

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

April 23, 2023

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Audio & Visual Technicians Shirley Allain & Donald Eddy
Greeters Margaret Payne-Chénard & Mike Kierstead

All musical selections reprinted under license #4-606499, One License for Churches

<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4,12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35	Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10
<i>Today's bulletin is in loving memory of our brother-in-law, Michael Cooper, who died unexpectedly on April 18, 2023, from Elizabeth and Gary Branch.</i>	

*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

...It's in his name, we light this candle.

The Christ Candle is lit.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP - "There Is Room for All" – MV #62

***There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;
there is room for all, sheltered in God's love.
And I rejoice and sing,
"My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."
There is room for all. There is room for all!***

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – "Come, Children, Join to Sing" – VU #345

Come, children, join to sing: Hallelujah!
Praise to our Servant King: Hallelujah!
Let all with heart and voice,
saved by God's gracious choice,
now in this place rejoice: Hallelujah!

Come, lift your hearts on high: Hallelujah!
Let praises fill the sky; Hallelujah!
Christ calls his people friends,
the helpless he defends,
a love never ends: Hallelujah!

Praise yet our Christ again: Hallelujah!
Raise high the joyous strain: Hallelujah!
The whole creation o'er
Let all God's love adore,
singing for evermore: Hallelujah!

PRAYER OF HUMILITY *(responsively)*

Holy One of unwavering hope,

when all seems lost and circumstances leave us feeling empty and afraid,

may your words of life burn within our hearts. *(Silent reflection)*

Holy One of unwavering faith,

when trust seems impossible, and our eyes remain tightly closed to the constant breaking in of Spirit,

may your words of life burn within our hearts. *(Silent reflection)*

Holy One of unwavering love,

when our spirits feel dry and listless and where hurt and/or resentment create barriers to human care and friendship,

may your words of life burn within our hearts. *(Silent reflection)*

CHORAL RESPONSE – “Jesus, You Fill Our Hearts” – MV #101

***Jesus, you fill our hearts with your love,
our minds with your peace,
and our lives
with your joy.***

***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** –

VU #575

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

I’m gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I’m gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I’m gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I’m gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I’m gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I’m gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I’m gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I’m gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Brenda Parrott

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Luke 24:13-35

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC – “The Spring Has Come!”

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Anne Wilson

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.*

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

Giver of Life,
in the same way
bread is broken and shared
for the benefit of all,
so might our offerings
of money, time, and giftedness
be a breaking open of abundant love
to the world.
Amen.

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(responsively)*

...Bread for all, bread in all, we pray:

when we are orphaned, hungry, oppressed. *(Silence)*

Faith for all, faith in all, we pray:

**to recognize faith in other ways, other texts, and other
worshipping communities.** *(Silence)*

Grace for all, grace in all, we pray:

when we are estranged, alienated, scorned. *(Silence)*

Wisdom for all, wisdom in all, we pray:

when we are disabled, neglected, impoverished. *(Silence)*

Spirit for all, Spirit in all, we pray:

for Mother Earth, our children, and a shared, common future.

(Silence)

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

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** – “We Are Pilgrims”

VU #595

We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

I will hold the Christ light for you
in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I’ll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we’ve seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL SENDING FORTH** (*Tune Promise VU #703*)

***As we go into the future,
As we tell of the Good News,
We will show our love for others,
Just as Christ has told us to.
We will tell the wondrous story,
Of a love that's made for you,
And it's all because of Easter –
Sing a joyous Hal-le-lu!***

The Christ Candle is extinguished.

POSTLUDE

Church News

This Week at First United – April 24 th to April 28 th		
Monday	By-Election – DEMH GYM	
	7:00 PM	West Bathurst Cemetery – 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 April 20th we have collected XXX jars.

TAKE OUT Ham & Scallop Potato Supper will be held on Thursday, May 18th from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM. Tickets are \$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 McDonald Restaurant, Bathurst***

The Upper Room for May and June are in the Narthex as well as on the table under the office window. Please feel free to take one. A container for donations is located with the publication.

Prayer Request Box – If someone has a prayer request you can write the request at church or do it at home and put it in the box when you arrive on Sunday morning. The box will be brought to Rev. Neal when the offering is brought forward. What is in the box will be seen by Rev. Neal only.

Flowers for Mother's Day – We will be having flowers placed in our sanctuary in honor of Mother's day. Those wishing to contribute to the Mother's Day flower fund may place an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday morning or drop it in at the office during the week between 9 AM and 3 PM. Please mark clearly on the face of the envelope – **Mother's Day Flowers** with your **name, PAR or envelope number** and **to whom the dedication is in memory of**. An insert will be included in the bulletin on Mother's Day, May 14th with your dedications. **Please have your dedications in the office by Tuesday, May 9th.**

Church News

LIVESTREAM AND SOUND VOLUNTEERS - First United Church is in need of several individuals who would like to assist with the live stream and sound ministry. This ministry provides members of our faith community the ability to connect with our services when they cannot attend in-person. The time commitment is small and flexible. Training and support in the use of the equipment is provided. In order to consistently offer this important service we require your assistance.

Community News

A take-out lobster supper is being held at **Central United Church** in **Clifton** on Saturday May 13th. The cost this year is \$30 per person – choice of shelled or un-shelled lobster and desert choices are lemon meringue or cherry cheesecake. For tickets, please contact Lois Archibald (506-548-8927).

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on Saturday, May 13th from 8:00 – 10:00 am. Come and enjoy fellowship and great food. Free will offering at the door.

SCRIPTURE READINGS *(New Revised Standard Version)*

ACTS 2:14A, 36-41

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

36 Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?'

38 Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.'

40 And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.'

41 So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

LUKE 24:13-35

13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,

14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them,

16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

17 And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad.

18 Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?"

19 He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,

20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.

21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.

22 Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning,

23 and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.

24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him."

25 Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!

26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?"

27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.

29 But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them.

30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.

32 They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

33 That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.

34 They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!"

35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

