

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

May 21, 2023

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

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| <u>Lectionary for today</u> | <u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u> |
|---|--|
| Acts 1:6-14 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 John 17:1-11 | Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 John 20:19-23 |
| <i>The bulletins have been placed in loving memory of Fran & Elmer Daley by Glen, Joyce and family</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 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 (Based on Psalm 68) (responsively)

...Here we come to sing.

Here we come to dance.

Here we come to pray.

Here we come to worship.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – "We Praise You, O God"

VU #218

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.

With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever we praise!

PRAYER OF HUMILITY *(Based on 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11)*

ENGAGING

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** – “I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy”

Text: George W. Cooke

Tune: I’VE GOT THE JOY, Irregular; George W. Cooke

I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy,
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;
I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy,
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

I’ve got the peace that passes understanding,
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;
I’ve got the peace that passes understanding,
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

I’ve got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus,
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;
I’ve got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus,
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jini Palmer

Acts 1:6-14

John 17:1-11

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC – “As the Wind Song through the Trees”

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

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 gifts of time, talent, and treasure.
Bless all we offer, we pray, that it might be
for the nurture and stewardship of Creation.
By these gifts, may your presence
in the world be made known.
Through these gifts, may we embody
your love and grace to all.
Amen**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER – VU #921 *(in unison)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
forever and ever.
Amen**

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CLOSING HYMN –

VU #427

“To Show by Touch and Word”

To show by touch and word devotion to the earth,
to hold in full regard all life that comes to birth,
we need, O God, the will to find
the good you had of old in mind.

Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most,
our hearts to long for truth till pride of self is lost.
For every challenge that we face
we need your guidance and your grace.

Let love from day to day be yardstick, rule, and norm,
and let our lives portray your word in human form.
Now come with us that we may have
your wits about us where we live.

*BLESSING

*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

Ah, lovely May, your artist's tray
Spills daffodil and lilac plume
Then scatters in their petal-wake
Many, oh many a budded bloom

Ah, lovely May, your minstrels play
Time's greenest green and bluest blue
But then your music fades away
While we are busy loving you

Ah lovely May, your comely way
Makes orchards blush and young love too
And everybody, young and old
Is gladdened by the kiss of you

Ah, lovely May, ah, holiday
From firesides and surly storm
You dance across fresh fields of grass
In flip-flop feet, sunny and warm

Ah lovely May of bloom-fringed path
You slip away far, far too soon
But always in your aftermath
You leave upon dawn's door-sill, June

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Church News

| This Week at First United – May 22 nd to 26 th | | |
|--|--|------------------------------|
| Monday | Victoria Day – Church Office Closed | |
| Tuesday | 9:00 AM | Ways & Means Committee - RMR |
| | 7:00 PM | CD Team Meeting - RMR |

Church office hours – Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
*Please note the **office will be closed** on Monday, May 22nd*

Peanut Butter – Our pledge this year to the Bathurst Volunteer Center is 900 jars. As of May 18th 366 jars have been donated.

Prayer Request Box - If someone has a prayer request you can write the request and put it in the box. The box will be brought forward to Rev. Neal when the offering is presented.

