

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

August 11, 2024

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

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 Psalm 130 Ephesians 4:25; 5:2 John 6:35, 41-51	1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 Psalm 111 Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58
We welcome and thank Rev. Blair Lewis for leading us in worship this morning	
The bulletins are placed in loving memory of <i>Sprague Wiseman</i> by Holly, Randy and Family	
The Hydrangeas have been placed by Helen and Harvey Norton	
Thank you Linda Knowles MacPherson for providing us with your gift of music for the service this morning and the past three weeks	

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)*

**Give me a candle of the Spirit, O God,
 as I go down into the depths of my being.
 Show me the hidden things,
 the creatures of my dreams,
 the storehouse of forgotten memories and hurts.
 Take me down to the summer of my life
 and tell me my nature
 and my name.
 Give me freedom to grow, so that I may become that self,
 the seed of which you planted in me at my making.
 As we light the Christ candle we offer thanks for the love you
 revealed in Jesus.**

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:

God of the poor and unprotected,
 whose love is fierce,
 whose righteousness burns brighter than the brightest fire:
 fill our hearts with holy indignation
 when peace by way of justice is denied.

Grant us the courage to follow Christ, wherever that may lead;
for yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
in time and for eternity.

GATHERING PRAYER: *(in unison)*

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires, known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN:** "Come and Find the Quiet Centre" VU #374

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

PRAYER for TRANSFORMATION/HUMILITY: *(responsively)*

Jesus said, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light."
Let us bring to God in prayer our burden of sin
and our yoke of guilt,
confident and trusting in the Spirit of grace.

O God of mystery,
we confess that, more than deep questions,

we love easy answers;
explaining away miracles, disarming the Good News,
we domesticate your wild ways.

Teach us to love our questions, O God.

Teach us to struggle with faith.

Teach us to live with your holy mysteries. Amen

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:

To all who turn from sin in sorrow,
to all who turn to God in hope,
this is God's word of grace:
we are accepted, we are forgiven, we are loved.
This gift we have from God.
Thanks be to 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:** "Break Now the Bread of Life" VU #501

Break now the bread of life, Saviour, to me
as once you broke the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;
my spirit waits for you, O Living Word.

Bless your own truth, dear Christ, to me, to me,
as when you blessed the bread by Galilee;

then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall,
and I shall find my peace, my all-in-all.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

Eternal God,
in the reading of the scripture, may your Word be heard;
in the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known;
and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Anne Brooks

New Testament Lesson: Ephesians 4:25-5:2

***Psalm 130:** Page 853 VU Refrain #2

Gospel Lesson: John 6:35,41-51

REFLECTION: "Faithfull followers of Jesus"

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC: "To Show by Touch and Word"

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS:

Anne Wilson

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING:

With joy, let us present offerings of commitment
and support for the work of Christ's church.

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)*

**Through these gifts, O God,
may all heed the voice of justice,
hear the call to compassion,
embrace the way of sharing,
and know solidarity with the loving Christ. 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 a way forward during times of great uncertainty in
their lives.

Moment of Silent Prayer:

We pray for all who suffer the pain of sickness,
loneliness, fear or loss,
that those whose names are in our hearts,
in the hearts of others,
or known to you alone,
may receive strength and courage.
We pray for those in need
God, hear our prayer.

R. And in your love, answer

Gracious God,
we pray for the faithful all over the world,
that all who love you may be united in your service.
We pray for the church
God, hear our prayer.

R. And in your love, answer

We pray for the peoples and leaders of the nations,
that they may be reconciled one to another
in pursuit of your justice and peace.
We pray for the world
God, hear our prayer.

R. And in your love, answer

We pray for all who suffer from prejudice, greed or violence,
that the heart of humanity may warm with your tenderness.
We pray especially for all prisoners of politics or religion,
and for all refugees.

We pray for all who are oppressed
God, hear our prayer.

R. And in your love, answer

We pray for all in need
by reason of famine, flood, earthquake or forest fires,
that they may know the hope of your faithfulness
through the help of others.

We pray especially for the people of
God, hear our prayer.

R. And in your love, answer

We pray for the land, the sea, and the sky,
that we may live with respect in creation
and use your gifts with reverence.
We pray for the earth
God, hear our prayer.

R. And in your love, answer

God of compassion,
into your hands we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy, 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:** "Put Peace into Each Other's Hands" MV #173

Put peace into each other's hands
and like a treasure hold it,
Protect it like a candle flame,
with tenderness enfold it.

Put peace into each other's hands
with loving expectation;
Be gentle in your words and ways,
in touch with God's creation.

Put peace into each other's hands
like bread we break for sharing;
Look people warmly in the eye:
our life is meant for caring.

Give thanks for strong – yet tender hands,
held out in trust and blessing.
Where words fall short, let hands speak out,
the heights of love expressing.

Reach out in friendship, stay with faith
in touch with those around you.
Put peace unto each other's hands;
the Peace that sought and found you

*BLESSING

The grace of Christ attend you,
the love of God surround you,
the Holy Spirit keep you.

***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 August 8th, 2024 we have collected 433 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. 18th – Helen Knowles

Aug. 25th – Cindy Doucet

September 1st – TBA

September 8th – Hugh Ellis

September 15th – Sandra Boone

September 22nd – Kendall Harrison

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

Rules for the New Life

²⁵ So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸ Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹ Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up,^[a] as there is

need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹ Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³² and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. ^[b] **5** ¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ² and live in love, as Christ loved us ^[c] and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

PSALTER 853

Psalm 130

R Out of the depths I cry to you,
my hope is in your promise true.

Out of the depths have I called to you.

○ God, hear my cry!

Let your ears be attentive to my plea for mercy.

If you should keep account of what is done amiss,

○ God, who could stand?

**But there is forgiveness with you,
therefore we will honour you. R**

I wait for you, God;

my soul waits, and in your word is my hope.

My soul waits for God

more than the watchers long for morning,

more than the watchers long for morning.

○ Israel, wait in hope,

for with God there is love unfailing.

With God is great power to redeem,

to redeem you, Israel, from all your sins. R

John 6:35, 41-51 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

John 6:35

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.

John 6:41-51

⁴¹ Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' ⁴² They were saying, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?' ⁴³ Jesus answered them, 'Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶ Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father.

⁴⁷ Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

