

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

February 16, 2025

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

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Lectionary for today	Lectionary for next Sunday
Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26	Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38
We thank Helen Knowles for leading us in worship this morning	

*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 & CALL TO WORSHIP

One: As we light the Christ Candle we are reminded of the important role of the Light of Christ in our lives.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: Jesus Christ is indeed the light of the world.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

The Christ candle is lit...

One: We come with curiosity and longing.

All: We come with out gifts and our weaknesses.

One: We come hoping for change in our lives.

All: Renew us, show us.

One: Bless us with your spirit, that we may touch your world with love.

All: Renew us again in worship.

One: Come for a time of rest, to be blessed by the Sabbath words of reassurance and hope.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP – "A Light is Gleaming"

VU #82 (refrain only)

***A light is gleaming, spreading its arms
throughout the night, living in the light.
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love
is burning bright, living in the light.***

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN –**

VU #374

"Come and Find the Quiet Centre"

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 HUMILITY (in unison)

**As the rulers of this world call us to service in the demand
of Canada, so, you our God, call us to service also. Forgive
us when the demands of this world deafen us to voice,
blind us to the larger picture or paralyse us from taking
action. Heal our brokenness, and set us on the path that
leads us to you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CHORAL RESPONSE – "And When You Call for Me" MV #96

***And when you call for me,
I have already answered.
And when you call for me,
I am already there.***

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

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

And also with you.

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

Beachcombing Lessons

***SINGING A SONG** - "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:

*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 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:

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:

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Cheryl Brewster

Deuteronomy 5:1-15 *Keeping the Sabbath*

Luke 10:38-42 *Jesus visits Martha and Mary*

REFLECTION – “Slowing Down”

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Joanne Wiseman

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**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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** – “Saviour, Again to Your Dear Name” VU #426

Savior, again to thy dear name we raise
with one accord our parting hymn of praise;
we give you thanks before our worship cease,
then, in the silence hear your word of peace.

Grant us thy peace upon our homeward way;
with you began, with you shall end the day;
guard now the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
that in this house have called upon your name.

Grant us your peace throughout the coming night;
turn all our darkness into light;
then, through our sleep, our hope and strength renew,
for dark and light are both alike to you.

Grant us your peace throughout our earthly life,
comfort in sorrow, courage in strife;
then, when your voice shall bid our conflict cease,
call us, at last, to your eternal peace.

***COMMISSIONING**

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL SENDING FORTH –**

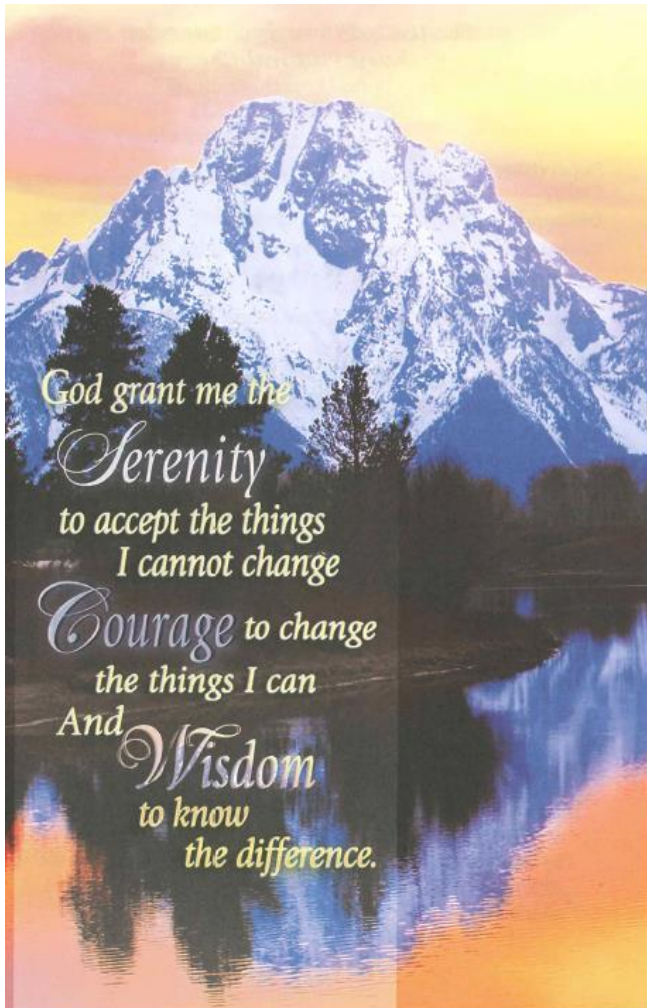
MV #211

“Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light”