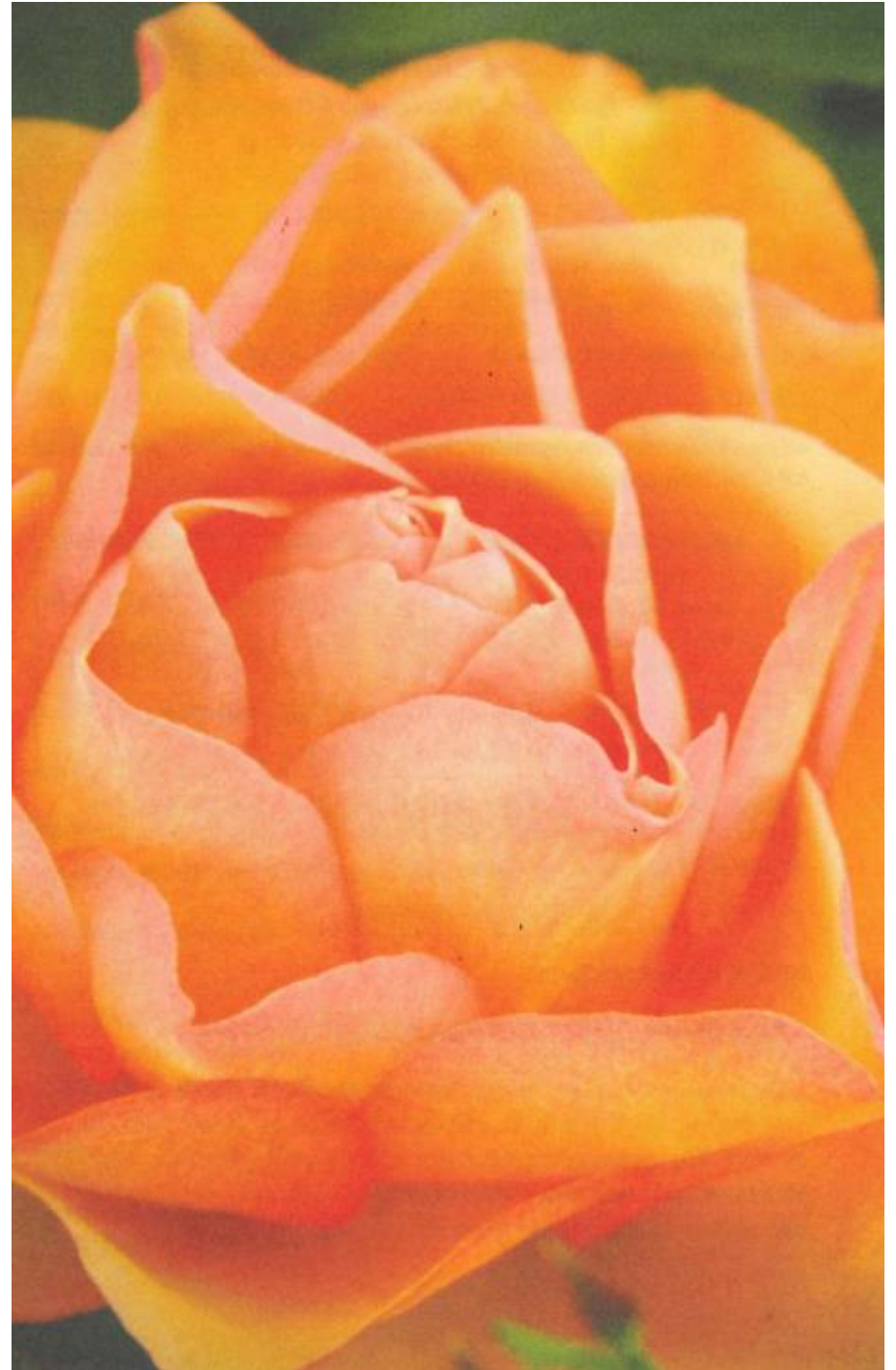
Job and Volunteer Opportunities - Are you ready to make an impact? Check out all the job and volunteer opportunities available using the following link: <https://united-church.ca/opportunities> including a number of new Canada Summer Jobs positions.

See why The United Church of Canada is the perfect platform to grow yourself and your career! [Apply now!](#) Or go to the United Church of Canada website and search 'Job and Volunteer Opportunities'.

Community News

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 |
| Lesa Scott | via Facebook Messenger |



SCRIPTURE READINGS *(New Revised Standard Version)*

ACTS 1:6-14

As this passage is read, stop at the key verses listed below and invite a different voice to read the reflection. After a pause, continue reading.

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Gathered around this place, the time is coming close, but time is something we can't plan, especially God's time. What questions have you left to ask Jesus? What do you need to tell him? Take this time to speak to Jesus. (Pause)

9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.

11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Such a small band of followers in a large world. Where was your name? The Realm of God seems so fragile in so small a community. Where was your name? There must be more? Where was your name? Speak it now, quietly. God wants you to place it there. (Pause)

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.

13 When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

14 All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The group remained together, the followers of Jesus living in unity, wondering in unity, praying. What is your prayer as a disciple? What is your prayer today? God is listening. (Pause)

JOHN 17:1-11

17 After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you,

2 since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

3 And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

4 I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do.

5 So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

6 "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you,

8 for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me.

9 I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.

10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them.

11 And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.