

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

August 25, 2024

Supervising Clergy Rev. Blair Lewis **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Judy Smith 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>
Genesis 1:6-12 2 Corinthians 1:3-11 Philippians 4:4-13	Song of Solomon 2:8-13 Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
We welcome and thank Cindy Doucet for leading us in worship this morning	
Today's bulletins are in loving memory of Edgar Brown <i>"Two years already gone, wishing you were still here, but God had a plan for us. I'll see you again some day. Until then love you always – H�elene"</i>	

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

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

One: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice!

All: Today we choose to rejoice. Today we choose to worship and give thanks.

One: Seek the peace of God that will guard your hearts and minds in Jesus Christ.

GATHERING PRAYER (in unison)

Lord of all, as we gather to worship You, we ask for hearts to open to your presence. Fill this place with Your spirit and our souls with Your peace.

*GATHERING HYMN - VU #245
 "Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet"

Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet,
 praise the Lord with the harp and lute,
 praise the Lord with the gentle-sounding flute.
 Praise the Lord in the field and forest,
 praise the Lord in the city square,
 praise the Lord anytime and anywhere.
 Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine,
 praise the Lord in the dark of night,
 praise the Lord in the rain or snow or in the morning light,
 Praise the Lord in the deepest valley,
 praise the Lord on the highest hill,
 praise the Lord, never let your voice be still.

Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal,
praise the Lord with the pipe and string,
praise the Lord with the joyful songs you sing.

Praise the Lord on a weekday morning,
praise the Lord on a Sunday noon,
praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon.

Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow,
praise the Lord in the time of joy,
praise the Lord every moment,
nothing let your praise destroy.

Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet,
praise the Lord in your work or play,
praise the Lord everywhere in every way!

PRAYER OF HUMILITY/TRANSFORMATION *(in unison)*

O Lord of wisdom and surprise, allow us to cross over our self-limiting boundaries and see the opportunities you set before us. May we seek the welfare of the places you send us and pray to You on their behalf leaning-in to bloom where we are planted. 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***

***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)*

Refrain
*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
in love, God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours,
God made their tiny wings.

Refrain

The purple headed mountains,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky;

Refrain

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
God made them every one.

Refrain

The rocky mountain splendour,
the lone wolf's haunting call,
the great lakes and the prairies,
the forest in the fall;

Refrain

God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God our maker,
who has made all things well.

Refrain

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(in unison)*

Prepare our hearts O God to accept Your word. Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that our hearts and minds might be opened. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Stephen Maisey

Genesis 1:6-12

2 Corinthians 1:3-11

Philippians 4:4-13

REFLECTION – “Bloom Where You are Planted” *(see color insert)*

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC – “As the Deer Pants for the Water”

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Judy Losier

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** *(in unison)*

Holy God of abundant gifts, open our spirits and our hearts to rejoice in this day, to give gladly and to celebrate how you

keep giving to us. Let these gifts be the signs of lives full of thanksgiving. In the name of Christ, who gave to us, we pray. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** - “In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

VU #703

In the bulb there is a flower,
in the seed, an apple tree,
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning,
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing,
in our life, eternity,
in our death, a resurrection,
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

*BLESSING

Go forth into the world in peace
and be of good courage.
Hold fast that which is good,
render to no one for evil.
Strengthen the faint of heart,
support the weak, help the afflicted.
Honour everyone by rejoicing in the power of the holy spirit.

*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

Summer church office hours are 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 22nd, 2024 we have collected 542 jars.

If you are aware of **anyone in the hospital or needing a visit**, please let the office know (506-546-3532).

Community Outreach Request

Over the summer, our pantry is becoming depleted so we are requesting food products to replenish content. We have lots of pasta on hand, so those products are not required. For more info, contact Helen Knowles (506-546-9563).

Guest Speakers for the upcoming services:

September 1st – Wayne Lord
September 8th – Sandra Boone
September 15th – Hugh Ellis
September 22nd – Kendall Harrison
September 29th – TBA

*The Ways & Means Team are pleased to announce that their famous **BBQ BEEF SUPPER** will be held on Thursday, September 19th.*

Take out will be from 4:00 PM to 5 :30 PM

Eat in will be from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM

Tickets are now available - **\$18** for adults and **\$6** for children. As there are a limited number of tickets they will be sold on a first come-first served basis. Please contact a member of the *Ways & Means Committee* or drop by the church office from 9 AM to 3 PM.

Sponsored by Hatheway Auto Group

Community News

"Help Lesotho" Calendars

The Anglophone School District – North has been sponsoring "Help Lesotho" since 2006 as part of its global awareness initiative. As a fundraiser where all of the money raised goes to help finance its work with orphans, vulnerable children, and grandmothers in Lesotho, Africa; "Help Lesotho" has 2025 calendars for sale at a cost of \$15.00. You are invited to support this initiative with your donation. Gary Branch (506-546-9208) (egbranch@rogers.com) will be taking orders for these calendars until October 15, 2024. Payment can be made in advance by cash, cheque, or eTransfer, or when the calendars are delivered in November. **Cheques are to be made payable to "Help Lesotho"**. Thank you to the congregation of First United Church for your continued support of this initiative.

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, Sept. 14th from 8:00 – 10:00 am**. As this community event serves to fund our local mission projects, we rely on donations and ask that you consider a minimum donation of \$8.00 to help defray costs. We appreciate your kindness and support. Come and enjoy fellowship and great food.

BLOOM WHERE YOU'RE PLANTED

Words and music by Jim Reese
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The patch in which you're planted may have its thorns and weeds,
The ground that you've been granted may have its rocks and reeds;
The slope on which you're slanted may all have gone to seed,
But bloom where you're planted for the Lord.

Chorus

Bloom where you're planted, God's sun still shines above,
Bloom where you're planted, He showers you with love,
Weeds may grow and winds may blow, but keep your head up high
And bloom where you're planted, keep growing toward the sky.

The place where God has put you can be the perfect place,
The pace that He's intended is just the perfect pace,
The grace that He will give you is all-sufficient grace,
So bloom where you're planted for the Lord.

If you are not now planted where God can smile on you,
If you have not been granted a life that's fresh and new,
Then you can be transplanted as only Christ can do,
So bloom where you're planted for the Lord.

Now put your root down deeper into God's Book divine,
Your leaves will be much greener, your flowers fragrance fine,
Your fruit will ripen richer for Heaven's harvest time,
So bloom where you're planted for the Lord.

Genesis 1:6-12

6 And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.'

7 So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so.

8 God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

9 And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so.

10 God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

11 Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so.

12 The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.

2 Corinthians 1:3-11

Paul's Thanksgiving after Affliction

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation,

4 who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God.

5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ.

6 If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering.

7 Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

8 We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, of the affliction we experienced in Asia; for we were so utterly, unbearably crushed that we despaired of life itself.

9 Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death so that we would rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

10 He who rescued us from so deadly a peril will continue to rescue us; on him we have set our hope that he will rescue us again,

11 as you also join in helping us by your prayers, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted to us through the prayers of many.

Philippians 4:4-13

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

9 Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Acknowledgment of the Philippians' Gift

10 I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it.

11 Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have.

12 I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need.

13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.