

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

August 6, 2023

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

**We are called to Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship
and Daring Justice**

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

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Genesis 32:22-31 Palm 17:1-7, 15 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Palm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33
<p>We welcome Randy Breckenridge and Hugh Ellis who are leading us in worship today, supported by the voices of Cindy Doucet, Kim Glendenning, Carol Abfalter and Rhonda Chiasson</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Thank you!</i></p>	

The asterisk * identifies those times in the service where the congregation is invited to stand as able.

GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

MUSICAL INTROIT - All Who Are Thirsty - (guest vocalists)

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE & CALL TO WORSHIP

(responsively)

...As we light this candle, may it be a light to guide our journey

The Christ Candle is lit.

...May it represent the light that is always carried in each of us.

May our light be visible to all.

... May it be the sign of acceptance, justice and equality and our trust in God.

We come to share, support and receive the gifts of the Spirit with open and welcoming hearts.

May our spiritually deepen in the knowledge that we are loved today and always. May we learn to trust in God.

Thanks be to God!

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.***

*GATHERING HYMN – "Spirit God"

MV#150

Spirit God: be our breath, be our song,
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.
Our world seems inward, defensive, withdrawn...
Sprit God, be our song.

Patient God: soothe our pride, calm our fear.
Comfort us. When we know you are near
we grow more certain, our vision is clear.
Patient God, calm our fear.

Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer.
Reaching out, joining hands as we share,
we seek your guidance through friendship and care.
Loving God, be our prayer.

Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.
Through change, through challenge, we'll greet the new dawn...
Spirit God, be our song.

GATHERING PRAYER

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

GIFT OF MUSIC - "Give Thanks" (*guest vocalists*)

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Helen Knowles

Romans 9: 1-5

Matthew 14: 13-21

MESSAGE: "When Unexpected Guests Arrive"

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

***REFLECTIVE HYMN** - "Seven is Sufficient"

For the crowd of thousands
sitting on the ground,
seven is sufficient,
seven will go round.

*Refrain:
Seven is sufficient,
fish and loaves of bread,
Jesus, for our hunger,
gives us life instead.*

Jesus makes his offer:
fish and bread as food.
Make us truly thankful,
make our living good.

*Refrain:
Seven is sufficient,
fish and loaves of bread,
Jesus, for our hunger,
gives us life instead.*

If we give to Jesus
bread to bless and break,
five and two will feed us
seven days a week.

*Refrain:
Seven is sufficient,
fish and loaves of bread,
Jesus, for our hunger,
gives us life instead.*

What we give to Jesus,
and with others share,
will at last be gathered:
'over and to spare'!

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION/YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Martha Vickers

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

GIFT OF MUSIC – “He Will Hold Me Fast” (*guest vocalists*)

THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD

***OFFERING PRAYER** (*in unison*)

**We offer but a portion of what you God have given to us.
We offer it in willingly and with thanksgiving.
We know you can do great things with modest beginnings.
May these gifts be an expression of our devotion to you and
the belief that together we can make this a better
and more caring world. Through your grace may they
multiply beyond measure.
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** – “O Christ in Thee My Soul Has Found” VU #630

O Christ, in thee my soul hath found,
and found in thee alone,
the peace, the joy I sought so long,
the bliss till now unknown.

Refrain:

*Now none but Christ can satisfy,
none other name for me!
There's love ,and life and lasting joy,
Christ Jesus, found in thee.*

I sighed for rest and happiness,
I yearned for them, not thee;
but while I passed my Saviour by,
his love laid hold on me.

Refrain:

I tried the broken cisterns, ah!
But how the waters failed;
even as I stooped to drink they fled,
and mocked me as I wailed.

Refrain:

The pleasures lost I sadly mourned,
but never wept for thee,
till grace the sightless eyes received,
thy loveliness to see.

Refrain:

***BLESSING**

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

Church News

***CHORAL CLOSING** – “Go Now in Peace”

**Go now in Peace, never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go no in peace in faith and in love.
Amen, amen, amen.**

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 August 3rd **443** jars have been donated.

Several cases of COVID-19 Tests have been donated to First United Church. Please feel free to pick up some boxes of tests to have on hand at home.

Thank you to our volunteers during the months of June & July:
June Greeters – Gary Branch, Beth Sullivan, Peter & Edie Gammon;
July Greeters – Harvey & Julie Spence; **June Counters** - Margaret Payne-Chenard and Mike Kierstead; **July Counters** – Gary Branch and Edie Gammon; **Scripture Readers** – Anne Wilson, Cheryl Brewster, Isabel MacLaggan, Wayne Lord, Anne Brooks, Gary Branch, and Judy Losier; **Minute for Mission** – Anne Wilson, Ronalds family, Pat MacIntosh, Helen Knowles, Martha Vickers and Judy Losier; **Story time** – Margaret Payne-Chenard & Brenda Parrott, Margaret Daniels & Cheryl Brewster, Helen & Brooke Knowles, Gayle Ferron & Brenda Parrott and Margaret Payne Chenard & Sandra Boone; **Sound System** – Brenda Parrott, Shirley Allain, Ralph Jamieson and Lester Scott and **Videographers** – Don Eddy and Lester Scott as well as to Josh Gammon for uploading our services to the website and Facebook.

Also, a big thank you to the individuals, who prepare for and set up the refreshments and snacks for everyone to enjoy after each worship service.

Community News

A Royal Tea will be held at **Central United Church Hall** in Clifton, to celebrate the new King on **Saturday, September 9, 2023 from 1 PM to 3 PM**. Tickets are \$10 per person and are available now. Please wear your favorite fascinator or hat! A display of “vintage” wedding dresses will be set up in the church to admire. Entertainment will be provided. For tickets please contact Brenda Peters – 506-545-7983; Sandra Ward – 506-546-4802; or Muriel Daley – 506-546-6024.

SCRIPTURE READINGS *(New International Version)*

ROMANS 9: 1-5

Paul's Anguish Over Israel

1 I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit—

2 I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.

3 For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race,

4 the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises.

5 Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

MATTHEW 14: 13-21

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

13 When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns.

14 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

15 As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

16 Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

17 "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

18 "Bring them here to me," he said.

19 And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.

20 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

21 The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.