

*The United Church of Canada*  
*Bathurst Pastoral Charge*  
**First United Church, Bathurst**  
[www.firstunited-bathurst.ca](http://www.firstunited-bathurst.ca)

**April 30, 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

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Acts 2:42-47	Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 23	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:19-25	1 Peter 2:2-10
John 10:1-10	John 14:1-14

*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**

Holy One, be our light and our way.

Illumine the path of hope and wholeness, that we might venture forth with courage and confidence.

Point us toward the One whom the faithful call *Light of the World*.

It is 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** *(responsively)*

Come and gather round in this holy time

**of song and prayer, word and silence.**

Come and gather round as we celebrate the spirit

**that is within and through us.**

Come, Holy One, and be with us

**in this time of community.**

**Amen**

**\*GATHERING HYMN** – “Morning Has Broken” – VU #409

Morning has broken like the first morning,  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

**PRAYER OF HUMILITY**

**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*)

The REDress Project (*Jaime Black*)

**GIFT OF MUSIC** – “Wake O My Soul”

Wake O my soul, to earth and sea and sky.  
Wake to the forests, fields the mountains high.  
Open my eyes to every rock and tree,  
the Holy in all we see.

*Refrain:*  
*You the Light of all creation,  
Blessed be Your name.  
Every seed, every soul Your Love proclaim.*

Wake O my soul, to justice and to peace.  
Wake to a world where hate and war shall cease.  
Where every truth and story is revealed,  
the wounds of the past can heal.

*Refrain:*

Wake O my soul, to laughter and to song.  
Sing alleluia every doubt be gone.  
Stir in our hearts a sacred harmony,  
a prayer of community.

*Refrain:*

*ENGAGING*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*Anne Wilson*

Psalm 23

Acts 2:42-47

**REFLECTION**

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**REFLECTIVE HYMN**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION****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*)

**Holy One,  
we bring what we have.  
We know many around us are in need,  
and while *we* can't do everything,  
we know the Spirit can take what we offer  
and use it collectively to make a difference.  
Take these gifts, then,  
brought with glad and generous hearts,  
and use them for the good of all.  
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 kindom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** – “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing” – VU #559

Come, O Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing your grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing  
call for songs of endless praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning,  
giving thanks for having come,  
come to trust, at every turning,  
God will guide me safely home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God,  
came to rescue me from danger,  
precious presence, precious blood.

O, to grace how great a debt,  
or daily I am drawn anew!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to you.  
Prone to wander, I can feel it,  
wander from the love I've known:  
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,  
seal it for your very own.

**\*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 – May 1 <sup>st</sup> to May 5 <sup>th</sup>		
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 27<sup>th</sup> we have collected 315 jars.

**TAKE OUT Ham & Scallop Potato Supper** will be held on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> 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**

## Church News

**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 14<sup>th</sup> with your dedications. **Please have your dedications in the office by Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**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 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 – 10:00 am. Come and enjoy fellowship and great food. Free will offering at the door.

**Annual Mother's Day Luncheon & Bake Sale** will be held at Holy Family Parish Hall, 430 St. Peter Avenue, Bathurst on Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon. Tickets \$12 per person.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** (*New Revised Standard Version*)

**PSALM 23**

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;
- 3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

**ACTS 2:42-47**

- 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
- 43 Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.
- 44 All who believed were together and had all things in common;
- 45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.
- 46 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts,
- 47 praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

