

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

June 25, 2023

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Genesis 21:8-21 Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10:24-39	Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 13 Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:40-42
<p>Today's bulletins are placed in loving memory of Glendon MacIntosh from Pat, Cindi & family & in honour of Isabel MacLaggan, who will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on Tuesday, June 28th, placed by "The Ladies CH Badminton Group".</p>	
<p>We welcome Sandra Boone who is leading us in worship today – Thank you!</p>	

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

We light this candle, not to summon God's presence, but to draw our attention to the One who is nearer than our next breath, Christ whose light is the life of all people—the Light of the World that will never be quenched.

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)

Come, let us worship the Lord!

Our God has done marvellous things!

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it!

We are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture!

Let us lift our voice in glad adoration!

Come, let us worship the Lord!

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN – “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” – VU #288**

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

(Refrain)

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

(Refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.

(Refrain)

PRAYER OF HUMILITY *(in unison)*

Holy God, we acknowledge that You do marvelous things, we profess that Yours is the earth and everything in it. And yet, we often live our lives without any attention to You; we act as though we are not Your people, but individuals creating life as we see fit.

We sing that we are “ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,” but we spend so much time bound by idols, sick in heart and mind, wearied by the world, and languishing in our broken relationships with You, our true selves, each other and creation.

We confess that we have sinned by what we have done, and what we have left undone. And we do so, trusting that Your deep desire for us is still to set us free, have us whole, abundantly alive, and restored to Your love. Forgive us, we pray, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

THE ASSURANCE OF OUR FAITH

Friends, the scriptures assure us that God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. And more, that in Christ there is nothing that can separate us from God’s love. Therefore, we proclaim what we are promised: in the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Let us walk in newness of life. 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)*

Margaret Payne-Chénard & Brenda Parrott

Based on Matthew 10:34-37

***SINGING A SONG – “I Danced in the Morning” – VU #352**

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

(Refrain)

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance, and they wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and for John;
they came with me and the dance went on.

(Refrain)

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and they left me there on a cross to die.

(Refrain)

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone;
but I am the dance and I still go on.

(Refrain)

They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

(Refrain)

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 21:8-21

Matthew 10:24-39

Wayne Lord

REFLECTION – “Together We Worship” - *Rev. Norm Seli*

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Helen Knowles

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)*

**Generous God, You bless us so richly,
and in so many ways—some we know deeply,
some we take for granted, some we have never noticed.
We thank You, because all we have
is because You first spoke;
which means that all we have is fit to respond
to Your first word. Receive our gifts.
May they be for us a sign and symbol of
a willingness to give of our whole selves.
Through Jesus, Your great gift to us, Amen.**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(responsively)*

God in Your mercy **Hear our prayers.**

Heavenly Father, on this day we give You thanks that we are, above all, Your children. We thank You for those who have created us—our own parents, and those who have come alongside us in the journey of life in love and support. And we pray for those for whom this is a difficult day: those who are missing a parent, those who have been hurt by or struggle in their relationship with their parents, or who don't have any relationship at all.

God in Your mercy **Hear our prayers.**

On this Indigenous Peoples' Day week, we pray for the people of the land on which we worship. We acknowledge the generational traumas faced by so many indigenous communities, and we pray that You would bring healing wherever it is needed. We pray that You would give those of us who are settlers renewed imaginations for how we might seek reconciliation with our indigenous siblings. And we pray in hope of that day when all people will be reconciled to one another and to You.

God in Your mercy **Hear our prayers.**

We pray for the deep hurts of the world. We lift up places of violence and discord, places of poverty and hopelessness. We pray for those suffering illness of body, mind, or soul. And we pray that our community would be a place where people can find healing in Your love, and that as we are healed, we would become agents of Your healing in this world.

God in Your mercy **Hear our prayers.**

We pray for those closest to us, and those whose needs are specially known to us. (silence)

God in Your mercy **Hear our prayers.**

And finally, we pray for ourselves. Help us to know and receive Your abundant love, mercy, and hope. (silence)

God in Your mercy **Hear our prayers.**

Trusting in Your goodness and grace, we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: ...

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** – "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song" – VU #641

Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey,
I'll tell everybody about you wherever I go:
for our life and our peace and our love is yourself.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.

Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.

As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant
to carry your cross and to share all your burdens
and tears,
for you saved me by giving your body and blood.
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.

