

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

March 12, 2023

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Audio & Visual Technicians Lester Scott & Donald Eddy
Greeters Harvie & Julie Spence

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Exodus 17:1-7	1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 95	Psalm 23
Romans 5:1-11	Ephesians 5:8-14
John 4:5-42	John 9:1-41

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 further 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.

Three Lenten Candles are 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 all you thought you knew and find your voice.

We have so much to say, so much has gone unsaid.

Come into the wilderness and find others that are ready to speak with you and to hear your truth.

We come to tell the truth.

GATHERING PRAYER

*GATHERING HYMN –

“Water Flowing from the Mountains”

MV #87

Water flowing from the mountains.
Water flowing o’er the earth.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water gives us birth.

Refrain

Drink deep this source of life.

Drink deep and know.

*For living water sings, and living water brings
the love that makes our spirit grow.*

Water rushing down the rivers.
Water rushing to the sea.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water makes us free.

Refrain

Water sprinkling from the dry place.
Water sprinkling in the sun.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water for each one.

Refrain

LENTEN TENEBRAE (*responsively*) Gary Branch & Gayle Ferron

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

One: We live in a world of many divisions: class, gender, religion, race, and politics.

Two: It is not easy to risk our vulnerabilities in order to get to know someone who seems different.

One: Though God welcomes all peoples, invites the gifts of all nations, and celebrates the uniqueness of each culture, we live in poverty when we remain separated.

Two: Our lines of separation diminish our togetherness and diminish our humanity.

One: Like the Samaritan woman at the well, we are thirsty for a drink that will quench our deepest yearnings.

Two: We long to drink deeply at the well.

One: Yet, we remain thirsty and live a life of quiet desperation.

The third 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.

**Holy One, you said,
“Ask, and it will be given to you;
search, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened for you.”
Therefore, we pray,
quench our deepest thirst for acceptance, love, and peace.
Fill our cup with your spirit till it overflows.
May we drink to our heart’s content at your well.
May we live a life of blessing
by giving to others what we’ve been given
with generosity, courage, and hope.
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*)

Julie Spence & Joanne Wiseman

John 4:13-14

***SINGING A SONG** – “This Little Light of Mine”

This little light of mine
I’m gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine
I’m gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine
I’m gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel (NO!)
I’m gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel (NO!)
I’m gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel (NO!)
I’m gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Don’t let anyone “whiff” (blow) it out.
I’m gonna let it shine.
Don’t let anyone “whiff” (blow) it out.
I’m gonna let it shine.
Don’t let anyone “whiff” (blow) it out.
I’m gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

See the light spreading round the world.
See all the faces shine.
See the light spreading round the world.
See all the faces shine.
See the light spreading round the world.
See all the faces shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isabel MacLaggan

Exodus 17:1-7

John 4:5-42

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC – “As the Deer Pants for the Water”

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Clint Ronalds

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)*

**Creator and Creating One,
as one closer than our breathing,
and knowing our needs,
bless the gifts we bring today.
Through us, use them
in the love and service of others.
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** – “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” – VU #651

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to 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 – March 13 th to March 17 th		
Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Tuesday	4:00 PM	Pastoral Council - 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 March 9th we have collected 91 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



Annual General Meeting is scheduled to be held on Sunday, March 19th after the Sunday worship service. The Annual Reports are printed and available for you to pick up in the narthex. Should you take one with you today please ensure you *bring it back with you next Sunday* for the Annual Meeting. If you wish to receive an electronic copy, please email the office at firstadmin@nb.aibn.com.

Please join the Treble Makers to hear some Irish tunes on Saturday, **March 18th at First United Church at 2 PM** (Snow date March 24th). There is no admission fee. However, donations of peanut butter for the volunteer center and/or non-perishable items for the church pantry are most welcome.

Church News

Security Notice from Property Management Team – Footprints in the snow have brought to our attention that someone attempted to gain access to the property through the windows and doors, walking all around both the church and the hall, including climbing the snow bank in front of the church offices. Therefore we ask anyone who has keys to the church and/or the Donald Eddy Hall please ensure the doors are securely closed and locked prior to leaving the premises. Thank you.

The Pastoral Care Team has acquired some Energy Efficient kits which contain energy saving products including long-life LED light bulbs, night light, kitchen and bathroom tap aerators, shower head, and a smart power bar which can be a way to help curb energy costs! The boxes are available for members of our church family. If interested in having one for your home, please pick one up on your departure and sign your name and email address on the sheet available!

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....You are encouraged to wear *green*....Refreshments will be available following the concert. A free will offering would be appreciated.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY HAM DINNER TAKE-OUT will be held at 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. For tickets contact St. George's Church office at 506-546-3225.

SCRIPTURE READINGS *(New Revised Standard Version)*

EXODUS 17:1-7

1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

2 The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?"

3 But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"

4 So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me."

5 The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go.

6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

JOHN 4:5-42

5 So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

8 (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)

10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"

12 Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"

13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,

14 but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."

17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,'

18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"

19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet.

20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."

21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

23 But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.

24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

25 The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."

26 Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

27 Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?"

28 Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,

29 "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"

30 They left the city and were on their way to him.

31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something."

32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."

33 So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?"

34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work."

35 Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.

36 The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.

37 For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.'

38 I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

39 Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done."

40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.

41 And many more believed because of his word.

42 They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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

