

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

May 7, 2023

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Audio & Visual Technicians Brenda Parrott & Donald Eddy
Greeters Peter & Edie Gammon

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

<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Acts 7:55-60	Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 2:2-10	1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:1-14	John 14:15-21

The family of Bertram Demmings dedicates today's bulletin in recognition of Bert's 104th birthday. May he be abundantly blessed with good health and happiness today, tomorrow and the days to come.

*"The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.
 He causes me to lie down in green pastures;
 He leads me beside still waters.
 He restores my soul;
 He leads me in the paths of righteousness
 for His name's sake."*

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 is in his name; we light this candle.

The Christ Candle is lit.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP - "Praise to the Lord"

VU #835
(Verse 1)

***Praise to the Lord, all of you, God's servants.
 Blessed be the name of our God now and ever.
 From the rising up of the sun
 May the Lord be praised,
 praise to the name of the Lord!***

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsively)*

Like the multi-hued pebbles gathered on a beach,
we come from many places.

Like river-stones, smooth from life's surges or chipped in the world's torrents,

we come worn and wounded.

Like precious stones, chosen, crafted, and valued,
we come, cared for and loved by God.

Like the stones of a building,
God brings us together.

Come, as living stones, in God's presence!

We come to worship.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – “See Ye First the Kingdom” VU #356

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and God’s righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah.

Ask and it shall be given unto you;
seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah.

We do not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, Hallelujah.

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

CHORAL RESPONSE – “Love Us into Fullness” MV #81

*Love us into fullness,
touch us with your grace;
Jesus, in your mercy,
draw us to your face.*

*Love us into fullness,
hold us in your care,
cheer us with your presence
here and everywhere.*

*Love us into fullness,
and we will be strong;
Jesus, walk beside us,
fill our hearts with song.*

***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

Cheryl Brewster

Acts 7:55-60

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-6

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC – “I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Martha Vickers

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.***

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

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.**

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** – “Jesus, Saviour, Pilot Me” VU #637

Jesus, Savior, pilot me,
over life's tempestuous sea;
unknown waves before me roll,
hiding rock and treacherous shoal;
chart and compass come from thee,
Jesus, Saviour, pilot me.

As a mother stills her child,
thou canst hush the ocean wild;
boisterous waves obey thy will
when thou biddest them "Be still."
Wondrous Sovereign of the sea,
Jesus, Saviour, pilot me.

When at last I near the shore,
and the fearful breakers roar
'twixt me and the peaceful land,
still supported by thy hand,
may I hear thee say to me,
"Fear not, I will pilot thee."

***BLESSING** *(responsively)*

...Friends, go now, as Easter People, living stones, called and chosen,
forgiven and formed into a new community, working together to show
God’s mercy and truth.

**We go to live in God’s way, in the name of Christ and the
power of the Spirit.**

Amen

***CHORAL SENDING FORTH** – “I Wish You the Blessing” (2X)

***I wish you the blessing of faith to sustain you,
friends to support you, challenge to stir you,
songs to empower you, peace to refresh you,
tears to release you, laughter to heal you,
love to nurture your soul.***

The Christ Candle is extinguished.

POSTLUDE

Church News

This Week at First United – May 8 th to May 12 th		
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 May 4th we have collected 322 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**

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.**

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).

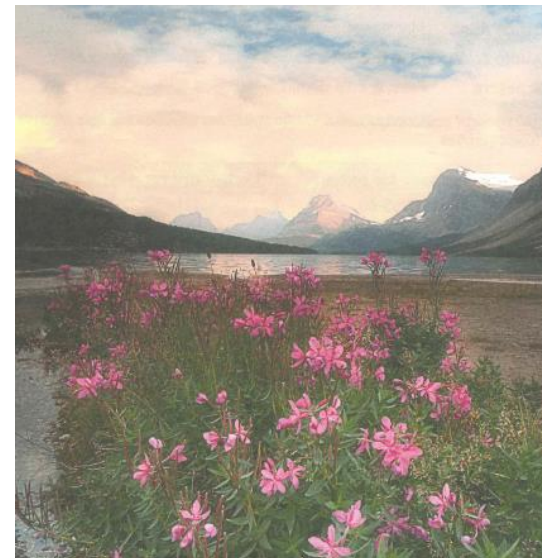
A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George’s Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on Saturday, May 13th from 8:00 – 10:00 am. Come and enjoy fellowship and great food. Free will offering at the door.

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

Anglican Parish of New Bandon will host a take-out Lobster Supper on Saturday, June 3, 2023 at the **Christ Church Hall, Clifton**. Pick-up between 2:30 pm and 4:00 pm. All tickets will be sold in advance. Ticket prices - Adults \$25.00 - Children [under 12] \$15.00.

For tickets, please contact:

Kay Addison	506-350-0960
Darlene Dempsey	506-544-6997
Nancy Hodnett	506-545-5263
Lesla Scott	via Facebook Messenger



SCRIPTURE READINGS *(New Revised Standard Version)*

ACTS 7:55-60

55 But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

56 "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

57 But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.

58 Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

60 Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

1 PETER 2:2-10

2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—

3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and

5 like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

6 For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

7 This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,"

8 and "A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

JOHN 14:1-6

1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

4 And you know the way to the place where I am going."

5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

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