

*The United Church of Canada*  
*Bathurst Pastoral Charge*  
**First United Church, Bathurst**  
[www.firstunited-bathurst.ca](http://www.firstunited-bathurst.ca)

**October 8, 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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| <b><u>Lectionary for today</u></b>  | <b><u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u></b>                                       |
|---|--|
| Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20<br>Psalm 19<br>Philippians 3:4b-14<br>Matthew 21:33-46  | Exodus 32:1-14<br>Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23<br>Philippians 4:1-9<br>Matthew 22:1-14 |
| <p><i>Today's bulletins and the hydrangeas at the front of the sanctuary have been placed in loving memory of</i><br/> <b><i>Edna &amp; Huntly Ferguson &amp; son David</i></b><br/> <i>by Linda and Family</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 & TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** *(responsively)*

*...Please join me in our Territory Acknowledgement...*

***Ancient and modern people have inhabited and continue to inhabit this land on which we worship. This is the traditional land of the Mi'kmaq people, and we are deeply grateful to be here and to ground ourselves in the land which has been a place where people have lived for thousands of years.***

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

We gather with thankful 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.

*The Christ Candle is lit...*

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP** - "Praise to the Lord" – VU #835

***Praise to the Lord, all of you, God's servants.  
Blessed be the name of our God now and ever.  
From the rising up of the sun  
may the Lord be praised, praise to the name of the Lord!***

***There is none like our God in the heavens or on earth,  
who lifts the poor from the dust seating them  
with the mighty,  
who stoops to raise the weak and low:  
may the Lord be praised, praise to the name of the Lord!***

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(responsively)*

In the songs of birds and the warmth of sunshine,

**we welcome the Spirit's presence.**

In fields of grain, growing gardens, and flowers blooming,

**we welcome the Spirit's presence.**

In the wave of a neighbour and the phone call of a friend,

**we welcome the Spirit's presence.**

In the bustle of the day and the quiet of the evening,

**we welcome the Spirit's presence.**

In the work we do and the games we play,

**we welcome the Spirit's presence.**

In the lessons we've learned and the opportunities to come,

**we welcome the Spirit's presence.**

In the memories we hold and the love we have known,

**we give *thanks* for the Spirit's presence.**

**GATHERING PRAYER** (*responsively*)

Creator and Creating One, we are filled with good things:

**joy, peace, grace, hope, and love.**

In this harvest season, we revel in the things of fall:

**crops coming up, colours changing, the land getting ready for rest.**

In this season of plenty, though, give us hunger as well:

**hunger for right relations, hunger for a community of love, hunger for a world of justice.**

**Amen**

**\*GATHERING HYMN –**

VU #516

"Come, You Thankful People, Come"

Come, you thankful people, come,  
raise the song of the harvest home!  
All is safely gathered in,  
safe before the storms begin;  
God, our maker, does provide  
for our needs to be supplied:  
come to God's own temple, come,  
raise the song of the harvest home!

All the world is God's own field,  
harvests for God's praise to yield;  
wheat and weeds together sown,  
here for joy or sorrow grown;  
first the blade, and then the ear,  
then the full corn shall appear:  
Harvest giver, grant that we  
wholesome grain and pure may be.

For our God, one day, shall come,  
and shall take his harvest home;  
from the field shall in that day  
all offenses purge away;  
giving angels charge at last  
in the fire the weeds to cast;  
but the fruitful ears to store  
in the garner evermore.

Even so, God, quickly come  
to your final harvest home!  
Gather all your people in,  
free from sorrow, free from sin;  
there for ever purified,  
in your presence to abide:  
come, with all your angels, come,  
raise the glorious harvest home.

**PRAYER OF CONSCIENCE**

*(Two groups representing the Indigenous and Immigrant people of the land speak from opposite sides of the sanctuary.)*

One (*Immigrants*): This is the promised land. What are you doing here?

Two (*Indigenous*): This is the good land, our sacred home.

One: You are but Canaanites in the land.

Two: We are the custodians of the land.

One: God promised us this land.

Two: God entrusted this land to us.

One: You have not developed this land. You don't deserve it.

Two: We have sustained this land, its life and its soul.

One: What do you know of soul?

Two: We know the spirit of this land, do you?

One: We know the Creator who promised us this land.

Two: We know the Creator's spirit deep within this land.

One: Anyway, we claim the right to remove you from this land.

Two: A right to poison our land, our water, and our children?

One: You are in the way of progress.

Two: We have a close kinship with the land and its animal life.

One: You are living here *wild* anyway.

Two: That's the kind of racism that poisoned our lives – and yours.

One: This is the promised land; it's ours now.

Two: This is our sacred land; we are still its custodians.

*(Moment of Silence)*

One: Let us talk.

Two: Let us talk.

One: Let us listen to each other.

Two: Let us listen to each other.

**All: And let us find ways to be together.**

*(Moment of Silence)*

**CHORAL RESPONSE** - "Don't Be Afraid"

MV #90

***Don't be afraid.***

***My love is stronger,***

***my love is stronger than your fear.***

***Don't be afraid.***

***My love is stronger and I have promised,  
promised to be always near.***

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

*Brooke Knowles, Grace Ronalds & Autumn Ronalds*

*Luke 17:11-13*

**\*SINGING A SONG –**

VU #579

"The Church is Wherever God's People"

The church is wherever God's people are praising,  
singing God's goodness for 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 neighbours 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**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*Jini Palmer*

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Luke 17:11-19

**REFLECTION**

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**GIFT OF MUSIC – "God Is So Good"**

*RESPONDING*

**YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS** *(formerly Minute for Mission)*

*Ronalds 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** (*responsively*)

Stir within us, Spirit of the Living God,  
**that our lives may carry the Spirit of the law.**  
May our finest offerings flow through these gifts  
**into the world so much loved.**  
**Amen**

*COMMUNING*

**\*COMMUNION HYMN** –

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

VU #460

Let us talents and tongues employ,  
reaching out with a shout of joy:  
bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

*Refrain:*

*Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!*

Christ is able to make us one,  
at the table he sets the tone,  
teaching people to live to bless,  
love in word and in deed express.

