

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

August 13, 2023

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

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

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33	Genesis 45:1-15 Psalm 133 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 16:(10-20), 21-28
<i>We welcome Edie Walls who is leading us in worship today. Thank you!</i>	
<i>The bulletins are in loving memory of Sprague Wiseman placed by Holly, Randy and Family</i>	

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

GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

MUSICAL INTROIT

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 & CALL TO WORSHIP

As the Christ candle is lit today, as has become the tradition at the opening of the worship, let's take a moment to center our hearts and minds on that little light, the symbol of Christ and the light that shines within each of us.

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)

Today we gather together to share our praises to God.

This is us!

Look around you, your family, your friends, people who are in your circles, think of coworkers, students, all of your connections both past and present.

This is us!

We share in a strong community with lots of ties to one another.

This is us!

We have shared celebrations over time, birth celebrations, graduation celebrations, summer holidays, birthday celebrations, casual gatherings, group meeting celebrations, meals, and end of life celebrations. We have shown support to one another through thick and thin.

This is us!

We are not "me" alone, we are not "you" alone....
We stand together in unison. We live in God's love.

This is us!

We are called to love one another, we do care for one another, we care about all that our "us" care about...

This is us!

Health, siblings, children, joys and struggles, we care enough that we want to be "US"

This is us!

Please share this "us" that we are, with everyone you know today and throughout the week, as we come together this morning, let's worship! Know that anything is possible with faith in God!

GATHERING PRAYER (responsively)

Holy God, we gather together, us, as a community strengthen us and give us resilience when we are surprised by life's every day challenges.

Help us to build up our faith in you, through the light times and through the heavy times.

Holy God, we come seeking more, more blessings, more connections, more relationship with you.

Help us to keep our focus and walk toward you, in and through your son, Jesus and with Your Spirit, our strength and our guide. 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.*

***GATHERING HYMN** – "Spirit, Open My Heart"

MV #79

Refrain:

***Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.***

God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
To your grace I now surrender.

Refrain:

Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word and deed,
May my living bring you glory.

Refrain:

May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
May we welcome one another.

Refrain

***GREETING ONE ANOTHER** (responsively)

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

SHARING A STORY: "Noodle Day"

SINGING A SONG : "The Church Is Wherever God's People"

VU #579

The church is wherever God's people are praising,
singing God's goodness for the joy on this day.
The church is wherever disciples of Jesus
Remember his story and walk in his way

The church is wherever God's people are helping,
caring for neighbors in sickness and need.
The church is wherever God's people are sharing
the words of the bible in gift and in deed.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

We, your people, have come together, seekers of Your presence O God, as we hear Scripture lessons read and reflected upon, we pray that the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts and our minds are acceptable to you O God; our strength and our redeemer. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Genesis 37:3-4, 14, 18-28

*Psalm 105 VU# 828 (responsively)

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

Mike Kierstead

MESSAGE: "Possibilities"

GIFT OF MUSIC: "Come Touch Our Hearts"

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION/YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Ronald's Family

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)*

O Holy God, this is us, gathering with Your spirit surrounding us here today

All that we have comes from You!

We want to give so we can make a difference

All that we give comes from You

Accept our offerings today that they may be used to spread Your goodness, O God, among us and throughout Your world.

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** – "We Are Pilgrims"

VU #595

We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

I will hold the Christ light for you
in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

***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

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 10th, **458** 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.

Would anyone have a bicycle they wish to donate to a 7 year old girl? Contact the Community Outreach Subteam (Helen Knowles 506-546-9563) if you could help this delightful young lady. Thank you.

Since pantry items have lessened in recent months, our sub-team requests that if able, would you contribute non-perishables to boost our supplies.

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.

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George’s Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, September 9th from 8:00 – 10:00 am.** Come and enjoy fellowship and great food. Free will offering at the door.

SCRIPTURE READINGS *(New International Version)*

Genesis 37:3-4, 14, 18-28

³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate^[a] robe for him. ⁴ When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

¹⁴ So he said to him, "Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me." Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron.

¹⁸ But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.¹⁹ "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. ²⁰ "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

²¹ When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said. ²² "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing—²⁴ and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

²⁵ As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

²⁶ Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? ²⁷ Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed.

²⁸ So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels^[a] of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt

Romans 10:5-15

⁵ Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does these things will live by them."^[a] ⁶ But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'"^[b] (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'"^[c] (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,"^[d] that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹ If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹ As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame."^[e] ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."^[f]

¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"^[g]

Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

²⁹ "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."