The United Church of Canada Bathurst Pastoral Charge First United Church, Bathurst

www.firstunited-bathurst.ca

July 14, 2024

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Lectionary for today

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 Psalm 24 Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29

Lectionary for next Sunday

2 Samuel 7:1-14a Psalm 89:20-37 Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

We thank Jennifer Oliver for leading us in our service of worship this morning.

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.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

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

(Verse 1)

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!

Call to Worship (responsively)

(Inspired by John 6:51-58 – The Message)

Whoever believes in me has real life, eternal life.

I am the Bread,

Living Bread presented to the world

So that it will live, you in me and I in you.

This is the Bread from Heaven

Whoever eats this Bread will live always.

Let us worship together in gratitude, with renewed life. Amen.

GATHERING PRAYER

*GATHERING HYMN – "Spirit, Open My Heart" MV #79

Refrain:

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living. As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving, Spirit, open my heart.

God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender. All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.

Refrain:

Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story. In each thought, word and deed, may my living bring you glory.

Refrain:

May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister, brother. In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.

Refrain

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

CHORAL RESPONSE – "Take, O Take Me as I Am" – MV #85

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be; set your seal upon my heart and live in me, in me.

*GREETING ONE ANOTHER (responsively)

...The Peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

SHARING A STORY (with those of all ages)

*SINGING A SONG - "This Is God's Wonderous World" MV #296

This is God's wondrous world, and to my listening ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world;
I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, God's hand the wonders wrought.

This is God's wondrous world: the birds their carols raise; the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise. This is God's wondrous world: God shines in all that's fair; in the rustling grass or mountain pass, God's voice speaks everywhere.

This is God's wondrous world:
O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world:
why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
God reigns, let earth be glad!

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Gary Branch

John 6:51-58 (Common English Bible)

REFLECTION – "Together We Worship" – Rev. Chelsea Masterman

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC – "Come Touch Our Hearts"

MV #12

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Mike Kierstead

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*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.

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father/Mother/Creator
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,
and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CLOSING HYMN – "Faith of Our Fathers" VU #580

Faith of our fathers, living still in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword; O how our hearts beat high with joy, when e'er we hear that glorious word: faith of our fathers, holy faith, we will be true to you till death.

Faith of our mothers, daring faith, your work for Christ is love revealed, spreading God's word from pole to pole, making love known and freedom real:

faith of our mothers, holy faith, we will be true to you till death.

Faith of our sisters, brothers too, who still must bear oppression's might, raising on high, in prisons dark, the cross of Christ still burning bright:
faith for today, O living faith, we will be true to you till death.

Faith born of God, O call us yet; bind us with all who follow you, sharing the struggle of your cross until the world is made anew. Faith born of God, O living faith,

we will be true to you till death.

*BLESSING - (responsively)

This day, the Spirit of God waits on the threshold of our experience, Waits to be embodied as always, in responsive human lives. So, let us renew our commitment to be the vehicles of that Spirit, And let us go forth with joy, to set that Spirit free in our daily living.

Amen

*CHORAL CLOSING – "Lift Us Up, Send Us Out"

Lift us up, send us out as we now go in peace and our worship and living entwine. May God's presence be near and may concord increase when our hope and our actions combine. Be the salt, be the light and let each be a sign that our caring will highlight the way. Share a meal, plant a tree, let our faith underline that by giving, our love is conveyed.

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(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

Church News

<u>Summer church office hours</u> are now in effect until after the Labour Day Weekend in September. The office will now be open Monday to Thursday 9 AM to 3 PM – closed Friday

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 July 11th, 2024 we have collected 384 jars. We have funds on hand to purchase another 60 jars in the next couple of weeks.

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 / adherents 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.

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. *1 Peter 4:10*

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

Jacques T. Godbout

Community News

St. George's Anglican Church will be hosting the *Hospitality Days Breakfast* on Saturday, July 20th from 8 AM to 10AM. Tickets to be sold in advance by dropping into the Church Office or calling 506-546-3225. Adults – \$10 and Children under 12 - \$5

The <u>Anglican Parish of New Bandon</u> is holding its annual **Strawberry Social and Bake Sale** on Wednesday, July 17 at Christ Church Hall in Clifton. The event will run between 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. An eat-in shortcake dessert with tea, coffee or iced tea can be enjoyed for \$8. Takeouts will also be available.

A summer kids' event called Scuba VBS will be hosted at St. Lukes Presbyterian Church, 395 Murray Avenue, Bathurst from July 22 to July 26, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. At Scuba, kids explore what it means to have a friendship with God, participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible adventures, and test out sciency-fun experiments that get imagination bubbling. Family members and friends are encouraged to join-in daily for this special time at 11:30. Scuba is for kids from 4 to 12 and we welcome teenagers to volunteer as crew leaders. For more information, call 506-546-4645 or email stlukes@bellaliant.com.

<u>St. George's Anglican Church</u> will be having a "Christmas in July" Yard Sale on Saturday, July 27th from 8:00 am – 12:00 noon In the Church Hall. Christmas decor, dishware, stocking "stuffers" and other seasonal items available.

Focus Scripture: John 6:51-58 (Common English Bible)

- 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."
- ⁵² Then the Jews debated among themselves, asking, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"
- ⁵³ Jesus said to them, "I assure you, unless you eat the flesh of the Human One and drink his blood, you have no life in you.
- 54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.
- ⁵⁵ My flesh is true food and my blood is true drink.
- $^{\bf 56}$ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in them.
- ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me lives because of me.
- ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven. It isn't like the bread your ancestors ate, and then they died. Whoever eats this bread will live forever."

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