

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

February 26, 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>
Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11	Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17
<i>We welcome Linda Knowles MacPherson as our guest pianist/organist and thank her for the beautiful music</i>	
Today's bulletins are in honour of Clotilda "Clottie" Ellis who is celebrating her 100th birthday today placed by Lela, Percy and family	

*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.

LENTEN CANDLE-LIGHTING PRAYER *(responsively)*

...Today we take one step on our Lenten journey, travelling in the shadow of our teacher, hoping to follow faithfully in his Way.

We keep our senses attuned, attentive to God's Child, the Beloved. Even when what we experience makes us uncomfortable or afraid, we don't turn away.

The Lenten Candle is lit.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP - "Hold us in your grace"

***Hold us in your grace, O God,
hold us in your grace.
Hold us in your grace, O God,
hold us in your grace.***

***Hold us,
hold us in your grace.
Hold us,
hold us in your grace.***

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsively)*

...Come away from the world and all that's so familiar, and begin wandering through all that lives here.

We see there is life here. It's not as barren as we had thought.

Come into the wilderness and discover you're not alone. We're together in this sacred place.

We come to find ourselves changed and restored in this wilderness together.

GATHERING PRAYER

*GATHERING HYMN –

VU #108

“Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights”

Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter Day.

The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,
who found in weakness greater power,
embraces us, though lost and flawed,
and leads us to his Rising Hour.

We bear the silence, cross and pain
of human burdens, human strife,
while sisters, brothers help sustain
our courage till the Feast of Life.

And though the road is hard and steep,
the Spirit ever calls us on through
Calvary’s dying, dark and deep,
until we see the coming Dawn.

So let us choose the path of One
who wore, for us, the crown of thorn,
and slept in death that we might wake
to life on Resurrection Morn!

Rejoice, O sons and daughters! Sing
and shout hosannas! Raise the strain!
For Christ, whose death Good Friday brings
on Easter Day will rise again!

LENTEN TENEBRAE (*responsively*)

Charlotte & Courtney Woods

...Six Candles are lit, as well as the Christ Candle

One: We suffer when we do not know who we are.

Two: We are constantly tempted by the seduction of power, the glamour of wealth, and ego-gratifying attention.

One: We are drawn into these temptations because we forget who we are and whose we are.

Two: When we forget we are created in God’s image,

One: we lose our connection to our soul and to our God.

Two: Like fish out of water, we lose our connection to that which gives us life.

One: We then live with consequences, which are hard to bear, for ourselves, for our society, and for our world.

The first candle is extinguished.

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.***

Two: Let us pray.

**We really don’t live by bread alone, God,
but by every word that comes from you.
Feed us with your wisdom and your truth.
Quench our deepest thirst
to find the peace you offer.
In this journey of Lent, travel with us
as we seek to find our true self,
the self you’ve created us to be.
In Jesus’ name we pray.
Amen**

***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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Anne Brooks

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Matthew 4:1-11

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC - “Spirit, Open My Heart”

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Judy Losier

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD

***OFFERING HYMN** – “These Gifts We Bring”

***These gifts we bring with grateful hearts,
to reconcile, make new.***

***Gather us in grace, show us the way,
to live our lives in Truth
to share Your love in all we do.***

Words & Music: Pat Mayberry ©2016

Arrangement: David Kai ©2016

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

**Loving One,
take these gifts we offer,
and use them for your work.
Take our very selves—
our hopes, our dreams,
our plans, our wonderings—
and use them too,
to make the world a better place.
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 kindom 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 –**

“Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love”

VU #574

Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,
tender and true, tender and true,
out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Jesus, the Saviour, this gospel to tell,
joyfully came, joyfully came,
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame,
seeking the lost, seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.

Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;
why do they roam? why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget;
home, weary wanderer, home!
Wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love!
Come and abide, come and abide,
lifting my life till it rises above
envy and falsehood and pride:
seeking to be, seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.

