

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

September 24, 2023

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Lester Scott & Gayle Ferron
Audio & Visual Technicians Shirley Allain & Donald Eddy

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Genesis 8:20-22; 9:12-17	Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 104:27-33	Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Revelation 22:1-5	Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 28:1-10	Matthew 21:23-32

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)

... **Creator and Creating One, history has brought us together on lands that have become known as Canada. Jesus unites us together as one people, yet we know that among us, many siblings in Christ have been injured by that very history. Treaties have been dishonoured. Our denomination itself has been disgraced by its role in the residential school system. Help our country and our church, we pray, continue to heal from these wrongdoings and provide healing support to those who have been harmed. May our lives today pay respect to the Indigenous ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another, guided to truth by the Spirit. Amen**

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (responsively)

When we light a candle, we usually carry it to where we're going and then set it down.

Then, we go about doing whatever we're doing within its light.

Jesus is another kind of light, a candle that lights up our minds, our hearts, and our spirits.

We experience this as grace, as call, as empowerment, but it's a light we don't set down. Because, we don't actually determine where it guides us.



We light this Christ Candle

as the light we carry with us.

The Christ Candle is lit...

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP - "This Is the Day" – MV #122

***This is the day that God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad!***

***This is the day that God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad!***

***Singing hal-le-lu, singing hal-le-lu,
singing hal-le-lu! We will rejoice and be glad!
Singing hal-le-lu, singing hal-le-lu,
singing hal-le-lu! We will rejoice and be glad!***

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – “For the Beauty of the Earth” – VU #226
(*tune Dix VU 81*)

For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,

(*Refrain*)
*God of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.*

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,

(*Refrain*)

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,

(*Refrain*)

For each perfect gift sublime
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,

(*Refrain*)

REMEMBERING (*responsively*)

(Take the stone you received, rub it between your fingers, and then share a special memory with the person next to you of the streams, ponds, or wetlands you have enjoyed.)

We remember the rivers created in Eden and across our planet, rivers that are the lifeblood of Earth and vital for all that lives.

We remember the streams of our past, the pools and ponds where we played and the feeling of celebration as we splashed each other.

We remember, rejoice, and give thanks

for rivers and streams flowing with life’s water.

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

CHORAL RESPONSE – “And When You Call for Me” – MV #96

***And when you call for me,
I have already answered.
And when you call for me,
I am already there.***

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

...The Spirit of Love and Peace be with you all.

And also with you.

SHARING A STORY (*with those of all ages*)

***SINGING A SONG** – “Sweetgrass and Candle”
(*Words by John Oldham/Music by Ron Klusmeier*)

Sweetgrass and candle, the peace pipe and bible,
the stories of elders and beat of the drum;
these are the symbols of hope, faith and justice.
We gather in circle affirming we’re one.

Welcome the stranger for he is our brother
and she is our sister of mother earth.
Care for creation for all life is sacred
and we are united by vision’s rebirth.

Join in the circle that will have no ending,
for we are all equal and loved in God’s sight.
Praise the Great Spirit! We gather as family
to sing of Love’s freedom and dance with delight!

Welcome the stranger for he is our brother
and she is our sister of mother earth.
Care for creation for all life is sacred
and we are united by vision's rebirth.

Sweetgrass and candle, the peace pipe and bible,
the stories of elders and beat of the drum;
these are the symbols of hope, faith and justice.
We gather in circle affirming we're one.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Judy Losier

Genesis 8:20-22; 9:12-17

Revelation 22:1-5

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC – "Spirit of Life"

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS (formerly Minute for Mission)

Anne Wilson

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** (*responsively*)

Transforming One, thanks for your continued promise

to care for and sustain *all* Creation.

Help us follow your example,

raising our care and concern for one another,

and, once again,

for *all* Creation.

