

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

November 24, 2024

27th Sunday after Pentecost

Interim Minister Rev. Ivan Gregan **Music Director** Martha Vickers

Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott

Greeters Linda Knowles MacPherson & Charles Ramsey

Audio & Visual Technicians Shirley Allain & Donald Eddy

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
2 Samuel 23:1-7 Psalm 132:1-12 Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37	Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 3:1-6
<i>Today's bulletins have been placed in loving memory of Husband, David Gammon by Shirley and family</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.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(responsively)*

People of God, the hour has come

Heaven and earth stand before the Creator.

Disciples of Christ, Jesus is calling us

Heaven and earth stand before the Saviour.

Vessels for the Spirit, come and be filled

Heaven and earth stand ready for God.

Let us worship God.

*** CENTERING FOR WORSHIP** "This is the Day" MV #122

This is the day that God has made;

we will rejoice and be glad!

This is the day that God has made;

we will rejoice and be glad!

Singing hal-le-lu, singing hal-le-lu,

singing hal-le-lu!

We will rejoice and be glad!

Singing hal-le-lu, singing hal-le-lu,

singing hal-le-lu!

We will rejoice and be glad!

***LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE** *(in unison)*

This candle reminds us of God's Eternal Presence.

God's Light is present even if we are blind to it.

We light this candle to remember that,

God is always bringing light in Jesus

who is our pathway home to God.

The Christ Candle is lit.

GATHERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

**God of majesty and might, whose reign is eternal,
whose kingdom is not of this world but eternal in the
heavens,**

**You are constantly surprising us with outbursts of beauty,
constantly inspiring us with dreams and visions,
and constantly lifting us up to see beyond the present
horizons, come to us now.**

Surprise us, inspire us, and lift us up,

show us the wonders You have prepared for us.

This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN – “Jesus Shall Reign”**

VU #330

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
and prisoners leap to lose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honours to our King,
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud Amen!

PRAYER OF HUMILITY *(in unison)*

**As the Rulers of this world call us to service
in the demands of a country,
so, You, Our God, call us to service
in the Kingdom of Christ.**

**Forgive us when the demands of this world
deafen us to your voice,
blind us to the larger picture of paradise,
or paralyze us from taking action.
Pardon our sins, heal our brokenness,
and set us on the path that leads us home to You,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CHORAL RESPONSE – “Jesus, You Fill Our Hearts”

MV #101

***Jesus, you fill our hearts with your love,
our minds with your peace,
and our lives
with your joy.***

GREETING ONE ANOTHER *(responsively)*

.... Peace be with you.

And also with you.

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

**In peace, dear God, I come to You
through Jesus Christ who makes me new.
And while I run or play or rest,
be with those whom I love best,
Guide me in your Holy Way,
as You walk with me each day, Amen.**

***SINGING A SONG – “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”** VU #333

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(in unison)*

**Help us hear what is not read,
Help us hear what is not said,
Help us hear your Voice today,
Echo in this place we pray. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC – “Three Things I Promise”

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS *(formerly Minute for Mission)*

Anne Wilson

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

THE OFFERING IS GATHERED

***OFFERING HYMN** – “These Gifts We Bring”

***These gifts we bring with grateful hearts,
to reconcile, make new.
Gather us in grace, show us the way,
to live our lives in Truth
to share Your love in all we do.***

THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD

***OFFERING PRAYER** *(in unison)*

**We present to You our gifts of time, treasure, and talents.
Together use them and us for Your Glory
And the good of others, in Jesus’ Name we pray, Amen.**

DEDICATION OF SOUND BOOTH

In memory of John, Verna and Judy Watling I ask the congregation to receive this gift of the South Booth from the family.

**We receive this gift with thanksgiving and gratitude and
promise that it will be used to enhance the worship of God.
We ask you to lead us in its dedication.**

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, whose praises echo around the world, may
this sound booth assist in spreading your glory beyond the
boundaries of our hearing,
beyond the boundaries of our imaginations,
and beyond the boundaries of time.
Help us to praise You not only with our lips
but with all the instruments of sound and technology that
You share with us.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord,
your voice in human time, Amen.**

HYMN of PRAISE (Tune: *The Ash Grove # 242*)

***With all of creation, in deep adoration,
we echo Your Praises from morning 'til night.
Through sound waves & power, each minute & hour,
The Spirit rejoices in every sound byte.
To You be all glory as we tell the story
Of Your great imagining of newer ways!
Receive with thanksgiving, enacted in living,
This gift we present to Your Glory and Praise!***

COMMUNAL PRAYERS

Pastoral Prayers for each other, for our city, for our world,
for the Church Universal and for our own needs and concerns.

