we pray for a world that values what it has, and values its diversity and beauty, as blessings.

May this be a holy transformation.

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** – "As a Fire Is Meant for Burning" – VU #578

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**

***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 20 th to Feb 24 th		
Monday	CHURCH CLOSED – FAMILY DAY	
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice

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

Tuesday, February 28, 2023 the office will be closing at 1 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 16th we have collected 59 jars.

TAKE OUT Roast Pork Supper will be held on Thursday, March 23rd from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM. Tickets will be available starting February 21st - \$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



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!

Central United Church Hall in Clifton is having an afternoon of Irish entertainment featuring "Talented Locals" - **Sunday, March 12 at 2 PM**. You won't be disappointed. Bring a friend.... Refreshments will be available following the concert. A free will offering would be appreciated.

SUICIDE AWARENESS

There is no single cause that can explain or predict a suicide. Suicide-related thoughts or behaviors are caused by a combination of personal, social and cultural factors. The presence of these factors differs from person to person throughout life.

Factors that may increase the risk of suicide include:

- a previous suicide attempt;
- a mental illness such as depression;
- a feeling of hopelessness or distress: these feelings describe the belief that the current life or situation will not improve;
- misuse of alcohol or substances;
- physical pain or chronic (long-term) illness

trauma, for example:

- violence,
- victimization such as bullying,
- childhood abuse or neglect,
- the suicide of a family member or friend,
- events that affect multiple generations in the family.

Other factors that may increase the risk of suicide include:

- a significant loss, personal (relationships), social, cultural, financial (loss of employment);
- life changes or significant stressors such as: unemployment, homelessness, poor physical health or physical illness, the death of a loved one, the harassment, discrimination;
- lack of access or availability of mental health services;
- personal difficulties related to identity (sexuality, culture);
- lack of support from family, friends or community;
- a feeling of isolation.

For help:

- CHIMO Line – 1-800-668-6868
- Tele Care – 811
- Mental Health Center – 506-547-2110
- CMHA of NB – 506-547-2038
- Mind of Peace – 506-252-2976
- Hospital – 506-544-3000
- In case of Emergency - 911



SCRIPTURE READINGS *(New Revised Standard Version)*

EXODUS 24:12-18

12 The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction."

13 So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God.

14 To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

15 Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.

16 The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud.

17 Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.

18 Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

MATTHEW 17:1-9

17 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves.

2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.

3 Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

4 Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

5 While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"

6 When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear.

7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid."

8 And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."