

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

March 31, 2024
Easter Sunday

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

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 John 20:1-18	Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1—2:2 John 20:19-31
<i>The bulletins today are placed in loving memory of Edgar Brown by his wife, Helene</i>	
<i>The flowers in the front of the sanctuary are in memory of Dad, J. Hamilton Gammon - from Martha and Albert</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 *(in unison)*

...As we gather to worship, let's respectfully pause to remember we live and work and worship on lands that are, by law, the unceded territory of the original peoples, the Mi'kmaq. May we live with respect on this land, and live in peace and in friendship with its people.

LENTEN TENEBRAE *(responsively)*

Wayne Lord & Katie Lord

...One: Christ is risen.

Two: He has risen, indeed.

One & Two: Hallelujah!

One: In Christ's resurrection, God has spoken.

Two: This indeed is God's world.

One: God's power is stronger than the earthly powers.

Two: God's way of peace and justice will ultimately prevail.

One: This is the news we have been waiting for.

Two: Christ is risen.

One: He has risen, indeed.

One & Two: Hallelujah!

All the candles are relit, starting with the Christ candle.

At the lighting of each candle:

One & Two: Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed. Hallelujah!

***GATHERING HYMN** – "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today, Alleluia!"
(Verse 1) (Tune: VU 155 Easter Hymn, Lyra Davidica)

Jesus Christ is risen today, alleluia!

Roll the stone of grief away, alleluia!

Women bring the joyful word, alleluia!

Christ is risen! Christ is Lord! Alleluia!

Two: Let us pray:

**Holy One of the Universe,
your heartbeat echoes in our heartbeat.
Your breath is our breath.
Your vitality pulsates in us
and throughout the vast universe.
Creator and Creating One,
in you, we live and love and rejoice
in the gifts of life.**

**We give thanks for the gift of Easter resurrection
that we may put our ultimate trust
in your goodness and gracious love.
This, we pray, in the resolute spirit
of the risen Christ,
Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN** (*cont'd*) – “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today,
Alleluia!” (*Verses 2-4*) (*Tune: VU 155 Easter Hymn, Lyra Davidica*)

God has silenced pow'rs of death, alleluia!
Let us sing with ev'ry breath, alleluia!
Pow'rs and tyrants flee away! Alleluia!
Christ is risen, now, today: alleluia!

Gone the ways of pow'r and fear, alleluia!
Christ is risen, present here, alleluia!
Servant, Healer, Shephard, Friend, alleluia!
With us now, till ages end, alleluia!

Let us go, then, Jesus' way, alleluia!
Lift the cross and, day by day, alleluia!
Die with Christ, and rise again, alleluia!
Live with love God's joyful reign, alleluia!

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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*)

John 20: 1-2

***SINGING A SONG – “I Can Feel You Near Me God”**

MV #48

I can feel you near me God
I can feel you near
Yes I know you're with me God
I feel you here
I can feel you near me God
I can feel you near
Yes I know you're with me God
Heaven is here.

*Refrain
And I'll jump for joy
I'm singing Alleluia
Jump for joy for you
I will jump for joy
I'm singing Alleluia
Jump for joy for you.*

I can feel you loving me
yes I know you care
God I know you're loving me
always every where
I can feel you loving me
yes I know you care
God I know you're loving me
I know you're there.

Refrain

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Jini Palmer

John 20:1-18

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC - "Sing to the Lord with a Joyful Sound"

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Judy Losier

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

THE OFFERING IS GATHERED

***OFFERING RESPONSE –**

VU #541

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.***

***OFFERING PRAYER** (*in unison*)

**God of questions and answers,
of doubt and belief,
the gifts we bring are our response
to the queries of your way.
As we're invited to share
in all the mysteries of life,
we give thanks for continuous blessings.
Receive all that's presented, we pray,
assurances, questions, answers,
blessings, and longings.**

**May our gifts be a source
of new life for *all*
in the world.
Amen**

COMMUNING

***COMMUNION HYMN –**

MV #198

"When We Gather at the Table"

When we gather at the table
wine is poured and bread is broken.
Then love claims us, offering healing,
we hear welcome, gently spoken.

