

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

July 2, 2023

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

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| <u>Lectionary for today</u> | <u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u> |
|---|--|
| Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 13 Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:40-42 | Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Psalm 45:10-17 Romans 7:15-25a Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 |
| <i>We welcome Rev. Blair Lewis who is leading us in worship today – Thank you!</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:

***NATIONAL ANTHEM:** "O Canada" – VU #524

***O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
the True North strong and free!
From far and wide, O Canada,
we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.***

***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)*

This is a special day as we celebrate Canada Day:

a day of rest
a day of hope
a day of peace and happiness.
This is the day the Lord has made:
a day to sing
a day to praise
a day to become one in the Spirit.
This is the day the Lord has made.
This is my day.
This is your day.
This is our day.

The Christ Candle is lit.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "Wind is Moving"

Seasons of the Spirit vol. 1

***Wind is moving over water,
patterns shifting out across the bay.
Grass is bending on the hillside;
clouds are drifting right across the sky.
O Holy Spirit, move over all our lives.
O Holy Spirit, move over all our lives.***

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(responsively)*

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)*

**Wondrous God:
you touch our lives with healing and with justice;
new life is your gift.
We praise you for the Good News
which is ours through Jesus Christ.
May this time of worship nourish us
with your promise of meaning and purpose.
May we be empowered to carry your goodness
into the coming week.
We pray in Jesus' name, our Source and Saviour.
Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN:** "All Things Bright & Beautiful" – VU #291

Refrain
*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
in love, God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours,
God made their tiny wings.

Refrain

The purple headed mountains,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky;

Refrain

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
God made them every one.

Refrain

The rocky mountain splendour,
the lone wolf's haunting call,
the great lakes and the prairies,
the forest in the fall;

Refrain

God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God our maker,
who has made all things well.

Refrain

PRAYER OF HUMILITY: *(in unison)*

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with all our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may delight in your will and
walk in your ways;
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

BCP 1549

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: "Take, O Take Me as I Am" – MV #85

**Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me, in me.**

***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 Daniels & Cheryl Brewster

***SINGING A SONG:** "Jesus Loves Me" – VU #365

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong,
in his love we shall be strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know,
As he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee,
Saying, "Let them come to me."
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me still today,
walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give
Light and love to all who live.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

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:

Anne Wilson

Romans 6:15-23

*Responsive Reading - Psalm 13 - Page 734 - Voices United
(Please stand as you are able)

Matthew 10:40-42

REFLECTION: "Celebrating Canada Day"

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION:

GIFT OF MUSIC:

John & Isabel Clouston

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

Martha Vickers

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:

As we come to present our offerings at this table,
we remember God's generous hospitality.
Our calling is to feed
those dismissed from the world's tables,
that they may no longer feel hungry or alone.

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)*

**Caring God,
may we offer not only our material gifts,
but our whole selves to you,
and to all those who need our support
in the quest for justice.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
our Liberator.
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.

**God, giver of all good,
you continually pour your benefits upon us.
Age after age the living wait upon you and find
that your faithfulness has no end,
that your care is unfailing.**

We praise you that the mystery of life has the power to be
i a mystery of infinite goodness.
We praise you
for the order and constancy of nature;
for the beauty and bounty of the earth;
for day and night, summer and winter,
seedtime and harvest;
for the varied gifts of loveliness which every season brings.

**We give you thanks
for all the comfort and joy of life,
for our homes, for our friends,our country Canada,
We thank you for being with all those who
have gone before us.
We thank you for being with all generations in our
province and country as we experience and face
challenges as well as celebrations.
May the power of your spirit challenges us to move
Forward in life with a spirit of hope and optimism.**

We thank you for all the love, sympathy, and goodwill
you offer to all people.
May the light of your love show us our way in the
challenging days ahead.
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:** "O God of All the Many Lands" – VU #523

O God of all the many lands,
we lift our hearts in prayer,
for this our land of Canada,
a country wide and fair;
for mountain heights and northern lights,
for prairie, lake and sea,
for every blessing from your hand
bestowed so lavishly.

We thank you for your sacrifice
of venturers of old,
who dared to cross uncharted seas,
whose dreams made others bold,
for valiant souls and pioneers,
for all who served their age,
and left for us who follow on
a sacred heritage.

We thank you from many lands
with varied gifts they came,
to pledge their love and loyalty
where scarlet maples flame.
May justice here belong to all,
and may our nation play
its rightful role in ushering in
the peace for which we pray.

May we be worthy of our land
and seek its highest good,
shaping a noble destiny
of truest nationhood.
May this fair land, our Canada,
your own dominion be;
your people bless abundantly
from seas to Arctic sea.

***"GOD SAVE THE KING"**

**"God save our gracious King
Long live our noble King,
God save The King:
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us:
God save The King.
O Lord, our God, arise,
Scatter thine enemies,
And make them fall:
Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks,
On thee our hopes we fix:
God save us all.**

Thy choicest gifts in store,
On him be pleased to pour;
Long may he reign:
May he defend our laws,
And ever give us cause
To sing with heart and voice
God save The King.”