Amen

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(Take the cut-out leaves you received and reflect silently on the idea
the leaves of the trees along the river of life offer healing for the
nations.)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER – VU #916 (A Paraphrase) (*in unison*)

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo
through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

Church News

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In the times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever.**

Amen

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** – “Pulsing Spirit” (*tune Beach Spring VU 374*)
(*Seasons of the Spirit Songbook vol. 7*)

Pulsing Spirit, rippling river, source of mercy’s tender might,
Gentle power, humble glory, subtle, ever dancing light:
Healing Wisdom in us flowing, now reveal our human worth.
Play beneath the muddied waters; come renew the face of earth!

Spirit free, unbounded motion, beauty’s mirror, heart’s delight,
Gift abundant all around us, flood the world with life and light.
Fountain ancient, ever springing, play in new, creative ways.
Lift us, stream of lavish loving, high on waves of joyful praise!

*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.***

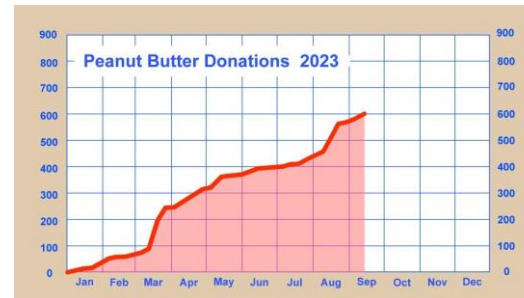
The Christ Candle is extinguished.

POSTLUDE

This Week at First United – September 25th to 30th

Monday	9:00 AM	Ways & Means Committee - RMR
Tuesday	6:00 PM	Council Meeting - RMR
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Community Market – DEH Gym

Church Office Hours - Monday to Friday – 9 AM to 3 PM.



Peanut Butter – Our pledge this year to the Bathurst Volunteer Center is **900 jars**. As of September 28th **601** jars have been donated.

Choir Practice has started for the fall season. It is held each Wednesday at 6:30. We meet for approximately an hour. Anyone who enjoys singing, please feel free to attend. New members are always welcome!



Scent Reduced Environment – This is a reminder to everyone that First United Church has a policy stating the buildings are scent reduced. We ask that everyone refrain from using strong scents when attending the church buildings.

Thanks for the School Supplies – Already 3 deliveries of various school supplies have been made to Terry Fox Elementary School and as indicated, the same will be given to needy students as required. It is important to note that school staff were pleased and asked that, you the donors, be informed of how grateful they are for your kind generosity. As well the Community Outreach Sub-Team informs you that in the near future cheques will be forwarded to local schools in support of their breakfast programs.

Church News

Ways & Means Team will meet on **Monday**, September 25th at 9:00 AM in the Ruth Morrison Room.

Bathurst Pastoral Council will meet on **Tuesday**, September 26th at 6:00 PM in the Ruth Morrison Room.

