

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

October 15, 2023

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

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Exodus 32:1-14 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14	Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22
<p><i>Today's bulletins have been placed in loving memory of:</i> Betty & Blair Chamberlain and grandson, Bradley <i>by the family and</i> Vivian Howatt <i>by her family and</i> Kenneth Eddy, <i>whose death occurred in Halifax.</i> <i>Condolences expressed to Donald & Chesley Eddy</i> <i>and to other members of the family</i> <i>by Isabel MacLaggan & 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 *(responsively)*

We live in a time of turmoil.

Sometimes, it is hard to find peace in the world or in our hearts.

In these anxious times, we turn to the light of Christ to ground us, to guide us, to comfort us.

May this light be our peace,

now and always.

Amen

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)*

Seeking the Spirit's way, unsure of what lies ahead,

let the wisdom of God's word help us learn to love.

Confronted by difficulty, stretched by possibility,

let the strength of our faith help us grow in love.

Challenged by setbacks, disconcerted or confused,

let the promise of grace help us persist in love.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – "Worship the Lord"

VU #401
(Verses 1-3, 5)

Refrain:

*Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!*

Raising our hands as a sign of rejoicing,
and with our lips our togetherness voicing,
giving ourselves to a life of creativeness,
worship and work must be one!

Refrain

Praying and training that we be a blessing,
and by our handiwork daily confessing:
we are committed to serving humanity,
worship and work must be one!

Refrain

Called to be partners with God in creation,
honouring Christ as the Lord of the nation,
we must be ready for risk and for sacrifice,
worship and work must be one!

Refrain:

*Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!*

Now in response to the life you are giving,
help us, O Father, to offer our living,
seeking a just and a healing society,
worship and work must be one!

Refrain

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

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.***

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

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

And also with you.

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

***SINGING A SONG** – "Jesus Loves Me"

VU #365

Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
in his love we shall be strong.

Refrain

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

Jesus loves me, this I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, "Let them come to me."

Refrain

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

Jesus loves me still today,
walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give
light and love to all who live.

Refrain

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Jennifer Oliver

Exodus 32:1-14

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC – "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS (*formerly Minute for Mission*)

Bev Murphy

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*)

**Thanks, Holy One,
for the fire in our bellies
and the hope in our hearts.
It is with every emotion
that we share these gifts.
May they unite with the work
of your steadfast love.
Amen**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*responsively*)

...No one is beyond the reach of your gaze and attention. No one is ignored in your arena of activity.

We are sorting through all of our emotions, Holy One, to understand what it means to stand firm in our faith.

Far from igniting fear, your awareness is stirred by concern that all may enjoy justice, freedom, and fullness of life.

We pray for courage to be led to speak up, question, challenge, and offer alternative actions as Moses did for you.

Your sacred story changes us and gives new meaning to our lives.

We pray for compassion as we try to make sense of your loving ways.

Bring us together, we pray, in the peace we can't quite understand and bring us more and more into the steadfastness of your love.

We pray for faithfulness on the journey toward hope and healing.

Still, there are things we don't know. Things we can't know and things that break our hearts with grief and sorrow.

We pray for your love in all that's unknown.

We invite you, Holy One, into our pain and sorrow.

We need your comfort and grace.

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.**

Amen

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** – “May the God of Hope Go with Us” – VU #424

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Refrain:

*Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed.

Refrain

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL CLOSING** – “Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light”
MV #211 (2x)

***Go now in peace,
guided by the light of Christ,
so you may be
nourished by the Word of Life.***

The Christ Candle is extinguished.

POSTLUDE

Church News

This Week at First United – October 16th to 22nd		
Monday	9:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH Gym
Wednesday	9:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH Gym
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Thursday	4:00 PM	Finance Team Meeting - RMR
	7:00 PM	CD Team Meeting - RMR
Saturday	8 AM to 1 PM	Bathurst Community Market - DEMH
	9 AM to 4 PM	Chorale Voidunor Practice - Sanctuary
Sunday	2 PM to 4 PM	Chorale Voidunor Concert - Sanctuary

Church News

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 12th **632 jars** have been donated.