*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



Church News

This Week at First United Church

Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday to Friday

Monday	Office closed for Family Day	
	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Tuesday	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Knitters - RMR
Tuesday & Wednesday		Supper Preparation
Thursday	4:15 PM	Choir Practice
	4:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Take out Roast Pork
	4:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Eat in Beef Roast Pork
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market
	10:30 – 12 Noon	Sunday School Workshop - RMR

Upcoming Services at First United:

February 23rd ~ Rev. Catherine Stuart

March 2nd ~ Rev. David Allan and his wife, Phyllis Davidson Allan, begins their lives with First United Church.

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 this ***Thursday, February 20th***. Tickets available - \$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 13th we have received 58 with and 84 jars are being picked up this week. Total 142 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.

A Saint Patrick's Gathering sponsored by the Pastoral Care Team will be held at First United Church, 309 Saint Patrick Street, Bathurst, on **Friday, March 14th from 1 PM to 3 PM.** (Snow date Saturday, March 15th)

Music will be provided by The Treble Makers. There is no admission fee. A voluntary donation towards the life and work of First United Church or a non-perishable item for the church pantry would be appreciated. Everyone is welcome!

Members of the group include: Linda Knowles MacPherson - Piano; Donald Eddy- Clarinet & Guitar; Ann Marie Hocquard - Voice & Percussion; Julia Henry - Trumpet & Voice; Charles Ramsey - Voice; Karen McCrea - Violin & Voice; Hazen McCrea - Bass Guitar

Church News

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.

"Jesus promises God's blessing for those are hungry, weeping, and excluded, promising better days to come.

Will you be the answer to someone else's prayers?

Can your generosity be God's blessing for those who hurt?"

Community News

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on Tuesday, March 4th from 4:30 – 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$10.00 each and can be purchased in advance from the Church Office or they are available at the door. Take-outs will also be available.

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

-9- *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*).

A Blessing for Canada

Creator of us all,
In your wisdom you brought the earth into being
And in our wisdom, we brought into being
our Nation, Canada.

We bless you
for your grace
has been a part in the creation of Canada.

And we bless you
for this land,
our dwelling place among your great community of nations.

We bless you
for the wealth and glory of Canada’s mountains and hills,
valleys and plains;
for huge prairie skies and mystic sun-dogs;
for woodland trilliums, steep rocky shores and silent ancient rainforests;
for snow and rain, hot sun and brilliant red maple leaves—
each in their returning season;
for gold and potash beneath the earth;
for fields of wheat and waters rich with salmon farms;
for the prosperity of our business people and the inspiration of our artists;
for the freedoms of our governments and the privileges that come to all...

because here, and now, there is no war;
because here, and now, there is prosperity.

Bless us, we pray
with growing compassion for those who struggle, hunger,
and hurt within our nation.

Bless us, we pray
with a vivid knowledge of our past and present wrongs
committed again the first nations, against each other and against your Earth.

Bless us, we pray
with greater skills to repent, to heal, and to forgive,
to develop, to bring justice, and to make peace.

Bless us, we pray
that we may be a blessing to our land and nation;
And in turn, a blessing to you and to all your world.

Betty Lynn Schwab

DEUTERONOMY 5:1-15

The Ten Commandments

1 Moses convened all Israel, and said to them:

Hear, O Israel, the statutes and ordinances that I am addressing to you today; you shall learn them and observe them diligently.

2 The Lord our God made a covenant with us at Horeb.

3 Not with our ancestors did the Lord make this covenant, but with us, who are all of us here alive today.

4 The Lord spoke with you face to face at the mountain, out of the fire.

5 (At that time I was standing between the Lord and you to declare to you the words of the Lord; for you were afraid because of the fire and did not go up the mountain.) And he said:

6 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;

7 you shall have no other gods before me.

8 You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

9 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and fourth generation of those who reject me,

10 but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

11 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

12 Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you.

13 For six days you shall labour and do all your work.

14 But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you.

15 Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

LUKE 10:38-42

Jesus Visits Martha and Mary

38 Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.

39 She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying.

40 But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.'

41 But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things;

42 there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'