

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

October 1, 2023

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

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32	Deuteronomy 8:7-18 Psalm 65 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Luke 17:11-19
<i>Today's bulletins have been placed in loving memory of John M. Daley by Helen and family & Sprague Wiseman by Holly, Randy and family</i>	

*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 & TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

We gather with warm hearts where the doors are open to all.

We come with open hearts, with open minds, delighted and, at the same time, humbled to be followers of the *Way* as best we can 'til now.

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 (Based on Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16) (responsively)

Friends in Christ, give ear...

Remember the stories your ancestors told. Give thanks for the glorious deeds of the Holy One.

We give thanks and remember.

Incline your ears...

Listen to the stories we tell each other.

We are listening.

Open your mouths...

Search this wide world for reasons to praise. Give voice to the hope we need in a world sometimes full of conflict and discord.

We will share these wonders from generation to generation.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – “Joyful, Joyful We Adore You” – VU #232

Joyful, joyful we adore you,
God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
sound their praise eternally.

You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing,
let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
God’s own love is reigning o’er us,
joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

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.***

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

Brooke Knowles, Grace Ronalds & Autumn Ronalds

Worldwide Communion Sunday

***SINGING A SONG** – “Each Blade of Grass” – MV #37

Each blade of grass, ev’ry wing that soars,
the waves that sweep across a distant shore,
make full the circle of God.

Each laughing child, ev’ry gentle eye,
a forest lit beneath a moon-bright sky,
make full the circle of God.

Each silent paw, ev’ry rounded stone,
the buzz that echoes from a honey’d comb,
make full the circle of God.

Each fire-brimmed star, ev’ry out-stretched hand,
the wind that leaps and sails across the land,
make full the circle of God.

Each icy peak, ev’ry patterned shell,
the joyous chorus that the dawn foretells,
make full the circle of God.

Each cosmic hue, ev’ry creature’s way,
all form the beauty of this vast array,
making full the circle of God.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Helen Knowles

Exodus 17:1-7

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC – “It Moves in Creation”

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** (*in unison*)

**Spirit God,
use these gifts to create space
for every grumbling and complaint
to be met with compassion and grace.
Transform the whole world with love and hope.
We open and offer our hands to share
in this *healing and change* work.
Amen**

COMMUNING

***COMMUNION HYMN** – “All Who Hunger” – VU #460

All who hunger, gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering.
Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers;
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
in communion’s love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together;
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table
live their lives in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

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

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

And also with you.

INSTRUCTIONS

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(responsively)*

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Christ is present here.

The Spirit is among us.

Let us give thanks to the Holy One,

in hope and in love.

...In the hope people may be brought together from the ends of Earth into your reign of justice and compassion, we gather with those of every time and every place to give you praise, singing...

"Holy, Holy, Holy" – MV #203

***O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heaven, creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name
always!***

...Great is the mystery of faith.

We remember Jesus' death.

We proclaim Christ arisen.

We await the full revelation of love incarnate.

...We gather these and all our prayers, thankful we may turn to you as to a loving mother, saying together...

THE LORD'S PRAYER – VU #921 (Ecumenical Version) *(in unison)*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever...**

"Great Amen" – MV #205

***Amen, amen, O Holy One!
Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One,
Hosanna and Amen!***

The bread of tomorrow.

The cup of new life.

Congregational Response – "Amen" or "Thanks be to God"

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(in unison)*

**Life-giving One,
we have taken our place at the table.
We have participated in this remembrance
with Christians the world over today.
We accept that we are called
to live Christ-like lives,
serving others, protecting the earth,
and making right our relationships with each other.
For this Christ came, for this Christ served,
and for this we are grateful.
Amen**

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church News

*CLOSING HYMN – “All Beautiful the March of Days” – VU #530

All beautiful the march of days,
as seasons come and go;
the hand that shaped the rose has wrought
the crystal of the snow,
has sent the silvery frost of heaven,
the flowing waters sealed,
and laid a silent loveliness
on hill and wood and field.

