

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

GATHERING

August 4, 2024

Supervising Clergy Rev. Blair Lewis **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Margaret Payne-Chénard and Mike Kierstead
Audio & Visual Technicians Brenda Parrott & Donald Eddy

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a Psalm 51:1-12 Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 Psalm 130 Ephesians 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51
We welcome and thank Rev. Blair Lewis for leading us in worship this morning	
The bulletins are placed in loving memory of <i>David & Margaret Oliver</i> and the flowers are placed in loving memory of <i>Departed Oliver Family Members</i> by the Family	
The bulletins are placed in memory of <i>Jerry Mitton</i> by Sherry & Family	
Thank you Linda Knowles MacPherson for providing us with your gift of music for the service this morning	
Welcome to the members of the "Oliver Clan" who are joining us this morning during their family reunion	

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...

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)*

Come, O Holy Spirit:
 come as Holy Fire and burn in us,
 come as Holy Wind and cleanse us within,
 come as Holy Truth and dispel our ignorance,
 come as Holy Power and enable our weakness,
 come as Holy Life and dwell in us.
Convict us, convert us, consecrate us,
until we are set free from the service of ourselves,
to be your servants to the world.
Where the light of Christ show us our way.

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)*

Be still, and know that God is.
Before creation began, God was.
 And when all human striving has ceased, God will still be.

**From everlasting to everlasting,
God is God, who alone is worthy to be worshipped.**

Let us sing praise to our God.

GATHERING PRAYER: *(in unison)*

**Sculpting God,
you give galaxies their form, shape granite mountains,
and design butterfly wings.
Dancing God,
you choreograph the paths of stars
and the flight of snow geese.
Singing God,
your divine song is sung by sparrows, mountain streams,
and the rushing winds.
Wonderful God,
we rejoice to be a part of the divine world
which you love and sustain. Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN:** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" VU #288

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

(Refrain)

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

(Refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.

(Refrain)

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

**Merciful God,
you made us in your image,
with a mind to know you,
a heart to love you,
and a will to serve you.
But our knowledge is imperfect,
our love inconstant,
our obedience incomplete.
Day by day, we fail to grow into your likeness.
In your tender love, forgive.**

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:

In the life, death and resurrection of Jesus,
we are assured that there is no sin so terrible
that God cannot forgive,
no hurt so terrible that God cannot heal.
God accepts, God forgives, and God sets free.
Receive the forgiving love of God.

***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:**

VU#344

"How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!

It soothes the sorrows, heals the wounds,
and drives away all fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary, rest.

Dear Name! the rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding-place,
my never-failing treasury, filled
with boundless stores of grace.

Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring.

The effort of my heart is weak,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see you whom I seek,
I'll praise you as I ought.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

Eternal God,
who caused all scriptures
to be written for our learning:
grant that we may so hear them,
read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them,
that by patience and comfort of your holy Word,
we may embrace and hold fast
the blessed hope of eternal life,
which you have given us
in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.
BCP 16th Century

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Jennifer Oliver

New Testament Lesson: Ephesians 4:1-8

***Psalm 46:** Page 770 VU Refrain #2

Gospel Lesson: John 6:24-35

REFLECTION: "Jesus the Bread of Life"

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC: "God's Garden"

Sung by Emily Oliver accompanied on guitar by Craig Oliver

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS:

Ronalds Family

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING:

Let us give, as each is able,
according to the blessings God has given each of us.

THE OFFERING IS GATHERED:

***OFFERING RESPONSE –**

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

VU #541

***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:**

**We bring our gifts to you, God.
Here is the work of our hands,
and here is the love of our hearts.
Accept them and use them,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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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)

For every breath we take, for every beat of our hearts,
for every sensation of our bodies:

we give you thanks, O God.

For the ear that listens, for the hand that caresses,
for the arms that reach out in love:

we give you thanks, O God.

For relief from pain, for the tears of shared sorrow,
for the laughter of shared joy:

we give you thanks, O God.

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For the freedom to choose, for the ability to love,
for the power of hope:

we give you thanks, O God.

For the presence you reveal to us,
for the courage you offer us,
for the rest you assure us will be ours:

we give you thanks, O God.

(Moment of Silent Prayer)

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:** “Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah” VU #651

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.

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Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

***BLESSING** (in unison)

May the road rise to meet you,
may the wind be always at your back,
may the sun shine warm upon your face,
may the rains fall soft upon your fields,
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of his hand.
Gaelic

God the Creator bless you and keep you,
God the Son save you and direct you,
God the Spirit teach you and guide you,
this day and evermore.

***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. **Monday, August 5th the office will be closed for New Brunswick Day.**

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 31th, 2024 we have collected 425 jars.

If you are aware of **anyone in the hospital or needing a visit from Rev. Lewis** let the office know (506-546-3532) and the message will be forwarded to him.

Guest Speakers for the upcoming services:

Aug. 11th – Rev. Blair Lewis
Aug. 18th – Helen Knowles
Aug. 25th – Cindy Doucet
September 1st – TBA
September 8th – Hugh Ellis
September 15th – Sandra Boone
September 22nd – Kendall Harrison

Thank You to our volunteers in July: Greeters – Margaret Payne-Chénard, Mike Kierstead, Brenda Parrott, Lester Scott and Gayle Ferron; **Counters** – Edie Gammon and Gary Branch; **Your**

Generosity Matters – Martha Vickers, Mike Kierstead, Pat MacIntosh and Judy Losier; **Scripture Readers** – Judy Losier, Gary Branch, Anne Brooks and Cheryl Brewster; **Sound System** – Brenda Parrott, Ralph Jamieson and Shirley Allain; **Hospitality & Friendship** – Shirley Sealy, Wilma Dempsey, Gayle Ferron and Bill Stack; **Videographer** – Don Eddy as well as to Josh Gammon for uploading our services to the Website and Facebook.

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.

All shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that God has given you. *Deuteronomy 16:17*

People give not because an organization has needs but because it meets needs. *Michael J. Worth*

Community News

St. Luke's Church in Belledune is celebrating its 135th Anniversary with a SPECIAL SERVICE on Sunday, August 4, 2024 at 3 p.m. We invite everyone to join us. St. Luke's (formerly St. Luke's United) is located at 364 Main Street (just below the former smelter complex). Parking is available to the west of the church. For more information please call Gordon Loane at 522-2900.

Ephesians 4:1-8

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

Unity in the Body of Christ

4 I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said,

'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;
he gave gifts to his people.'

John 6:24-35
New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

Refrain 2 *Martin Luther 1529, harm.: The New Hymnal for American Youth, 1930*

A musical score for the refrain of the hymn 'A Mighty Fortress is Our God'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the melody and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The melody is written in a 4/4 time signature and features a mix of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear though the earth should quake,
and the mountains fall into the depths of the sea,
though the waters of the sea rage and foam,
and the mountains tremble at the tumult. R

There is a river, whose streams make glad the city of God,
sanctifying the dwelling of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved.
God will help at the break of day.
Nations are in tumult, empires are shaken;
for God speaks and the earth melts away. R

Come and see what God has done,
the wonders wrought upon the earth.
God makes wars to cease in all the world,
God breaks the bow and snaps the spear,
and burns the shields in the fire.
Be still and know that I am God,
exalted among the nations, exalted in the earth.
The God of Hosts is with us,
the God of Jacob is our refuge. R

²⁴ So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' ²⁶ Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' ²⁸ Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' ²⁹ Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' ³⁰ So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?' ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³² Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which^[a] comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' ³⁴ They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

³⁵ Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