Jesus offers our thanksgiving
blessing God for life we're given.
From the earth comes grain to feed us
watered by the rains of heaven.

Word of promise claims attention
earth renewed by God's designing.
All the creatures join in praises
God's intended wholeness finding.

Come, invited, now draw nearer,
join this holy celebration.
Here be strengthened, called to justice,
living now God's new creation.

Christ, your coming and your hosting
gives us place at widening table
now embracing world and neighbour
Spirit strong, by love enabled.

***GREETING ONE ANOTHER** (*Based on St. Patrick*) (*responsively*)

...Christ's peace be with you,

and also with you.

INSTRUCTIONS

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(responsively)*

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

...And so, with the risen Christ, who makes all things new by the power of his resurrection, we join in the song of a new day, to sing your praise:

"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.

...As purple gives way to gold, hear our prayers for times of suffering, in a world that's unjust for too many.

May we live towards wholeness.

As thorns give way to crowns, hear our prayers for oppression in our land by trade that's imbalanced.

May we live towards liberation for all.

As tombs give way to gardens, hear our prayers for worries that keep us from flourishing in your care.

May we live towards your peace.

As yesterday gives way to tomorrow, hear our prayers for the future that holds too much uncertainty or loneliness.

May we live towards your vision.

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 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!*

Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.

Jesus Christ, the True Vine.

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

GIFT OF MUSIC – "Put Peace into Each Other's Hands"
(while the elements are distributed)

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** – "Christ Is Alive" – VU #158

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war,
Where colour, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL SENDING FORTH** *(Tune Promise VU 703)*

***As we go into the future,
As we tell of the Good News,
We will show our love for others,
Just as Christ has told us to.
We will tell the wondrous story,
Of a love that's made for you,
And it's all because of Easter—
Sing a joyous Hal-le-lu!***

-9-

(The Christ Candle & Lenten Tenebrae candles are extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

Church News

This Week at First United – April 1 st to April 6 th		
Monday	Office Closed	
Tuesday	9:00 AM	Ways & Means - RMR
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
	4:00-9:00 PM	Music Festival - Sanctuary
Thursday	12:00 PM–8:00 PM	Music Festival - Sanctuary
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market

Church office hours - Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Please note the church office will be closed Monday April 1st. The office will re-open Tuesday April 2nd.

Peanut Butter – Once again this year we have set a goal of 900 jars of peanut butter to donate to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. Up to March 28th, 2024 we have collected 208 jars.

Confirmation Classes: If anyone is interested in attending confirmation classes, please contact Rev. Neal or the church office at 506-546-3532.

As part of our **Stewardship Program** here at First United, information on Planned Giving through Wills and Bequests is available to our congregational membership. All members are encouraged to review this information and take the appropriate steps pertaining to your wishes. The information is available from the church office.

Below you will find a stewardship quote relating to the same.

"We should travel light and live simply.
Our enemy is not possessions but excess."
~ John Stott

Church News



Let's Play Games

Thursday, April 11th 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Come join us for an afternoon of fun and games in the Donald Eddy Memorial Hall

We will provide several games such as Cards, Scrabble, Yahtzee, Skip Bo, Phase 10, Cribbage or any game you would like to bring.

Open to all the community and area - No partners needed.

Tea & Coffee provided, please bring your own mug.

Free will offering at the refreshment area

Community News

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, April 13th from 8:00 – 10:00 am**. As this community event serves to fund our local mission projects, we rely on donations and ask that you consider a minimum donation of \$ 8.00 to help defray costs. We appreciate your kindness and support. Come and enjoy fellowship and great food.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:1-18

The Resurrection of Jesus

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.

4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

5 He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.

6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there,

7 and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

8 Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed,

9 for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

10 Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb,

12 and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.

13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

17 Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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