I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey,
but courage will come with the sound of your steps
by my side;
and with all my brothers you saved by your love,
we'll sign to your dawn at the end of our journey.

***BLESSING**

***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

*Congratulations to Edna Jennings who
celebrated her 100th birthday on June 15th!!*



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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 22nd **397** jars have been donated.

Community News

New Bandon Stonehaven Union Annual Cemetery Service is being held this afternoon, 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.

The Anglican Parish of New Bandon will be hosting a **Vacation Bible School** July 4 – 7 for children ages 4 -12 between 9:30 am and 12:00 noon at St. Alban's Church in Salmon Beach. To register or for more information, please contact Lesa Scott 506-544-1470 or Nancy Hodnett 506-545-5263 or via Facebook. Deadline to register is Friday June 30. Thank you.

St. George's Anglican Church will be hosting the **Hospitality Days Breakfast** on **Saturday, July 22nd** from 8:00 to 10:00 AM. Tickets to be sold in advance by dropping into the Church Office or calling 506-546-3225. Adults – \$ 10.00 and Children under 12 - \$ 5.00

Bathurst Pastoral Council Highlights

of May 30, 2023 Meeting

The Council meeting, held in the Ruth Morrison Room, opened with our land acknowledgement pledge and a prayer by Rev. Neal Palmer. Sandra Boone convened the meeting as chair.

Treasurer Dave Morison reported that finances are on budget to date but interest on the Endowment Fund is being used.

The Ministry & Personnel Team has approved a 3.4% wage increase for 2023 based on information from the national church.

The Ways & Means Team reported that Richard Dobson of Danny's Drive-In donated \$500 for the meat served at the recent Ham & Scallop supper. Following some discussion re sit-down vs. take-out suppers, a committee was named to meet with the Ways & Means co-chairs to discuss the implications. The team reported earlier that more volunteers would be needed to offer a sit-down meal. There has been a decline in dinner tickets sold.

After much discussion the CD Team decided that when a 100(+) birthday of a congregant is brought to the team's attention, an acknowledgement will be placed in the bulletin and a comment will be made by the minister during the church service.

The Pastoral Care & Membership Team reported on the tribute prepared for Bert Demmings' 104th birthday in May.

The Community Outreach Sub-Team continues its thrust through providing, among many initiatives, mental health awareness, pantry availability to the needy, and peanut butter to the Volunteer Centre. In a more recent challenge, people were asked to donate much-needed new or clean bedding and towels to Second Chance. Contributions may be brought to the church or taken directly to the King Avenue business.

Lester Scott of the Property Management Team said improving the heating and lighting in the church is the best way to save money so it will be proceeding in that direction through energy audits and financial help. The Team is concerned with the lack of rentals for the DEM Hall.

At its May meeting, the Team acknowledged the commitment of the late Don Nelson to the various church committees over many decades.

Having shown an interest in mowing the cemeteries on St. Anne St. and St. Luke Ct. for 2023, Lester Scott was given the green light by the West Bathurst Cemetery Committee. The company doing the work in the past is no longer in operation.

In new business, Council accepted the proposal from the Downtown Market for the rental of the church hall on a one-year trial basis pending the approval of the Board of Trustees and the drawing up of a lease. The suggestion, made by Hayden Hatheway, was that a 3-person committee be set up to administer the rental with representatives from the Trustees, Property & Management and Ways & Means.

The next regular Council meeting will be held in early fall.

Respectively submitted,
Isabel MacLaggan

SCRIPTURE READING *(New Revised Standard Version)*

GENESIS 21:8-21

8 The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.

9 But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac.

10 So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac."

11 The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son.

12 But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you.

13 As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring."

14 So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

15 When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes.

16 Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept.

17 And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is.

18 Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him."

19 Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

20 God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow.

21 He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

MATTHEW 10:24-39

24 "A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master;

25 it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

26 "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known.

27 What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.

28 Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

30 And even the hairs of your head are all counted.

31 So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

32 "Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven,

33 but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

34 "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

36 and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

37 "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me,

38 and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

39 Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

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

"The Golden Time"

*Youth and love and a summer day—
What fairer gifts could the gods bestow?*

*Ah, could the golden time but stay,
Of youth and love and a summer day!*

~Jean Wright

A Perfect Summer Day Is:

*when the sun is shining,
the breeze is blowing,
the birds are singing,
and the lawn mower is broken.*

*~James Dent,
in The Charleston Gazette,
as quoted in The Reader's Digest, 1994*