***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

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.

Peanut Butter – Our pledge this year to the Bathurst Volunteer Center is **900 jars**. As of June 29th **397 jars** have been donated.

Thank you to our volunteers during the month of June: **Greeters** – Gary Branch, Beth Sullivan, Gayle Ferron and Peter & Edie Gammon; **Counters** - Margaret Payne-Chenard and Mike Kierstead; **Scripture Readers** – Anne Brooks, Cheryl Brewster, Isabel MacLaggan and Wayne Lord; **Minute for Mission** - Anne Wilson, Grace Ronalds, Pat MacIntosh and Helen Knowles; **Story time** – Margaret Payne-Chenard and Brenda Parrott; **Sound System** – Brenda Parrott, Shirley Allain, Lester Scott and Ralph Jamieson and **Videographer** – Don Eddy and Lester Scott; and to Josh Gammon for uploading our services to the website and Facebook.

Community News

St. Lukes Invites Children to Stellar VBS: Shine Jesus' Light!
A summer kids' event called Stellar VBS will be hosted at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church from July 31st to August 4th. At Stellar, kids discover how they can shine Jesus' love and hope in everyday life! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, experience one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Cosmic Closing that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned. Family members and friends are encouraged to join in daily for this special time at 11:30 AM. Kids at Stellar VBS will join a missions' effort to provide school supplies and bed kits through "Sleeping Children Around the World" for families in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Stellar is for kids from 4-12. Youth 13 and up can volunteer as crew leaders. It will run from **9:00 AM to 12:00 PM each day and it's Free!** For more information, call 506-546-4645 or via email stlukes@bellaliant.com.

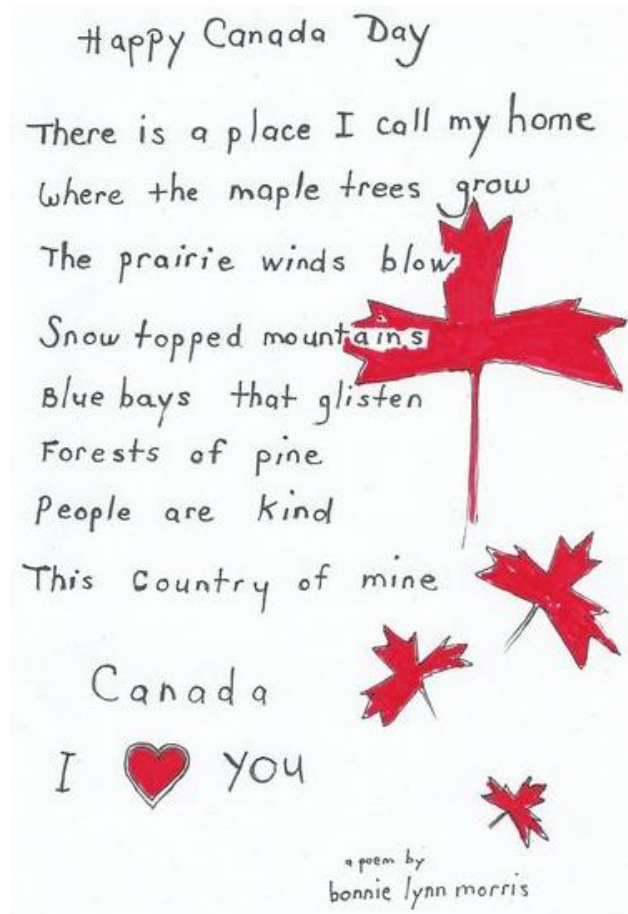
Community News

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.

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



SCRIPTURE READING (*New Revised Standard Version*)

ROMANS 6:15-23

15 What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

16 Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

17 But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted

18 and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness.

19 I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.

20 When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

21 So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death.

22 But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life.

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

RESPONSIVE READING - PSALM 13 - Page 734 Voices United

MATTHEW 10:40-42

40 "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

41 Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous,

42 and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

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

734 PSALTER

Psalm 13

Refrain

Jean Sibelius 1899, arr. The Hymnal 1933

Be still, my soul, for God is on your side. God is on your side.

Arrangement copyright © 1933, renewed 1951 Presbyterians Board of Christian Education, Westminster John Knox Press

How long, O God, will you utterly forget me?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I suffer anguish in my soul,
and be so grieved in my heart day and night?
How long shall my enemy triumph over me? R

Look at me, and answer me, O God my God;
give light to my eyes, lest I fall asleep in death,
lest my enemies claim to have prevailed against me,
lest my foes rejoice at my downfall.
But my trust is in your mercy.
Let my heart be joyful in your salvation.
I will sing to you, O God,
because you have dealt so lovingly with me.
I will praise your name, O God most high. R