

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

February 9, 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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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13) Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11	Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26
<i>We thank Hugh Ellis for leading us in worship this morning</i>	
Today's bulletins are placed in loving memory of Gordon & Ethel Vance by the family	

*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: We welcome this reminder of the light Christ brings to our lives.

All: We are assured by this reminder of Christ's constant companionship.

One: God's love for us is without condition or end.

All: We come with our doubts, uncertainties and feeling unworthy.

One: We come seeking support, reassurance and guidance.

All: We come as a people in need of your mercy and grace.

One: We come seeking direction and longing to become whole and filled with courage and faith.

All: Let us rejoice in God's many gifts lifting us up and inspiring faith in God's plan for our lives.

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:

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4: 11-12

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(in unison)*

We gather to worship— those who have doubts and questions, those who cannot always find their way. We bring ourselves to this holy place. We gather to worship— those who see the signs and believe and those who yet cannot, those who are assured of their faith and those who have doubt. We bring ourselves, unworthy as we may feel, to this holy place. It is here where Jesus’ light is revealed among us, and we hear him say, “Peace be with you.”

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GATHERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Spirit 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

from strenghinprayer.com

***GATHERING HYMN:** “Holy, Holy, Holy”

VU #315

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION: *(unison)*

Thank you for watching over and protecting us. We truly need Your strengthening power at all times. We humbly pray for Your divine help in transforming our lives. We want to be holier than we are. We want to be better followers of Jesus Christ and more loving neighbors. Send Your divine spirit to influence our thoughts. We pray that You will sanctify our actions. Use us to help those around us. Make us brave. Help us become examples and leaders among people so that we can guide them to the good news of Jesus Christ. Show us the things we should do. Help us move through doubt and anxiety and move forward in faith and hope to a brighter future. We invite Your power into our lives. Set aside our desires and replace them with Your instruction for us. We offer this prayer in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, our strength and our salvation Amen.

adapted from prays.org

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:

Even in our moments of doubt, our lack of faith, and the blindness which means we fail to see God amongst us, God is still at work. God is still healing. God is still forgiving. Even when you fail to see God, God still sees you, and still loves you. Sisters and brothers, your sins are forgiven.
Go in peace, and give praise to God!

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

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

And also with you.

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

Dealing with Doubt

***SINGING A SONG** – “Small Things Count”

VU # 361

Small things count, so Jesus said:
cups of water, crumbs of bread,
small things done because we're kind
count as big things in God's mind.

Small things make the big things grow:
grains of yeast inside the dough,
puffs that fill a big balloon,
notes that make a happy tune.

Every hair that's on our head,
every sparrow, Jesus said,
God takes care of, counts and knows,
God loves us from top to toes!

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
To grasp its meaning, magnitude and impact
And that we do so in faith and love. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Judy Losier

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

REFLECTION: “I Have my Doubts”

***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: “Three Things I Promise”

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS:

Ronalds Family

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)**

Loving and Caring Spirit,
we offer not only our monetary and material gifts,
but our personal gifts of talent, time and action to you and
to all those in need of support, justice, peace, and love.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and
Friend. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: (in unison)

Lord, help us get up off our knees. Beckon us out of our
churches, our mosques, our temples. Remind us that God
can hear our prayers for peace, justice and giving hope to
this broken world while we are out creating peace,
working for justice and giving hope to the broken world.
Help us finally realize that humanity is the solution to
inhumanity.

Bring awareness to the understanding that we are all
drops in the same ocean, that we all hurt, heal and hope
together. Bring to our understanding that we don't just
pray for hands that heal the hurting, but with hands that
are healing the hurting. That we don't just pray for arms to
help the helpless but with arms that are helping the
helpless. That we don't just pray for feet to respond to
need but on feet that are responding to need. Give us the
courage and the desire to be someone who does
something. To be an answer to prayers in addition to
praying for answers. Inspire us, motivate us, equip us to
be servants and bring your love, peace and grace to a
world in need.