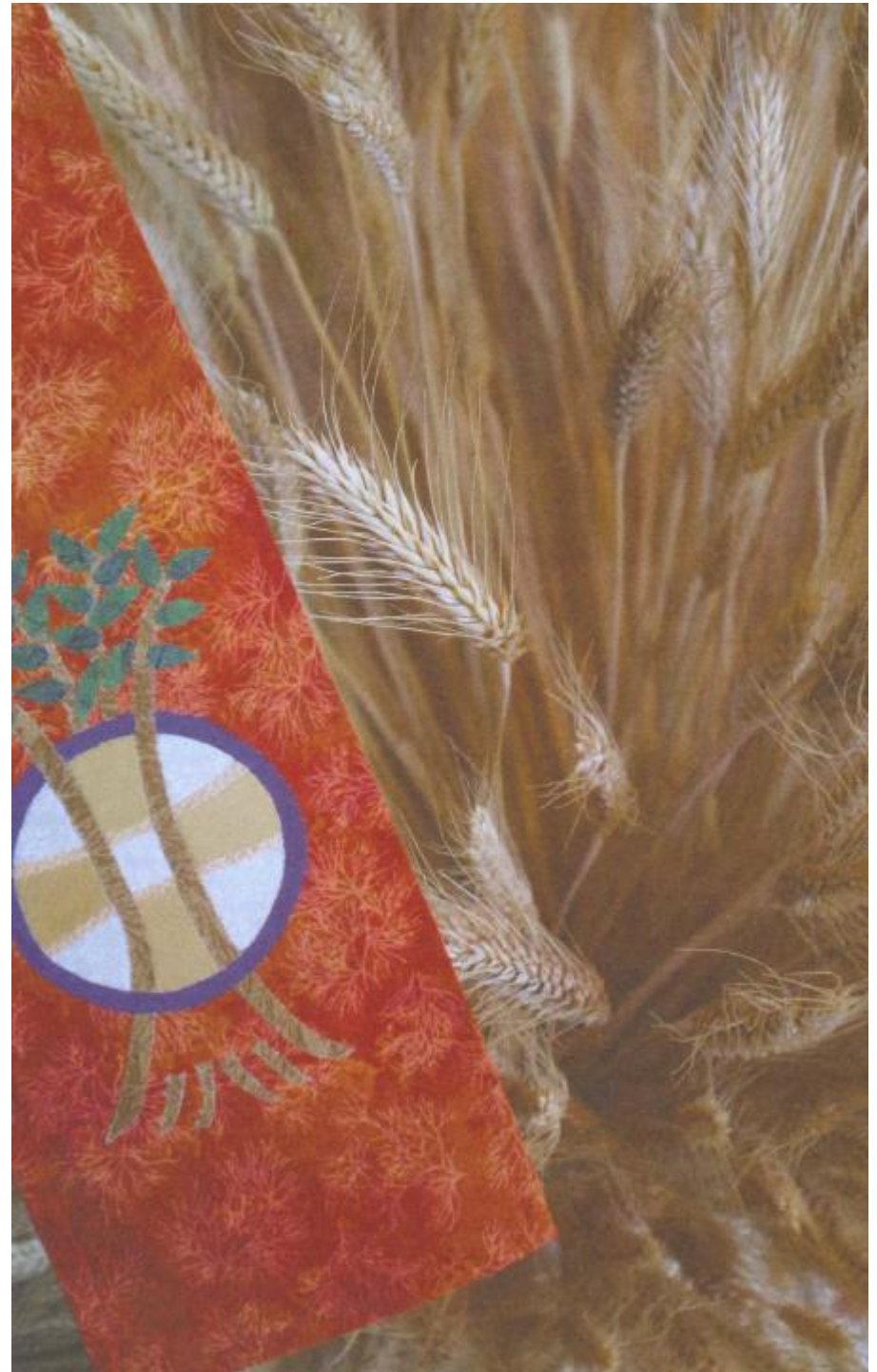
Sunday School teachers needed!! If you feel you can sign up for one or two Sundays a month, let the church office know.

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.

A Family and Community Breakfast will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, October 14th from 8 to 10 AM**. Come and enjoy fellowship and great food. Free will offering at the door.

The Ladies Fun Badminton Group will be starting for the fall/winter seasons on Wednesday, October 11th at the Donald Eddy Memorial Hall gymnasium. This is a "*pay as you play*" activity – every Monday and Wednesday morning from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. Any ladies interested in joining please contact Joyce Daley for information.



SCRIPTURE READINGS

GENESIS 8:20-22; 9:12-17

20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt-offerings on the altar.

21 And when the Lord smelt the pleasing odour, the Lord said in his heart, 'I will never again curse the ground because of humankind, for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth; nor will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done.

22 As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.'

12 God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations:

13 I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds,

15 I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.'

17 God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

REVELATION 22:1-5

1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb

2 through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

3 Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him;

4 they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

5 And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

May the Spirit bless to our understanding these significant parts of our Christian story...