

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

February 2, 2025

Supervising Clergy Rev. Blair Lewis **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Julie & Harvey Spence
Audio & Visual Technicians Shirley Allain & Donald Eddy

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Lectionary for today	Lectionary for next Sunday
Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30	Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13) Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11
<i>We thank Rev. Blair Lewis for leading us in worship this morning</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:

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: *(responsively)*

One: Greetings to our brothers and sisters in the faith.

All: We come to celebrate God's presence.

One: and God's love expressed through Jesus Christ,

All: We come remembering Christ's life and ministry,

One: and the life we are called to live.

**All: We come as a pilgrim people.
Searching for ways to live out our faith.**

One: We come seeking the strength to carry on our journey.

All: Let us rejoice in God's gift to us!

The Christ candle is lit...

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "I Am Becoming Peace"

I am becoming peace.

I am becoming peace.

***A well of patience, well of grace,
make my soul a holy place.***

I am becoming peace. (x 2)

I am becoming, I am becoming, I am becoming peace.

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WELCOMING:

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe.

Hebrews 12:28

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(in unison)*

**O Most Blessed One,
as we enter into the life of your Spirit,
teach our hearts to be psalms,
singing forth your praise;**

**teach our minds to be proverbs,
shining forth your wisdom;
and teach our lives to be parables,
showing forth your glory
in every gesture and deed.**

GATHERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

**O God, make the door of this house wide enough
to receive all who need human love and fellowship,
narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife.
Make its threshold smooth enough
to be no stumbling-block to children, nor to straying feet,
but rugged and strong enough to turn back evil's power.
God make the door of this house
the gateway to your eternal kingdom. Amen**

Bishop Thomas Ken 1637-1711

***GATHERING HYMN:** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" VU # 333
(tune Blaenwern)

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 TRANSFORMATION: *(responsively)*

Jesus taught us not to be anxious
About our lives or about tomorrow.
Are there anxieties that cause us to feel separated
from the peace which Christ promises?
Let us turn to God in prayer.

**Forgive them all, O Lord:
our sins of omission and our sins of commission;
the sins of our youth and the sins of our riper years;
the sins of our souls and the sins of our bodies;
our secret and our more open sins;
our sins of ignorance and surprise;
and our more deliberate and presumptuous sins;
the sins we have done to please ourselves;
and the sins we have done to please others;
the sins we know and remember;
and the sins we have forgotten;
the sins we have striven to hide from others;
and the sins by which we have made others offend;
forgive them, O Lord, forgive them all for his sake,
who died for our sins and rose for our justification,
and now stands at your right hand to make
intercession for us,
Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

John Wesley 1703

CHORAL RESPONSE: "Don't Be Afraid"

MV #90

***Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger
and I have promised,
promised to be always near.***

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

In Christ our release is secured and our sins are forgiven
through the shedding of his blood.
Therein is the richness of God's free grace lavished upon us.
This is our faith. This is our hope. Trusting in this grace,
be assured that your sins are forgiven.

***GREETING ONE ANOTHER:** *(responsively)*

.....The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

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

***SINGING A SONG - "Friend to Friend"**

(Seasons of the Spirit Vol. 7)

Let us now as God's own people,
give the sign of peace,
proclaiming our love for one another,
binding friend to friend.

(Chorus)

*Christ Jesus calls us to love one another,
to be one in him,
friend to friend, in love to each other,
we shall give our hands.*

In our care for one another,
by each kindly word,
by ev'ry loving deed,
we make known the love of Jesus Christ.

(Chorus)

We feed the hungry, clothe the naked,
give drink to those who thirst,
for Jesus came in love as a servant
and we follow him.

(Chorus)

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ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING: *(in unison)*

**O God,
your Word is a lamp to our feet,
and a light to our path.
Give us grace to receive your truth
in faith and love. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Anne Wilson

First Corinthians 13:1-13

Psalms 71:1-6

(VU # 789 Part One)

Luke 4:21-30

REFLECTION: "The Light in the Land of the Shadows"

***THE NEW CREED:** *(in unison)*

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,**

to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968, alt. 1998

GIFT OF MUSIC: "Fairest Lord Jesus"

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS:

Martha Vickers

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.*

*Words & Music: Pat Mayberry ©2016
Arrangement: David Kai ©2016*

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

**Caring God,
may we offer not only our material gifts,
but our whole selves to you,
and to all those who need our support
in the quest for justice.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Liberator.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: *(in unison)*

**O God, lover of the world,
you hold all that you have created
within your compassionate embrace.
As you hold our lives torn by pain,
sorrow or hatred within your aching heart,
we cry out for wholeness—
for ourselves, for those we love,
and for our world.**

**May your healing presence gently transform
the places of our lives where we hold pain.
May your loving presence be a comforting reality
for all those who find themselves
in despair, lost or alone.**

**May your transforming presence
create generosity in place of greed,
harmony in place of hatred,
and everlasting justice where evil now reigns.
O God, lover of the world,
from the silence of our own hearts,
we bring before you
these people and places that need
your healing, loving, transforming presence:**

**O God, lover of the world,
this is your world,
with your power and your presence
we pray that it be made whole.
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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

GOING OUT

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

***CLOSING HYMN:** "To Show by Touch and Word" VU #427

To show by touch and word devotion to the earth,
to hold in full regard all life that comes to birth,
we need, O God, the will to find
the good you had of old in mind.

Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most,
our hearts to long for truth till pride of self is lost.
For every challenge that we face
we need your guidance and your grace.

Let love from day to day be yardstick, rule, and norm,
and let our lives portray your word in human form.
Now come with us that we may have
your wits about us where we live.

