

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

June 11, 2023

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Audio & Visual Technicians Shirley Allain & Donald Eddy
Greeters Gary Branch & Beth Sullivan

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Genesis 12:1-9 Psalm 33:1-12 Romans 4:13-25 Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26	Genesis 18:1-15 (21:1-7) Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35—10:8, (9-23)
<i>We welcome Rev. Blair Lewis who is leading us in worship today – Thank you!</i>	
<i>We also welcome Linda Knowles MacPherson as our guest pianist/organist and thank her for the beautiful music</i>	
<i>The bulletins have been placed in loving memory of Edgar Brown by Helené</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:** *(responsively)*

One: As we light the Christ candle this morning we sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things! God's right hand and holy arm have given God the victory.

All: The Lord has made known victory; God has revealed total vindication in the sight of the nations.

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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!***

Greetings to our brothers and sisters in the faith.

We come to celebrate God's presence,

and God's love expressed through Jesus Christ.

We come remembering Christ's life and ministry,

and the life we are called to live.

We come as a pilgrim people

searching for ways to live out our faith.

We come seeking the strength to carry on our journey.

Let us rejoice in God's gift to us!

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We have gathered to worship God.

**We have come seeking comfort,
inspiration, community, and insight.**

We have come to open ourselves
to the power of God's presence in our midst.

**We have come to offer up the seasons
and the turnings in our lives,
and to ask God's help in our learning and in our growing.**

GATHERING PRAYER: *(in unison)*

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires, known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN:** "Come, Let Us Sing"

VU #222

Come, let us sing to the Lord our song,
we have stood silently too long;
surely the Lord deserves our praise,
so joyfully thank God for our days.

O thirsty soul, come drink at the well;
God's living waters will never fail.
Surely the Lord will help you to stand,
strengthened and comforted by God's hand.

You dwell among us and cause us to pray,
and walk with each other following your way;
our precious brothers and sisters will grow
in the fulfilling love they know.

Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing
to the desire of all living things.
Come, all you creatures, high and low,
let your praises endlessly flow.

PRAYER OF HUMILITY: *(in unison)*

**Fit us, O God, for this new day.
Through your Spirit, grant us courage,
so that today's uncertainties may not overwhelm us.
Through your Christ, fill us with love,
so that differences may not divide us.
Through your creative energy, make us new,
so that the past may not enslave us.
Spirit, Christ, Creator, lead us into newness of life.
Amen.**

The Assurance of our Faith:

God the Creator brings you new life,
forgives and redeems you.
Take hold of this forgiveness,
and live your life in the spirit of Jesus. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE: "Listen, God is Calling"

MV #97

(Listen)

***Listen, God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness,
comfort and 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 #639

"One More Step Along the World I Go"

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

**O God, your Word is a lamp to our feet,
and a light to our path.**

**Give us grace to receive your truth
in faith and love. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Cheryl Brewster

1 Samuel 16:1-13

*Responsive Reading - Psalm 33 - Page 760 - Voices United

(Please stand as you are able)

Matthew 9:9-13

REFLECTION: "Celebrating Birthdays"

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION:

GIFT OF MUSIC: "Come In, Come In and Sit Down"

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

The Ronalds Family

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:

Music and laughter,
hands and minds,

curiosity and compassion:

what an abundance of gifts we have!

All these gifts are symbolized in our offering.

Let us commit ourselves in service,

as we worship God with the presentation of our 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:** *(in unison)*

God of all peoples and God of all places,

we present these offerings,

that they may be used to extend your liberating reign.

With them, we offer our varied ministries,

that each of us may be part of your answer

to the cries of the world. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again will I say rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone.

The Lord is near.

Do not worry about anything,

but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving

let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:4-6

SHARING OUR CONCERNS:

This morning in our pastoral prayer we remember all who are ill in hospital or at home.

We remember those who are living in long-term care who are facing significant health challenges and all who are searching for a path forward in the presence of uncertainty.

We remember all who are living in a time of grief and loss that they may know the comforting presence of loved ones and your Holy Spirit.

We remember all who are living with the impact of wild fires that are happening across our country. May the power of Your love be a source of comfort in a time of uncertainty.

Lord of all being and source of every blessing,
we thank you for all good things:
for life and love,
for health and food,
for work and home,
for nature's beauty and comfort,
for human skills and laughter,
for memory and hope,
for everything which gives us
pleasure, nourishment, and strength.

God our creator, our centre, our friend,
we thank you
for the blessings of life,
for those who are dear to us,
for those who have died,
and for all who have helped and influenced us.

Most of all, we thank you for the faith that is in us,
for our awareness of you,
and our hope in you.

Keep us, we pray,
thankful, faithful, and hopeful
until our lives shall end.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER: *(in unison)*

VU #921

**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:** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" VU #333
(tune Blaenwern VU 389)

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

***COMMISSIONING:**

All:

**May the blessing of God,
the giver of every good and perfect gift;
and of Christ, who summons us to service;
and of the Holy Spirit, who inspires generosity and love,
be with us all.**

***BLESSING:**

Go into the world in peace.
Love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
with all your strength,
and love your neighbour as yourself.
Mark 12:30-31

***CHORAL SENDING FORTH – “I Wish You the Blessing”**

***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

Church office hours – Monday to Thursday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
The office will be **closed on Fridays** until the Labour Day Weekend.

2023 High School Graduates will be honoured with a special service on Sunday, June 18, 2023. Please come and celebrate with us!

Cake Pans – The Ways & Means Team would like to remind anyone who has baked cakes for the suppers that there are still several pans upstairs in the kitchen. Please drop by and pick them up during the church office hours.

Peanut Butter – Our pledge this year to the Bathurst Volunteer Center is **900 jars**. As of June 7st **382** jars have been donated.

Community News

The family of the late *Brian Knowles* will be hosting a **Celebration of Life** for him on **Saturday, July 1, 2023**, which would have been Brian's 80th birthday. The "open house" celebration will be at the New Bandon Salmon Beach Fire Department hall on Route 340, from 2 PM until 4PM. All are welcome to join us to share some memories of Brian.

SCRIPTURE READING *(New Revised Standard Version)*

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13 **David Anointed as King**

1 The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."

2 Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'

3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you."

4 Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

5 He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord."

7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one."

9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one."

10 Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these."

11 Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here."

12 He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one."

13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

RESPONSIVE READING - PSALM 33 - Page 760 Voices United

MATTHEW 9:9-13 **The Call of Matthew**

9 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

10 And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples.

11 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

12 But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.

13 Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

May God bless to our understanding this significant part of our Christian story...

Psalm 33

Refrain

Melody from A Collection of Hymns and Sacred Poems
Dublin, 1749

A new song to our God pro-claim, from age to age re-joice!

Shout to God for joy, you righteous!
Praise is fitting from loyal hearts.

Give thanks to God with the harp,
sing praise to God with the ten-stringed lute.

Sing a new song to God,
play skillfully and with shouts of joy.

For the word of God is true,
God's every deed is faithful. R

You love what is right and just,
the earth is full of your constant love.

By your word the heavens were made,
the countless stars by the breath of your mouth.

You gathered the waters of the sea as in a goatskin,
you stored the deep in cisterns.

Let all the earth fear you, O God,
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe.

For you spoke and it came to be,
you commanded and it stood firm.

You foil the plans of the nations,
and frustrate the schemes of the peoples.

Your counsel, O God, shall stand forever,
the purposes of your heart through all generations.

Happy the nation who has you as God.

Happy the people you choose as your own.

Our heart rejoices in you, O God,
because our hope is in your holy name.

Let your steadfast love be upon us
as we put our trust in you. R