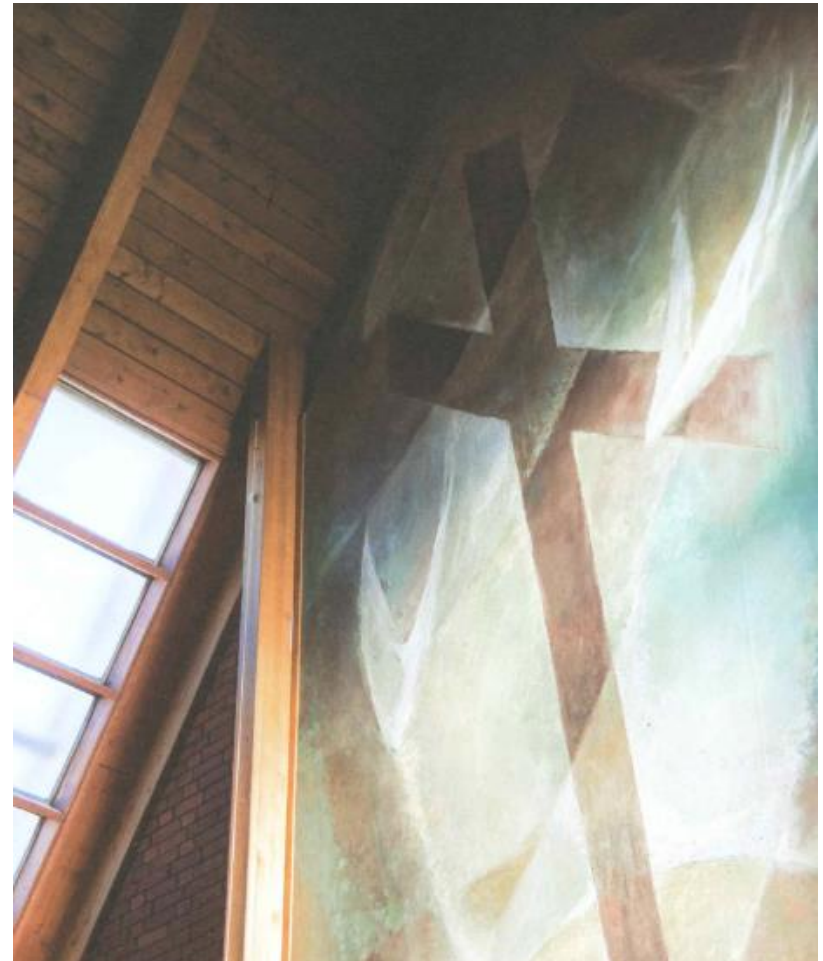
***BLESSING**

***CHORAL CLOSING** – “When You Walk from Here” – VU #298

***When you walk from here,
when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy,
and with God’s humble care.***

*(The Christ Candle, Lenten Tenebrae & Lenten candles are
extinguished.)*

POSTLUDE



Church News

This Week at First United – Feb 27 th to March 3 rd		
Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Tuesday	Office closed at 1:00 PM	
Tuesday	7:00 PM	Property Management - RMR
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM

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 22nd we have collected 67 jars.

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

Church News

The Pastoral Care Team has acquired some Energy Efficiency Kits, which are funded by the Government of Canada, supported by the Government of NB and administered by NB Power. These kits contain energy efficient products which can help save on energy costs and improve home comfort! And can be a way to help curb power bills as the rates are about to rise! As you can see from the sample boxes in the narthex included are long-life LED light bulbs, night light, kitchen and bathroom tap aerators, shower head, and a smart power bar. The boxes are available for members of our church family. If you are interested in having one for your home, please pick one up on your departure and be sure to sign your name and email address on the sheet available there!

Annual General Meeting is scheduled to be held on Sunday, March 19th after the Sunday worship service. The Annual Report will “hopefully” be ready for pick up no later than March 12th. If you wish to receive an electronic copy, please email the office at firstadmin@nb.aibn.com.

Community News

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.

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

ST. PATRICK'S DAY HAM DINNER TAKE-OUT St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue on Saturday, March 18th from 4:00 – 6:00 pm Tickets are \$ 17.00 each and all will be sold in advance. Contact St. George's Church Office at 506-546-322

SCRIPTURE READINGS *(New Revised Standard Version)*

GENESIS 2:15-17; 3:1-7

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden;

17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Chapter 3

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;

3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'"

4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die;

5 for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.

7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

MATTHEW 4:1-11

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

2 He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.

3 The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

4 But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple,

6 saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

7 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor;

9 and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

10 Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

11 Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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