THE LORD'S PRAYER – NOTRE PÈRE

GOING OUT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** - "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" VU #334

All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem,

Refrain:
***and crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all!***

O seed of Israel's chosen race
now ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,

Refrain:

Crown him, you martyrs of your God,
Who from his altar call;
Praise him whose way of pain you trod,

Refrain:

Let every tongue and every tribe
responsive to his call,
to him all majesty ascribe,

Refrain:

O that, with all the sacred throng,
we at his feet may fall,
join the everlasting song

Refrain:

*** BLESSING**

***CHORAL CLOSING** – "I Wish You the Blessing"

***We wish you the blessing of faith to sustain you,
friends to support you, challenge to stir you,
songs to empower you, peace to refresh you,
tears to release you, laughter to heal you,
love to nurture your soul.***

The Christ Candle is extinguished.

POSTLUDE

Church News

This Week at First United Church		
Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday to Friday		
Monday	9:00 – 11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH Gym
	9:00 AM	Ways & Means - RMR
Tuesday	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Knitting Group - RMR
Wednesday	9:00 – 11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH Gym
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
	7:00 PM	Christmas Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market

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 November 20th, 2024 we have collected 861 jars. We will be purchasing an additional 110+ jars with the next sale.

Next Sunday, December 1st at 2 PM - Christmas Hymn Sing



The choirs of First United Church in Bathurst and Central United Church in Clifton will once again be offering an afternoon of Christmas music on the 1st Sunday of Advent! A reception will follow.

\$10 per ticket.

Mark your calendars, tell your friends & family to come and join us for this musical event!

Time for Fellowship - The 2025 Hosting Sheets are in the Ruth Morrison Room. Would you like to assist the members of the Hospitality & Friendship Team to provide/serve refreshments following our church services? We are looking for families, individuals and youth interested in contributing to this enjoyable fellowship opportunity. Please feel free to add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Ruth Morrison Room and talk with a member of the Fellowship Team.

Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered already.

Your Hospitality & Friendship Team,
Bill Stack, Nancy Jagoe, Shirley Sealy, Gayle Ferron

Church News



Once again this year we are hoping to have the beauty of our sanctuary enhanced with poinsettias for the Christmas season. Those wishing to contribute to the ***Annual Poinsettia***

Fundraiser may place an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please mark clearly on the face of the envelope – Poinsettia Fundraiser with your name, PAR or envelope number. List the names that you wish to have printed in the Christmas bulletin insert. Donations will also be received in the church office – *deadline is Wednesday, December 11, 2024.*

Annual Christmas Benevolence Fund: - It's that time of year! Giving to this fund is even more important than ever. The costs relating to feeding families, and having a warm place to live has become very prevalent in our area. Should you wish to give you will find an envelope on the tree which is set up in the narthex. Then you may drop the envelope in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office during the week. Make your cheques payable to First United Church. Please mark clearly that this donation is for the Benevolence Fund. The proceeds from this fund support the Bathurst Volunteer Center and people in our congregation who need assistance.

***We thank-you for your generosity
– Community Outreach Sub-Team***

If you are aware of **anyone in the hospital or needing a visit,** please let the office know (506-546-3532) and the message will be forwarded to the Pastoral Care Team.

Bathurst Pastoral Council will be meeting on Monday, December 2nd at 4 PM in the Ruth Morrison Room. A copy of the agenda and other pertinent information will be emailed during the coming week.

Community News



SHRINERS - Give help and hope for kids

Shriners are a brotherhood of men committed to family, engaged into ongoing personal growth, and dedicated to providing care for children and families in need. Our backgrounds and interests are diverse, but we are bound together by our shared values and a desire to have fun, do good and build relationships that can last a lifetime.

Once again, this year you can help the Shriners with their fundraiser. Purchase a calendar for \$20 and have a chance to win prizes every day of the year. The fruitcakes are delicious and you can get a box of three for \$25. All the money from this fundraiser goes to help the children in our area. Contact Harvey Spence at 506-546-2742 for reservation.

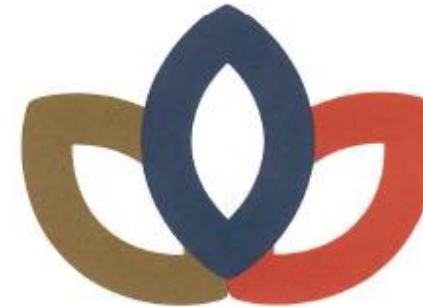
A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on Saturday, December 14th from 8:00 – 10:00 AM. As this community event serves to fund our local mission projects, we rely on donations and ask that you consider a minimum donation of \$ 8.00 to help defray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

STATUS OF "HELP LESOTHO" CALENDAR CAMPAIGN – 2024

With the support of the congregation of First United Church, 198 "Help Lesotho" Calendars for 2025 were sold. That raises \$2,940.00 for this initiative with your support. The order was sent in on October 16, 2024. On November 12, 2024, the order was sent from Ottawa by Canada Post with the assurance that it would be delivered by Friday, November 15. Unfortunately, that did not happen, so the calendar order will not be delivered until after the postal strike is settled. As soon as the order arrives, the delivery process will begin.



Deep
Bold
Daring



Profonde
Dynamique
Audacieuse



SCRIPTURE READINGS

REVELATION 1:4-8

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,

5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood

6 and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

7 Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him,
and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.

So it is to be. Amen.

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

JOHN 18:33-37

33 Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

34 Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"

35 Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?"

36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

37 Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."