

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

August 27, 2023

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

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Exodus 1:8—2:10 Psalm 124 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20	Genesis 2:4b-22 Psalm 139:13-16 Acts 17:22-28 John 3:1-16
<p><i>Today's bulletins have been placed in loving memory of friends Lynn Vance & Austin Jago by M & M & also in loving memory of Edgar Brown on the first anniversary of his passing by Heleré</i></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

As we light this candle, may we be ever mindful of the light of Christ in both our personal and collective lives.

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)*

...Hidden in the quiet of our morning, our ancestors gather among us.

Together, we open our hearts to the Spirit.

We come seeking transformation and the renewing of our minds where necessary;

so we might know what the work of justice looks like in this moment.

We share in the ministry of being one body with differing gifts.

May our time together be one of growth for all.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness” VU #375

*Refrain
Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, Wind, Wind on the sea.*

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.

Refrain
Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, Wind, Wind on the sea.

You swept thro' the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with their idols and lies,
then you spoke thro' your prophets to open their eyes.

Refrain

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

Refrain

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
with bold new decisions your people arise.

Refrain

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

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*)

Brenda Parrott & Sandra Boone

Matthew 16:13-14

***SINGING A SONG** – "I've Got Peace like a River"

VU #577

I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.

I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in-a my soul.
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in-a my soul.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Brenda Parrott

Exodus 1:8–2:10

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC – "Deep in Our Hearts"

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION/YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Judy Losier

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)*

**Holy One,
we offer these gifts
in our desire to live by your story,
rather than someone else’s story.
Help us use them, we pray,
to bring hope in despair
and compassion where there’s distress.
Amen**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER – VU #916 (A Translation) *(in unison)*

**Our Father-Mother, who is in the heavens,
may your name be made holy,
may your dominion come,
may your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today the bread we need;
and forgive us our debts,
as we have forgiven our debtors;
and do not put us to the test,
but rescue us from evil.
For yours is the dominion, and the power,
and the glory forever.
Amen**

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** CLOSING HYMN** – “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” VU #651

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL SENDING FORTH** – “I Wish You the Blessing”

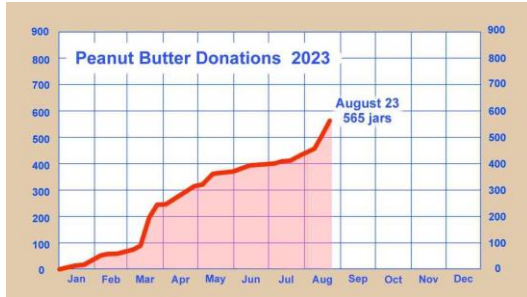
*I wish you the blessing of faith to sustain you,
friends to support you, challenge to stir you,
songs to empower you, peace to refresh you,
tears to release you, laughter to heal you,
love to nurture your soul.*

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 24th **565 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.

Save the Date – **Beef BBQ Take Out Supper** is scheduled for **Thursday, September 21, 2023 from 3:30 to 5:30 PM**. Tickets will be available shortly. Adults \$17.00 and children under 12 \$6.00

BACK TO SCHOOL - The Community Outreach Sub-Team requests your help in providing a variety of school supplies for needy students. These items will be donated to Terry Fox Elementary School & distributed as necessary. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

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.

Community News

“Help Lesotho” Calendars – The Anglophone School District – North has been sponsoring “Help Lesotho” since 2006 as part of its global awareness initiative. As a fundraiser where all of the money raised goes to help finance its work with orphans, vulnerable children, and grandmothers in Lesotho, Africa; “Help Lesotho” has 2024 calendars for sale at a cost of \$15.00. You are invited to support this initiative with your donation. Gary Branch (506-546-9208) or via email (egbranch@rogers.com) will be taking orders for these calendars until October 10, 2023. Payment can be made in advance by cash, cheque, or e-transfer, or when the calendars are delivered in November. Cheques are to be made payable to “Help Lesotho”. Thank you for your support of this initiative.

St. George’s Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue will hold a **Family and Community Breakfast** on **Saturday, September 9th from 8:00 – 10:00 am**. Come and enjoy fellowship and great food. Free will offering at the door

&

St. George’s Anglican Church Hall will also hold a **Yard Sale** on **Saturday, September 23^d from 8 AM to 12 PM**.

SCRIPTURE READING

EXODUS 1:8–2:10

8 Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.

9 He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we.

10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land."

11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh.

12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites.

13 The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites,

14 and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah,

16 "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live."

17 But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live.

18 So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?"

19 The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them."

20 So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong.

21 And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

22 Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

1 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman.

2 The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months.

3 When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river.

4 His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it.

6 When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said.

7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"

8 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother.

9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it.

10 When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

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