

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

**October 29, 2023**

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

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<b><u>Lectionary for today</u></b>	<b><u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u></b>
Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46	Joshua 3:7-17 Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 Matthew 23:1-12
<p><i>Today's bulletins have been placed in loving memory of:</i> <i>our parents, <b>Harold &amp; Edith Payne</b> and</i> <i><b>Auley &amp; Florence Scott</b>, and our nephew</i> <i><b>David Wiseman</b> by Francis &amp; Peggy Scott</i> <b>and</b> <i>our parents, <b>Burnham &amp; Mary Logan</b> and</i> <i>siblings, <b>Fran Morrison &amp; Roy Logan</b></i> <i>by Dawn, Brenda &amp; Ellen</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** *(in unison)*

*...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**

As we prepare ourselves for worship, we light the Christ Candle reminding us that Jesus the Christ is the Light of the world, and when we follow the ways of Love... we are also Light.

*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** (Based on Psalm 90) *(responsively)*

God is our dwelling place from age to age.  
And yet, we become complacent, forgetting who we are, and to whom we belong. God reforms us  
**and makes prosperous the work of our hands!**

God's abundance surges forth through creation, like grass that renews every morning. And yet we prefer to be dust, swept away in the wind of every new idea and whim. The Holy One reforms us  
**and makes prosperous the work of our hands!**

The Creator turns to us, and has compassion on us, so the great work of our lives, manifests Christ's glorious Love to the world. God reforms us  
**and makes prosperous, the work of our hands!**

### GATHERING PRAYER

**\*GATHERING HYMN – "Fresh as the Morning"**

MV #28  
*Verses 1, 2, 3 & 5*

God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,  
hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,  
you are our centre, daylight or darkness,  
freedom or prison, you are our home.

#### *Refrain*

*Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.  
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.*

God in our struggles, God in our hunger,  
suffering with us, taking our part,  
still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit,  
feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.

#### *Refrain*

Those without status, those who are nothing,  
you have made royal, gifted with rights,  
chosen as partners, mid-wives of justice,  
birthing new systems, lighting new lights.

#### *Refrain*

Hope we must carry, shining and certain  
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,  
bonding us gladly one to the other,  
till our world changes facing the Cross.

#### *Refrain*

### PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION

**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*)

*Mya Brewster, Weston Brewster & Brooke Knowles*

*Matthew 22: 34-40*

**\*SINGING A SONG – "I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy"**

*Text: George W. Cooke*

*Tune: I'VE GOT THE JOY, Irregular; George W. Cooke*

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,  
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;  
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,  
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

I've got the peace that passes understanding,  
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;  
I've got the peace that passes understanding,  
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus,  
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;  
I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus,  
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

*ENGAGING*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*Isabel MacLaggan*

Matthew 22:34-46

**REFLECTION** – “Together We Worship” - Rev. Cheryl Meban

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**GIFT OF MUSIC** – “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

*RESPONDING*

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

*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**

**SHARING OUR CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** – VU #921 (*in unison*)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,  
on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil:  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
forever and ever.  
Amen.**

*GOING OUT (as Spirit people)*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** – “Sacred Stories” (*Tune Beach Spring 8787D*)

Sacred stories, shared with others,  
form a faith that’s strong and true  
Sacred places, etched with meaning,  
bringing hope and joy anew.  
Sacred memories, sacred future,  
sacred present, here and now.  
Sacred knowing, sacred being,  
sacred living be our vow.

Sacred stories, shared with strangers  
sacred stories, shared with friends.  
Sacred stories, bind us closely  
shaped by ties that will not end.  
Sacred waters of baptism,  
sacred bread and sacred wine  
Sacred humans, sacred living,  
with God's purpose we still shine.

*Words: Rev. Catherine MacDonald.  
Introduced at Maritime Conference May 25, 2018*

## \*BLESSING

Go out into the world, living in the light of Christ!  
By the power of the Spirit do all the good you can  
by all the means you can  
in all the ways you can  
in all the places you can  
at all the times you can  
to all the people you can  
as long as ever you can.

**Amen**

*Words attributed to John Wesley*

\***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



**Peanut Butter** – Our pledge this year to the Bathurst Volunteer Center is **900 jars**. As of October 26<sup>th</sup> **711 jars** have been donated

# Church News

## This Week at First United – October 30<sup>th</sup> to November 4<sup>th</sup>

Monday	9:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH Gym
Wednesday	9:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH Gym
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
	7:00 PM	Christmas Choir Practice
Saturday	8 AM to 1 PM	Bathurst Community Market - DEMH

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

**TAKE OUT Turkey Supper** will be held on Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$6 for children. As there are a limited number of tickets they will be sold on a first come-first served basis. Please contact a member of the *Ways & Means Committee* or drop by the church office from 9 AM to 3 PM Monday to Friday.

*Sponsored by  
Kenny's Trucking Ltd. & Shine House  
(A Division of Stothart Automotive)*



**Annual Remembrance Service** - Each year, on the Sunday immediately prior to Remembrance Day, we honour our war veterans as well as those who lost their lives in war. Our Remembrance Service will be held Sunday, **November 5<sup>th</sup>**. Those wishing to place memorial crosses in the sanctuary are reminded to contact the Legion office no later than **November 1<sup>st</sup>** either by telephone [506-546-3135](tel:506-546-3135) or drop by the Legion located at [1220 Bridge Street](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1220+Bridge+Street) between 8:00 AM and 12:00 Noon Monday to Friday or during regular legion hours on the weekends.

***Thank you for supporting our veterans  
and the Legion.***



The crosses will be placed in the church on Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

# Church News

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.

"Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." *Mark 10:21*

***The drive to give is as important to an understanding of humanity as the desire to receive.***

*Jacques T. Godbout*

## Community News

**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 Shriners Children's 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**A Family and Community Breakfast & Bake Sale** will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 8 to 10 AM**. Come and enjoy fellowship and great food. Free will offering at the door.

## SCRIPTURE READING

### MATTHEW 22:34-46

#### The Greatest Commandment

**34** When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together,

**35** and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.

**36** 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?'

**37** He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

**38** This is the greatest and first commandment.

**39** And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

**40** On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

#### The Question about David's Son

**41** Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question:

**42** 'What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?' They said to him, 'The son of David.'

**43** He said to them, 'How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

**44** "The Lord said to my Lord,  
'Sit at my right hand,  
until I put your enemies under your feet'?"

**45** If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?'

**46** No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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