O'er white expanses sparkling pure
the radiant morns unfold;
the solemn splendours of the night
burn brighter through the cold;
life mounts in every throbbing vein,
love deepens round the hearth,
and clearer sounds the angel hymn,
good will to all on earth.

O God, from whose unfathomed law
the year in beauty flows,
yourself the vision passing by
in crystal and in rose;
day unto day declare thro' speech,
and night to night proclaim
in ever-changing words of light
the wonder of your name.

*BLESSING

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

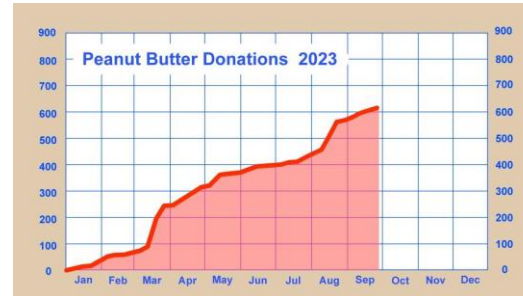
***We wish you the blessing of faith to sustain you,
friends to support you, challenge to stir you,
songs to empower you, peace to refresh you,
tears to release you, laughter to heal you,
love to nurture your soul.***

The Christ Candle is extinguished.

POSTLUDE

This Week at First United – September 25 th to 30 th		
Monday	9:00 AM	Ways & Means Committee - RMR
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Community Market - DEH

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 **617** jars have been donated.

As part of our **Stewardship Program** here at First United, information on Planned Giving through Wills and Bequests will be made available to our congregational membership this fall. All members are encouraged to review this information and take the appropriate steps pertaining to your wishes. The information will be available later this year from the church office. Below you will find a stewardship scripture verse and quote relating to the same.

All shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that God has given you. *Deuteronomy 16:17*

People give not because an organization has needs but because it meets needs.

Michael J. Worth

Church News

Thanksgiving – October 8th, 2023 – Anyone wishing to contribute items to decorate the church is encouraged to bring them in by **3PM Thursday October 6th**. Thank you in advance

Sunday School teachers needed!! If you feel you can sign up for one or two Sundays a month, please contact Rev. Neal, Brenda Parrott or the church office.

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.

Thank You: The Ways and Means team would like to express a sincere thank you to all who helped in anyway with our Take-Out BBQ Roast Beef Supper. Because of the generous sponsorship of Hatheway Group of Companies, the Ways and Means team realized a profit of \$4,791.62.

Save the date – The Ways & Means Team are holding their Take-out Turkey Supper on **Thursday, November 23rd**. Tickets will be available later in October.

Thank you to our volunteers during the month of September:
Greeters – Lester Scott and Gayle Ferron; **Counters** – Shirley Sealy and Bob Willis; **Scripture Readers** – Isabel MacLaggan, Stephen Maisey, Gary Branch and Anne Wilson; **Minute for Mission** – Martha Vickers, Ronalds family, and Anne Wilson; **Sound System** – Brenda Parrott, Shirley Allain, and Ralph Jamieson and **Videographer** – Lester Scott and Don Eddy 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

“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.

Dusty Sneakers will begin on Tuesday, *October 3 at 9:30 AM* at *Central United Church Hall in Clifton*. Please remember to bring a water bottle. Come and enjoy some light exercise.

There will be a **Spaghetti Supper & Silent Auction** at the Belledune Recreation Center, 2404 Main Street, Belledune on *Friday, November 3rd from 5:00 to 7:30 PM*. Ticket price is \$15 per adult, children 10 years and under \$8. Take outs are available. Funds raised will be used to support mission projects of the **Evangel Mission Team** who will be travelling to the Dominican Republic in April, 2024. To purchase tickets or for further information please contact Glen or Joyce Daley at 506-546-3764.

SCRIPTURE READING

EXODUS 17:1-7

1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

2 The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?"

3 But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"

4 So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me."

5 The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go.

6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

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

