

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

**July 28, 2024**

**Supervising Clergy** Rev. Blair Lewis     **Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Margaret Daniels     **Custodian** Lester Scott  
**Greeters** Brenda Parrott & Gayle Ferron  
**Audio & Visual Technicians** Shirley Allain & Donald Eddy

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
2 Samuel 11:1-15 Psalm 14 Ephesians 3:14-21 John 6:1-21	2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a Psalm 51:1-12 Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35
We welcome and thank Rev. Blair Lewis for leading us in worship this morning	
Thank you Linda Knowles MacPherson for providing us with your gift of music for the service 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** *(in unison)*

**Stir up the wills of your people, O God.  
Move us into new ways of living.  
Stir up the minds of your people, O God.  
Move us into deeper ways of thinking.  
Stir up the hearts of your people, O God.  
Move us into fuller ways of loving.  
Stir us thoroughly, O God.  
May the light of the Christ candle show us our way.  
Let us worship you afresh. Amen.**

*The Christ candle is lit...*

**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)*

We have gathered to worship God.  
**We have come seeking comfort, inspiration, community, and insight.**  
We have come to open ourselves to the power of God's presence in our midst.  
**We have come to offer up the seasons and the turnings in our lives, and to ask God's help in our learning and in our growing.**

**GATHERING PRAYER:** *(in unison)*

**Wondrous God:  
you touch our lives with healing and with justice;  
new life is your gift.  
We praise you for the Good News which is ours through Jesus Christ.  
May this time of worship nourish us with your promise of meaning and purpose.**

**May we be empowered to carry your goodness  
into the coming week.**

**We pray in Jesus' name, our Source and Saviour. Amen**

**\*GATHERING HYMN:**

MV #10

"Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom"

Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,  
she who danced, when earth was new.  
Follow closely what she teaches,  
for her words are right and true.  
Wisdom clears the path to justice,  
showing us what love must do.

Listen to the voice of Wisdom,  
crying in the market-place.  
Hear the Word made flesh among us,  
full of glory, truth and grace.  
When the word takes root and ripens,  
peace and righteousness embrace.

Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;  
nurture all who seek rebirth.  
Spirit-guide and close companion,  
bring to light our sacred worth.  
Free us to become your people,  
holy friends of God and earth.

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION/HUMILITY:** *(in unison)*

**Life giving God, you have called us together  
to worship just as we are.**

**We cannot pretend to be what we are not,  
for you have made us and know us through and through.  
In our weakness, we come with prayers for strength;  
in our strength, we come with prayers of thanksgiving.  
Open our hearts that we might pray with honesty,  
and await your answers with renewed faith.  
May our praise and our worship be unrestrained.**

**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:**

No matter where we are, God is there.  
No matter what we have done, God forgives.  
No matter our reluctance to accept God, God has accepted us.  
With that assurance, receive forgiveness,  
and live in fullness and in hope.

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

Let us greet one another in the name in which we gather, the  
One who is our peace

...Peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**\*SINGING A SONG:** "Small Things Count"

VU#361

*ENGAGING*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:**

O God, open our hearts and minds  
by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that as the scriptures are read  
and your Word is proclaimed,  
we may hear what you are saying to us today. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

Cheryl Brewster

New Testament: Ephesians 3:14-21

Psalm 13 Page 734 VU

**REFLECTION: "The Love of Christ"**

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**GIFT OF MUSIC:** "Come to My Heart" VU#661

*RESPONDING*

**YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS:** Judy Losier

**INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING:**

Music and laughter,  
hands and minds,  
curiosity and compassion:  
what an abundance of gifts we have!  
All these gifts are symbolized in our offering.  
Let us commit ourselves in service,  
as we worship God with our 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:**

God of all peoples and God of all places,  
we present these offerings,  
that they may be used to extend your liberating reign.  
With them, we offer our varied ministries,  
that each of us may be part of your answer  
to the cries of the world. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:** (responsively)

There is no joy that does not come from God's hand.  
There is no pain that does not echo in God's heart.  
Let us bring our thanksgivings and concerns  
before God in prayer.

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.**

Lord of all being and source of every blessing,  
we thank you for all good things:  
for life and love,  
for health and food,  
for work and home,  
for nature's beauty and comfort,  
for human skills and laughter,  
for memory and hope,  
for everything which gives us  
pleasure, nourishment, and strength.

**God our creator, our centre, our friend,  
we thank you  
for the blessings of life,  
for those who are dear to us,  
for those who have died,  
and for all who have helped and influenced us.  
Most of all, we thank you for the faith that is in us,  
for our awareness of you,  
and our hope in you.  
Keep us, we pray,  
thankful, faithful, and hopeful  
until our lives shall end. 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:** "Deep in Our Hearts"

MV #154

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;  
deep in our hearts there is a common song;  
deep in our hearts there is a common story,  
telling Creation that we are one.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;  
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;  
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,  
justice and peace in harmony.

Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;  
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;  
deep in our hearts there is a common current,  
flowing to freedom like a stream.

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;  
deep in our hearts there is a common song;  
deep in our hearts there is a common story,  
telling Creation that we are one.

**\*BLESSING** (in unison)

**Lord, make us instruments of your peace;  
where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is discord, union;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.**

**O divine Master,  
grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled,  
as to console;  
to be understood, as to understand;  
to be loved, as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
*attributed to St. Francis 12th Century***

May the God of hope  
fill you with all joy and peace,  
so that you may abound in hope  
by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
*Romans 15:13*

**\*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.***

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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 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 we have collected 425 jars.

### **Guest Speakers for the upcoming services:**

August 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Blair Lewis

Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> – Helen Knowles

Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> – Cindy Doucet

**Looking for Greeters during the month of August.** If you could do only one Sunday during the month it would be greatly appreciated. Notify the office if you are able to contribute of your time to help. Thank you.

**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.

### Prayer for the Readers

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>15</sup> from whom every family<sup>[b]</sup> in heaven and on earth takes its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, <sup>17</sup> and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. <sup>18</sup> I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Psalm 13

Refrain

*Jean Sibelius 1899, arr. The Hymnal 1933*

1-2 last time

Be still, my soul, for God is on your side. God is on your side.

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How long, O God, will you utterly forget me?  
How long will you hide your face from me?  
How long must I suffer anguish in my soul,  
and be so grieved in my heart day and night?  
How long shall my enemy triumph over me? R

Look at me, and answer me, O God my God;  
give light to my eyes, lest I fall asleep in death,  
lest my enemies claim to have prevailed against me,  
lest my foes rejoice at my downfall.  
But my trust is in your mercy.  
Let my heart be joyful in your salvation.  
I will sing to you, O God,  
because you have dealt so lovingly with me.  
I will praise your name, O God most high. R

John 6:1-14

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

### **Feeding the Five Thousand**

**6** After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias.<sup>[a]</sup> **2** A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. **3** Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. **4** Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. **5** When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' **6** He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. **7** Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages<sup>[b]</sup> would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' **8** One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, **9** 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' **10** Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they<sup>[c]</sup> sat down, about five thousand in all. **11** Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. **12** When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' **13** So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. **14** When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.'