

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

August 20, 2023

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Audio & Visual Technicians Ralph Jamieson & Donald Eddy
Greeters Mike Kierstead & Margaret Payne-Chénard

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Lectionary for today

Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

Lectionary for next Sunday

Exodus 1:8—2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

*Today's bulletins are in loving memory of **Jerry Mitton**
placed by Sherry and family*

*We welcome **The Rev. Dr. Beverly Daley** who
is leading us in worship today – Thank you!*

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

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

As we light this candle, may we be ever mindful that the light of Christ shines in our personal lives, in the life of this community and in the many communities of which we are a part.

The Christ Candle is lit.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "Wind is Moving"

Seasons of the Spirit vol. 1 pg. 39

***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 moved through the open doors in hope of finding a place of belonging.

Love is possible.

We cross the boundaries that divide us by ages and stages, ethnicities and genders, hurts and disagreements.

Love is possible.

We open our hearts and ready our hands to reach out to one another and discover One who is within and beyond us.

Love is possible. Let us worship together.

GATHERING PRAYER *(responsively)*

Creator God, you make us all different, giving to each one of us special and wonderful gifts,

inviting us and challenging us to share who and what we are for the good of community.

In the beauty of our differences,

remind us that we are one.

In this time of worship help us to celebrate the Body of Christ,

and the special place each one of us has in that body, through your grace.

Amen

***GATHERING HYMN –**

VU #175

“This is the Day That God Has Made”

Refrain:

This is the day that God has made!

Rejoice! Rejoice, and be exceeding glad!

This is the day that God has made!

Rejoice! Rejoice! Hallelujah!

Christ has conquered death at last,
left the tomb that held him fast!
Gone the sorrow, gone the night,
dawns the morning clear and bright!

(Refrain)

Jesus lives who once was dead,
lives forever, as he said!
Risen now our Saviour, King;
songs of gladness let us sing!

(Refrain)

***GREETING ONE ANOTHER** *(responsively)*

...The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

SHARING A STORY

***SINGING A SONG –** “Jesus Loves Me”

VU #365

INTRODUCTION TO THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

***BAPTISMAL HYMN –**

VU #444

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

[Participants gather near baptismal font during hymn.]

Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit’s sign;
with this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.

Child of love, our love’s expression,
love’s creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits,
into joy and laughter lead.

Child of joy, our dearest treasure,
God’s you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you;
live as one who bears Christ’s name.

Child of God your loving Parent,
learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,
trusting in God’s love and care.

CHILD BEING RECEIVED THROUGH BAPTISM:

Lucy Violet Penney

Daughter of Thomas Penney & Candice (Jagoe) Penney

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND POURING OF WATER

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE

(Cheryl Brewster – Representative of Christian Development Team)

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND PROMISES

COMMITMENT OF GODPARENTS

*CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT

The congregation will stand, as able.

One: As the congregation of First United Church, a community of the United Church of Canada, do you commit yourselves to support and nurture these persons?

All: **As a community of the United Church of Canada, we commit ourselves to support and nurture this child, as we are able, within a community which worships God, seeks justice, and resists evil.**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** - "A New Creed" - VU#918 *(in unison)*

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

THE ACT OF BAPTISM

MARKING WITH THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

LAYING ON OF HANDS

BAPTISMAL STOLE

THE WELCOME

Into the household of faith, we welcome **Lucy** with joy and thanksgiving.

CHOIR RESPONSE – "May God Who Creates You" VU #454
Lucy is introduced to the congregation

PLACEMENT OF BANNER SHEEP

LIGHTING OF A CANDLE *(responsively)*

One: Jesus said of himself "I am the light of the world"; Receive now the light of Christ.

All: **Shine as a light in the world to the Glory of God.**

[A candle is presented to Lucy's parents.]

PRESENTATION OF A BIBLE *(responsively)*

One: Lucy, receive this Bible and hear what the Spirit is saying to you and the Church.

All: **Amen.**

[A Bible is presented to Lucy's parents.]

Presentation of Baptismal Certificate

Baptismal Prayer and Blessing

May the waters of our Baptism enliven each of us; may the faith of our Baptism strengthen and sustain us; may the community of the baptized support us; and may the baptized Jesus secure us all in God's love forever. Amen.

Blessing Sung by All:

**Through Christ you are a child of God,
Walk ever in the light
for Christ is with you evermore
to guide you day and night.**

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jennifer Oliver Lavigne

Genesis 45:1-15

Matthew 15:21-28

RELFECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC— “I Have Called You by Your Name”

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*)

God of reconciliation, you are working to make all things new. Use us your people for your purposes of justice and love. 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** –

VU #644

“I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry”

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word,
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I’ll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young.
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your morning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

*BLESSING

***CHORAL SENDING FORTH** – "I Wish You the Blessing"

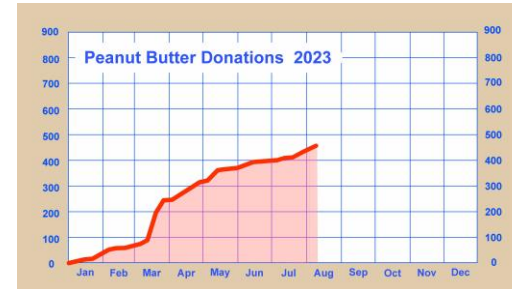
*We wish you the blessing of faith to sustain you,
friends to support you, challenge to stir you,
songs to empower you, peace to refresh you,
tears to release you, laughter to heal you,
love to nurture your soul.*

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.



Peanut Butter – Our pledge this year to the Bathurst Volunteer Center is **900 jars**. As of August 17th **515** 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.

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 Revised Standard Version)*

GENESIS 45:1-15

Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers

1 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, 'Send everyone away from me.' So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers.

2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.

3 Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.

5 And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.

6 For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest.

7 God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.

8 So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

9 Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay.

10 You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.

11 I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty."

12 And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you.

13 You must tell my father how greatly I am honoured in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.'

14 Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck.

15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

MATTHEW 15:21-28

The Canaanite Woman's Faith

21 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

22 Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.'

23 But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.'

24 He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.'

25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.'

26 He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.'

27 She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.'

28 Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.