***COMMISSIONING:**

One: O God,
as we go to our homes and our work this coming week,
we ask you to send the Holy Spirit into our lives.
Open our ears –

**All: that we may hear what you are saying to us
in the things that happen to us and in the people we
meet.**

One: Open our eyes

All: that we may see the needs of people around us.

One: Open our hands—

**All: that we may do our work well,
and help when help is needed.**

One: Open our lips—

**All: that we may tell the Good News of Jesus
and bring comfort, happiness, and laughter to
others.**

One: Open our minds—

**All: that we may discover new truth about you and the
world.**

One: Open our hearts—

**All: that we may love you and others as you have loved
us.**

Church News

BLESSING:

Light of God to give us hope
Power of God to protect us
Light of God to give us joy
Peace of God to calm us
Light of God to give us faith
Grace of God to save us
This day and forevermore.

*CHORAL SENDING FORTH –

“I Am Walking a Path of Peace”

***I am walking a path with Heart,
I am walking a path with Heart,
I am walking a path with Heart,
lead me home, lead me home.***

(The Christ Candle is extinguished)

POSTLUDE

MV #221

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
Tuesday	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Knitters - RMR
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Thursday	4:00 PM	Finance Team - RMR
	4:15 PM	Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market

Upcoming Services at First United:

February 9th ~ Hugh Ellis

February 16 ~ Helen Knowles

February 23 ~ Rev. Catherine Stuart

Bathurst Pastoral Council will meet on Monday February 10th at 4 PM in the Ruth Morrison Room.

Sunday School Workshop is scheduled to be held on Saturday, February 22nd from 10:30 AM to 12 Noon in the Ruth Morrison Room. Rev. Catherine Stuart, Minister for Youth and Young Families will lead the workshop. Anyone who is interested in engaging with youth and to get something going for our youth are encouraged to attend. RSVP deadline is Friday February 7th.

Team Committee Reports will be required in order to prepare ***2024 Annual Report***. Would the individuals responsible for preparing each report please email them to the church office. **The deadline for reports is February 14th**. ***Thank You***

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.

The Upper Room Booklets have finally arrived. They are in the outside the office on the table or can be found outside of the Ruth Morrison Room on the wall.

Church News

Eat in or Take out Roast Pork Supper will be held on **Thursday, February 20th**. Tickets will be available soon - \$18 for adults and \$6 for children. Please contact a member of the *Ways & Means Committee*, drop by the church office or call 506-546-3532.

Sponsored by



COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE

Benevolence donations increased in 2024, so it was agreed that we would forward \$2000 to the Volunteer Center. – **Thank You**

Donations for 2024 School Breakfast Programs were overlooked, so \$125 is to be forwarded to 5 schools for 2024, promptly. Then, the same amount (\$125) is to be forwarded to the same schools for 2025, in September.

McDonald's meal coupons are still being distributed but with discretion, since the behavior of some recipients was unacceptable.

Pantry supplies currently seem adequate but more bottled water should be available.

1041 bottles of peanut butter were given to Volunteer Center in 2024 & it was agreed to establish a new quota of 1000 bottles.

Peanut Butter – As noted above, our quota for 2025 is to collect 1,000 jars of peanut butter. Up to January 29th we have received 43 with funds on hand to purchase 40+ jars.

Please Note – In an effort to assist the Bathurst Volunteer Center, should you wish to make a monetary donation you may now do so by **issuing your cheque to First United Church**, indicating it is to be used for the purchase of Peanut Butter. Your donation will be marked as such and will be included on your annual tax receipt. Your cheques can be dropped off at the church office, put in the offering plate or mailed. Periodically the office will purchase the peanut butter while on sale and have it delivered directly to the Volunteer Center.

Thank you to our volunteers in January – Counters – Gayle Ferron and Wilma Dempsey; **Greeters** – Cheryl & Dave Brewster, Beth Sullivan and Charlene Roy; **Pulpit Supply** – Sandra Boone, Hugh Ellis, Wayne Lord and Randy Breckenridge; **Your Generosity Matters** – Martha Vickers, Sally Ronalds, Anne Wilson and Judy Losier; **Scripture Readers** – Jennifer Oliver, Brenda Parrott, Isabel MacLaggan and Wayne Lord; **Hospitality & Friendship** – Bill Stack, Shirley Sealy, Wilma Dempsey and Gayle Ferron; **Sound System** – Brenda Parrott, Shirley Allain, and Ralph Jamieson; and **Videographer** – Don Eddy as well as to Josh Gammon for uploading our services to the website and Facebook.

Community News

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on Saturday, February 8th 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.

PSALM 71:1-6

(VU # 789 Part One)

PSALTER 789

Psalm 71

Refrain

Martin Luther 1529

Ann. The New Hymnal for American Youth 1930



Part One (1-6)

In you, O God, I seek refuge;
may I never be disappointed.
In your righteousness, save and rescue me;
incline your ear and deliver me.
Be a sheltering rock for me,
a fortress where I may find safety,
for you are my rock and my stronghold.
Rescue me, O God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.
For you are my hope, my trust from my youth,
from the time of my birth I have leaned on you. R

SCRIPTURE READINGS –

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

1ST CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

The Gift of Love

1 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

-15-

3 If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant

5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.

7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.

9 For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part;

10 but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.

12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

13 And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

LUKE 4:21-30

21 Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?'

-16-

23 He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'"

24 And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town.

25 But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land;

26 yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon.

27 There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.'

28 When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage.

29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff.

30 But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.