Financial Management Team will meet on **Thursday**, October 19th at 4:00 PM in the Ruth Morrison Room.

Christian Development Team will meet on **Thursday**, October 19th at 7:00 PM in the Ruth Morrison Room.

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 store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:19–21

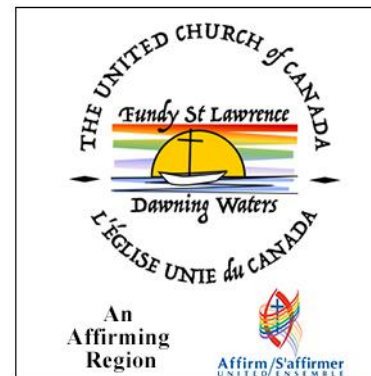
Money is a person’s personal energy reduced to portable form.

**It can go where they could not go;
speak languages they could not speak;
lift burdens they could not touch;
save lives with which they cannot relate directly.**

Harry Emerson Fosdick

Church News

Thank you to Gary Branch and Gwen Sturgeon for their Thanksgiving decorating efforts. The sanctuary was beautiful!



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.

Church News

Welcome to Gifts with Vision for 2023–2024!



[Image credit: The United Church of Canada]

[Gifts with Vision](#) are opportunities for you to make a difference in someone's life—during Advent and Christmas, or at any time of year—by giving gifts from the comfort of home, with no packaging or wrapping needed.

This year's new gifts include [solar power](#) for the United Theological College in Zimbabwe, [backpacks full of school supplies](#) for children who live under the poverty line, a [biofuel pilot project](#) run by women in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and making the United Church camp experience possible for children in underserved communities in the Maritimes—along with many others. You'll also recognize lots of returning gifts, like [Operation Backpack](#), [Return of the Buffalo](#), and [A Kindergarten in a Refugee Camp](#).

See all the Gifts available and find out more by visiting the [Gifts with Vision website](#), and pick up a catalogue in the narthex

Community News

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.*

Dusty Sneakers is held each Tuesday at 9:30 AM at Central United Church hall in Clifton. Please remember to bring a water bottle and of course bring a friend! Come and enjoy some light senior exercise.

Community News

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.

Shriners Children's Hospital has been providing hope and healing to children for more than 100 years. The Shriners compassionate, prestigious doctors and care teams are committed to excellence in pediatric care. While some patients need basic care, others face for complex conditions that require care over months, even years. **The North Shore Shrine Club** is raising funds to help sick children by the sale of calendars and fruit cakes. The funds are used to pay for the transportation of sick children to the hospital in Montreal. **The calendars are \$20 each** and you have the chance to win a prize each day of the year. **The fruit cakes – 3 cakes per box – are \$23 per box.** To order a calendar or cakes please contact Harvey Spence at 506-546-2742. Thank you!

Holy Family Church, 430 St. Peter Avenue is hosting a **Beef Supper** on *Sunday, November 5th at 5 PM* in the Church basement. We will be selling 225 dinner tickets at \$20.00 each with all proceeds to cover oil costs. Take out dinners will be available. Please contact Cletus Boucher at 506-544-1368 for supper tickets.

Friday, October 27th, the "Treble Makers" will play a variety of music starting at **2 PM** at the **Bathurst Heritage Museum**. Selections will include songs such as "Sentimental Journey", "Let Me Call You Sweetheart", "Blueberry Hill", "Partons la mer est belle", "Yellow Bird", "Viens Voir L'Acadie", some instrumental music, toe tapping jigs, reels and many more.

There is no admission fee – however, a good will donation towards the museum is always appreciated.

SCRIPTURE READING

EXODUS 32:1-14

The Golden Calf

1 When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."

2 Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters and bring them to me."

3 So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron.

4 He took these from them, formed them in a mold, and cast an image of a calf, and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"

5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it, and Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord."

6 They rose early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being, and the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to revel.

7 The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely;

8 they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'"

9 The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are.

10 Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

11 But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?

12 Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people.

13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'"

14 And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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