

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

June 18, 2023

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

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Genesis 18:1-15 (21:1-7) Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35—10:8, (9-23)	Genesis 21:8-21 Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10:24-39
<i>We welcome our BHS graduates, Cole Noble and Emma Murphy, and congratulate them on their well-deserved, hard-earned accomplishment!</i>	
<i>Today's bulletins have been placed in loving memory of Edgar Brown by his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren & in loving memory Cleveland Jagoe by his family & also in loving memory of Mary Gammon by Peter, Edie and family</i>	
<i>We welcome Linda Knowles MacPherson, today's guest pianist/organist and thank her gift of music</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

***PROCESSION OF GRADUATES** – “Land of Hope and Glory”

***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*)

The Christ Candle is lit...

Shine on us, Holy One. Warm us. Transform us.

Smile through us.

Touch others with love through our actions.

Run errands that help others with our energy.

Bless others through the words we share.

Shine through us. Now and always.

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)*

We are called together as a community listening to this moment.

We incline our ears.

We are called together as a community listening to what matters.

We are ready to listen.

We are called together as a community listening to what is true.

We have come to hear the good news proclaimed!

Together, in this community, we hear so much.

The Holy One calls us together to listen again.

GATHERING PRAYER

***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 – “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** – “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.

PRESENTING

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

Sandra Boone

Cole Noble

Emma Murphy

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Isabel MacLaggan

Based on Matthew 9:35—10:8

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER *Jennifer Oliver-Lavigne*

MESSAGE *(to the Graduates)* *Dr. Joshua Smith*

EXTENDING APPRECIATION *Jennifer Oliver-Lavigne*

GIFT OF MUSIC – “To Show by Touch and Word”

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION/YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Pat MacIntosh

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)*

**Creator of Hope,
your love has been poured into our hearts
so that we brim with hope for all.
We share in the hope as well
that we will not disappoint
with our hands, our hearts,
and each gift we give. Amen**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER – VU #916 (A Translation) *(in unison)*

**Our Father-Mother, who is in the heavens,
may your name be made holy,
may your dominion come,
may your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today the bread we need;
and forgive us our debts,
as we have forgiven our debtors;
and do not put us to the test,
but rescue us from evil.
For yours is the dominion, and the power,
and the glory forever.
Amen**

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** – “Wherever You May Go” – MV #216

*Refrain
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.*

Say the word and I will stay,
I will never go away,
we will travel side by side
and God’s love will be our guide.

Refrain

From beginning to the end
I will always be your friend,
when you need me, I'll be there,
you can trust my faithful care.

Refrain

*Wherever you may go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.*

***BLESSING**

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

***We 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

The summer church office hours are now in effect – open Monday to Thursday – 9 AM to 3 PM. The office will be closed on Fridays until after the Labour Day weekend.

The Upper Room for July and August 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.

Peanut Butter – Our pledge this year to the Bathurst Volunteer Center is **900 jars**. As of June 15st **397** jars have been donated.

Community News

New Bandon Stonehaven Union Annual Cemetery Service
Sunday June 25th, 2PM @ the Community Chapel in Stonehaven. The service will be led by Rev. Andrew and Pam Bower. Offering will be received in support of the cemetery upkeep, perpetual care or chapel maintenance. All donations will be receipted.

New Bandon Stonehaven Union Cemetery Annual Meeting
will be held on Monday July 10th, 7 PM at the Community Chapel in Stonehaven. Community members, family members and anyone with an interest in the maintenance and care of the cemetery is encouraged to attend.



A Graduation Blessing

*Embarking on a journey which began some time ago,
how could you have imagined all the things
you'd come to know.*

*You learned to use each challenge as an opportunity,
to overcome each problem, despite adversity.*

*It wasn't always easy keeping up with what was "cool", but
you held on tight to your beliefs
and carried them through school.*

*You found your voice and chose a path that honors
who you are, and that, I think, may be
your greatest lesson learned thus far.*

*For no one could be prouder of the person you've become,
and that is why we're confident that
the best is yet to come.*

*May you never waste a moment
"wishing" life was not unfair.
Rather use the gifts God gave to you,
to change the world out there.*

*Your Graduation signals us that you are on your way,
so spread your wings and fly my dear, forever and a day!*

By Barbara D. MacAdam



Graduation 2023

Cole Noble

Emma Murphy

Ashlee Sealy

Haylee Sealy

Fiona Nicol

Guest Speaker

Josh Smith

First United Church

309 St. Patrick Street

Bathurst, New Brunswick

SCRIPTURE READING

Based on Matthew 9:35—10:8

It will take a bit of effort to picture what the scene was like; it happened long ago, and it is hard for us to imagine what things were like, for they were very different from now. But it may have been a bit like a music festival or sports final – a community event at which everyone from the town or suburb was gathered together.

There was a buzz in the air. Everyone had come out to see Jesus. He had been travelling throughout the territory; he'd been to many towns; he'd healed many people and told everyone to God's love for everyone. As you might imagine, he'd attracted a lot of attention and been the centre of many crowds. We don't know why this crowd was different from the others, but it was. Something about the people gathered in this place tugged at Jesus' heartstrings. He felt how lonely and sad they were, somehow knew that they had lost their bearings and were struggling to find a way out of distress and into the joy of life. His immediate desire was to do something to lighten the load they were enduring, for Jesus was someone full of compassion.

"There are not many people who understand the love of God as well as you do," he told the disciples. "You have been travelling with me and have seen how people's lives can be transformed when God enters their hearts. I can't be everywhere, I can't meet with everyone, so I want you to be a part of what I am doing. I want you to travel to the places I can't get to and tell those you meet about God and God's great desire to release people from their suffering and bring them into a life of love and joy. The more who do this, the more God's love will spread throughout the world.

"Not everyone will welcome you and receive your message. For some, it will mean they need to change in ways they are unwilling to. Offer to teach them but do not linger about trying to convince them, for there are others that need you."

So, the disciples went and did as Jesus had asked them.

This was the beginning of something extraordinary. More than 2,000 years on from this story, we know about Jesus because followers of Jesus have travelled away from their safe places into all the regions of the world to tell all those who are feeling lost, lonely, and sad of the friendship and compassionate love of God.