*Refrain:*

Jesus calls us in, sends us out,  
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share:  
God (Immanuel) everywhere!

*Refrain:*

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

...The Spirit of Peace and Gratitude 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, in gratitude, and in love.**

... And so it is that we join with every voice and tongue on earth and  
in the heavens 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.**

**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.**

**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...**

**"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)*

**For the bread we have eaten,  
for the juice we have tasted,  
for the life we have received,  
we thank you God.  
Grant that what we've done  
and been given here,  
may so put its mark on us,  
that it will always remain in our hearts.  
Grant that we may grow  
in Christian love and understanding,  
and that ours may be lives of faithful action,  
now and always.  
Amen**

*GOING OUT (as Spirit people)*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** – "Praise God for the Harvest"

VU #517

Praise God for the harvest of the orchard and field,  
praise God for the people who gather their yield,  
the long hours of labour, the skills of a team,  
the patience of science, the power of machine.

Praise God for the harvest that comes from afar,  
from market and harbour, the sea and the shore:  
foods packed and transported, and gathered and grown  
by God-given neighbours, unseen and unknown.

Praise God for the harvest that's quarried and mined,  
then sifted, and smelted, and shaped, and refined;  
for oil and for iron, for copper and coal,  
praise God, who in love has provided them all.

Praise God for the harvest of science and skill,  
the urge to discover, create, and fulfil:  
for dreams and inventions that promise to gain  
a future more hopeful, a world more humane.

Praise God for the harvest of mercy and love from leaders and peoples, who struggle and serve for fairness and kindness, that all may be led in freedom and safety, and all may be fed.

**\*BLESSING**

**\*CHORAL SENDING FORTH** – “Take Up His Song” – MV #213

*Take up his song of peace and go into the world.  
Take up his song of peace in ev’ry moment.  
In ev’ry moment of the journey, we’re laying down our lives;  
lay them down, in peace, lay them down,  
and take up his song.*

*The Christ Candle is extinguished.*

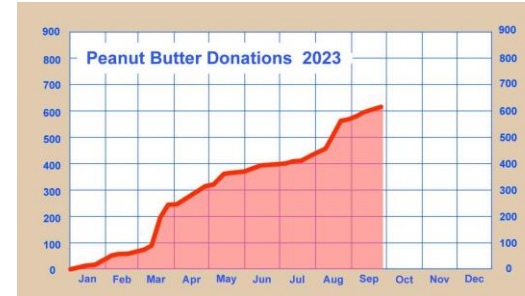
**POSTLUDE**



# Church News

| This Week at First United – October 9 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> |                                |                         |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Monday  | Office Closed for Thanksgiving |                         |
| <b>Tuesday</b>  | <b>6:30 PM</b>                 | <b>Choir Practice</b>   |
| Wednesday   | 9:00 AM                        | Badminton – DEMH Gym    |
| Saturday  | 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM             | Community Market - DEMH |

**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 October 5<sup>th</sup> **622 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.

Do not say to yourself, “My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.” But remember the Lord your God, for it is God who gives you power to get wealth, so that God may confirm God’s covenant that God swore to your ancestors, as God is doing today.

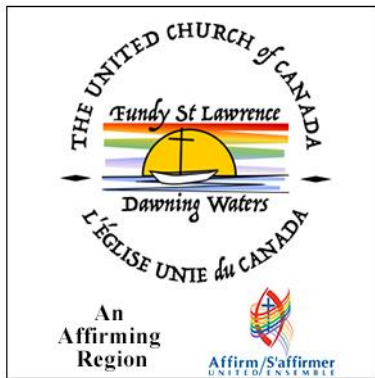
*Deuteronomy 8:17–18*

***When someone dies, the obituary often tells us more about what they died from than what they lived for.***

*Author unknown*

# Church News

**Sunday School** will begin October 15<sup>th</sup> and continue on to December 17<sup>th</sup>.



## ***Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional News***

### **Celebration of Ministry Services – Save the Dates!**

There will be two Celebration of Ministry services held in the region this fall.

#### **October 17, 2023 at 2:00pm**

for the Ordination of Catherine Ann Dickson. Service to be held at Trinity United Church, Summerside, PE

#### **October 19, 2023 at 2:00pm**

for the Admission of Pierre Momberg to The United Church of Canada. Service to be held at St. Andrew's United Church, New Richmond, QC

All are welcome! For those unable to attend in person, the services will be live streamed so that all who wish to may witness these milestone events. The links to the services will be shared closer to the dates.

# 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](mailto: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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>d</sup> 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.

**Gloucester Chapter IODE** is holding its **Annual Harvest Fair** on *Saturday, October 21, 2023* at the Bathurst High School Cafeteria (St. John Street Entrance). *Doors open from 11 AM to 4 PM.*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### EXODUS 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

1 Then God spoke all these words,

2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;

3 you shall have no other gods before me.

4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth.

7 "You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

8 "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

13 "You shall not murder.

14 "You shall not commit adultery.

15 "You shall not steal.

16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female slave, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

18 When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance

19 and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen, but do not let God speak to us, lest we die."

20 Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

### LUKE 17:11-19

11 On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee.

12 As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance,

13 they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

14 When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean.

15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice.

16 He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan.

17 Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?"

18 Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"

19 Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

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