

evil faced, yet resisted with care.

The Holy One recognized, in spite of humble origin,
the glory and the gifts given, to God's Chosen Child.
Let us worship God!

GATHERING PRAYER: *(in unison)*

**O God our Creator,
in you alone are the riches of life.
We come from the East and we come from the West
knowing we follow, on our different roads,
the same star to the same place.
May we share what we know of its light,
learn from each other the way to the stable,
worship you, our only wealth,
and serve the world with Gospel gold.**
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Sri Lanka

***GATHERING HYMN:** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You" VU#232

Joyful, joyful we adore you,
God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
sound their praise eternally.

You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing,
let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

PRAYER OF HUMILITY: *(responsively)*

Eternal Light
shine in our hearts;
Eternal Goodness,
deliver us from evil;
Eternal Power,
be our support;
Eternal Wisdom,
scatter the shadows of our ignorance;
Eternal Compassion,
**have mercy on us;
that with heart and mind
and soul and strength
we may seek your face,
and be brought by your infinite mercy
to the Holy Presence;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**
Alcuin 735-804

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.***

The Assurance of our Faith:

God made us;
we are creatures made in the image of the Divine.
Christ has redeemed us;
we are a people forgiven and blessed,
The Holy Spirit sustains us;
be open to the future with confidence and hope.
Be assured that whenever we confess in the name of Christ,
God is there to bless and guide you.

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

...Peace be with you.

And also with you.

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

***SINGING A SONG:** “Open My Eyes, That I May See” VU#371

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

God, you are the Light of the minds that know you,
the Life of the hearts that love you,
the Strength of the spirits that seek you;
help us so to know you that we may truly love you,
so to love you that we may fully serve you,
in whose service is perfect freedom. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Anne Brooks

Old Testament Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a

***Psalm Selection:** #90 Page 806 VU
“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

Gospel Lesson: Mark 6:30-34,53-56

REFLECTION: “Building Bridges”

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC: “Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore” VU#563

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS:

Pat MacIntosh

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:**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS:

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: (responsively)

We offer thanks to you our God for sending your son as a messenger of love and hope for each of us. We are not alone you're with us.

Holy God, your son humbled himself, even to death, to show us the power of loving service.

We pray that you will guide those holding positions of power, that their decisions give rise to the mutual flourishing of the world that you love.

Save us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Healing God, your son is betrayed and crucified in our violent world each day.

Raise us to a new and rightly ordered world through the reconciling love of Christ.

May all victims of violence, persecution, shame, or terror find the freedom to stand together with you in peace.

Save us O God, for your mercy is great.

Your son Jesus died for us so that we might be free to live full and complete lives.

Enlighten us to care for your creation, awaken us from our denial and abuse, and help us to alleviate his suffering.

Save us O God, for your mercy is great.

Grieving God, your son consoled others in life and in death.

We pray for all who are distressed, broken, or sorrowful, that together with Christ in his suffering, we may be healed and raised to you.

(Moment of Silence or expressions of concern)

Save us O God, for your mercy is great.

We remember all who are facing life, challenging illnesses, and their loved ones that they might know the peace that you offer that goes beyond or understanding. May your comforting love unfold all who are searching for way forward during times of great uncertainty in their lives.

(Moment of silence or expressions of concern)

Save us O God, for your mercy is great.

We ask all of this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

**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:** “How Firm a Foundation”

VU #660

How firm a foundation, you servants of God,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
What more can be said than to you has been said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand."

"When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress."

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply:
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine."

"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not – I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
I'll never – no, never – no, never forsake!"

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL SENDING FORTH** – "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.*

*Text © Allan Baer, 2014
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(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

Church News

Summer church office hours 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 17th, 2024 we have collected 415 jars. We have funds on hand to purchase another 60 jars in the next couple of weeks.

Guest Speakers for the upcoming services:

July 28th, August 4th and 11th – Rev. Blair Lewis
Aug. 18th – Helen Knowles
Aug. 25th – Cindy Doucet

Thank you! – The West Bathurst Cemetery Committee expresses its appreciation to all those who volunteered to help with the removal of damaged trees at the cemetery following the recent fire at the Eddy Group site. Not everyone was available on the day chosen on short notice and scheduled rainfall. A special "thank you" is expressed to: Peter Gammon, Glen Daley, Rev. Neal Palmer, John Wiseman, and committee members – Lester Scott and Gary Branch who completed the work on July 11, 2024.

Community News

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.

2025-2026

Bulletin Call for Photos

Submit your photos for United Church bulletin covers!

What we're looking for

- symbols of church seasons and special Sundays: images that convey Epiphany, the Trinity, Lent, Palm Sunday, Easter, Union Sunday, Indigenous Day of Prayer, Thanksgiving, Peace Sunday, Remembrance Day, Children's Sunday, Advent, Christmas
- Christian symbols: crosses (outdoors and indoors, preferably from United Churches), communion bread and wine, baptismal fonts, prayer, Bible, etc.
- outdoor and indoor architectural details of United Churches: colourful windows, doors, steeples, banners, nativities, candles, etc.
- images suitable for weddings and baptisms

- Canadian landscapes (farms, lighthouses, beaches, people in nature), animals, birds, insects, trees, and flowers. We would love to see your winter photos!
- more photos from western and eastern Canada, please!

What we'll do

- We'll pay a \$100 honorarium for every photo chosen.
- We'll credit the photographer on each bulletin cover.
- We'll send you a copy of the final bulletin when they're printed.

How to submit

Please use our online submission form: unitedchurch.formstack.com/forms/bulletin_submission

More information can be found on the [Submit Your Photos](#) page on united-church.ca.

Do's

- Send BRIGHT, colourful, crisp pictures, that are well lit.
- Take photos in all seasons.
- Send photos that have universal appeal that anyone and any church can relate to.
- Send large, high-resolution images.
- Avoid cropping photos.
- Remember: Bulletins are vertical—we need TALL photos.
- Do get written permission/ consent from any people in your photos. Model release forms can be found on our Submit Your Photos webpage.

Don'ts

- Please do not e-mail photos!
- Avoid adding special effects, filters, or text.
- Photos shot at night or that are very dark may not work.
- Avoid distractions such as hydro wires, cars, microphones, etc. as much as possible.

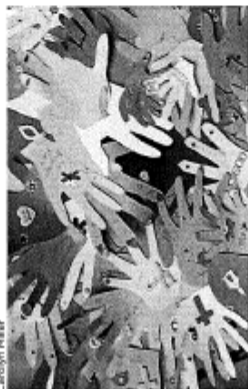
Photo quality is important!
See note on reverse!



Riad Ghabrit



The United Church of Canada



Caroline Miller

2 Samuel 7:1-14

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

God's Covenant with David

7 Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' ³Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders^[a] of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies.

Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a

house. ¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. ¹⁴ I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings.

Psalm #90 Page 806 VU

Psalm 90
O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Descant

6 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
C (F G Am) F G C Am Em Am D G

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 un - der the shad - ow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure,
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone,

be thou our guard while trou - bles last, and our e - ter - nal home.
G C (F) Dm G C (F) E C Dm (C Dm) G C

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fence is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time like an ever-rolling stream soon bears us all away,
we fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

6 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts 1719, alt.
Music: attr. William Croft 1706, desc. Francis P. Macphail 1984
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Mark 6:30-34
New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

Feeding the Five Thousand

³⁰ The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹ He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³² And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴ As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

Mark 6:53-56
New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

Healing the Sick in Gennesaret

⁵³ When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. ⁵⁴ When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵ and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶ And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.