Adapted from L.R. Knost

(Our silent prayers)

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: “Oh a Song Must Rise”**

MV #142

Refrain:

*Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend
Oh a song must rise once again
Singing out God's praises and glory,
The faithful voices blend,
Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend.*

From the mountains to the valleys,
from the desert to the sea,
a song must rise once again.
From the voices of our leaders,
the voice of you and me,
a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

Refrain:

Church News

From poverty and riches,
 from the voice of young and old,
 a song must rise once again.
 From the free and imprisoned,
 the timid and the bold,
 a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

Refrain:

*Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend
 Oh a song must rise once again
 Singing out God's praises and glory,
 The faithful voices blend,
 Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend.*

From every house of worship,
 in every faith and tongue,
 a song must rise once again.
 From the villages and cities
 a new song must be sung,
 a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

Refrain:

***COMMISSIONING:**

***BLESSING:**

***CHORAL SENDING FORTH –**

“Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light”

MV #211

***Go now in peace,
 guided by the light of Christ,
 so you may be
 nourished by the Word of Life.***

(The Christ Candle is extinguished)

POSTLUDE

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

Upcoming Services at First United:

February 16 ~ Helen Knowles

February 23 ~ Rev. Catherine Stuart

Sunday School Workshop that was scheduled to be held on Saturday, February 22nd from 10:30 AM to 12 Noon unfortunately will not be going forward.

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.

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



Church News

Peanut Butter – We have increased our quota for 2025 to collect 1,000 jars of peanut butter. Up to February 6th we have received 51 with funds on hand to purchase 60+ 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.

Annual Tax Receipts for 2024 are prepared and are in the narthex for pick up. They can also be picked up from the church office during the week between 9 AM to 3 PM.

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 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.

"The worst sin against stewardship is to waste your life."
~ R. C. Sproul

Community News

Central United Church, Clifton will be holding a **Valentine Day Social** on Friday, February 14th. Soup and sandwiches will be served at 5:00 PM with a **games night** to follow. Bring your friends and your favourite table game. Event is being hosted by Central United's Dusty Sneakers ladies. If you wish to bring sandwiches or cookies, you are welcome to do so. There will be a basket available for a free-will offering.

(Storm date will be February 21st)

Suicide Prevention Month

Lift Up for suicide prevention:

"Doing good has a much larger impact than people realize"

(Jung et al., 2020).

Lift Up:

Acts of kindness, the third quarterly mini campaign of the year-round **Buddy Up** campaign, runs from February 17-23, 2025. Learn more about how to participate and become a **Champion for Buddy Up**.

What is Lift Up?

Acts of kindness and moments of social connection prevent suicide and build resilience. This **Buddy Up** mini-campaign is about promoting acts of kindness – this week, do something thoughtful for a buddy or for others in your life. This is a tangible way to show them you care and that you're there for them when they need you.

How to participate:

Decide what you'll do this week as an act of kindness. Consider what you already do for others and build on that. Here are some other ideas:

Take a buddy for coffee.

Volunteer for a charity (e.g. the food bank).

Bring snacks to work.

Kindness and connection are life-saving:

Acts of kindness help build connection with others, and connection is a strong protective factor. There have been numerous studies of the "caring letter" phenomenon whereby a patient discharged from psychiatric care for attempted suicide receives letters asking about their well-being. Those who received letters were less likely to re-attempt than those who did not. These seemingly small gestures of connection are life-saving (Motto & Bostrom, 2001). In an article describing how he recovered from depression and thoughts of suicide, Jeffrey Ruoff, a filmmaker and professor, credited postcards sent to him from his brother as one powerful factor in aiding in his recovery. On the postcards, his brother wrote all kinds of messages, including messages of hope. "Whatever he writes," Ruoff said, "The message is love" (2022).

When people experience connection and positive social interactions – like receiving acts of kindness – they feel like they belong, like they're part of a greater community, and that they're cared about. Belonging is an especially strong protective factor that can protect us from developing suicidal behaviours when faced with stressful life circumstances (Conwell, et al., 2011).

SCRIPTURE READINGS – New International Version

ISAIAH 6:1-8, (9-13)

Isaiah's Commission

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple.

2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.

3 And they were calling to one another:
"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar.

7 With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
"Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"
And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

9 He said, "Go and tell this people:
"Be ever hearing, but never understanding;
be ever seeing, but never perceiving.

10 Make the heart of this people calloused;
make their ears dull
and close their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts,
and turn and be healed."

11 Then I said, "For how long, Lord?"

And he answered:

"Until the cities lie ruined
and without inhabitant,
until the houses are left deserted
and the fields ruined and ravaged

12 until the Lord has sent everyone far away
and the land is utterly forsaken.

13 And though a tenth remains in the land,
it will again be laid waste.
But as the terebinth and oak
leave stumps when they are cut down,
so the holy seed will be the stump in the land."

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

The Resurrection of Christ

1 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.

2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

5 and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,

8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

11 Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

LUKE 5:1-11

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

1 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God.

2 He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.

3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

5 Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.

7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken,

10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people."

11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

