

*The United Church of Canada*  
*Bathurst Pastoral Charge*  
**First United Church, Bathurst**  
[www.firstunited-bathurst.ca](http://www.firstunited-bathurst.ca)

**Easter Sunday – April 20, 2025**

**Clergy** Rev. David Allan      **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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<b><u>Lectionary for today</u></b>	<b><u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u></b>
Isaiah 65:17-25 John 25:50-56 & 20:1-18	Genesis 17:1-8, 15-19a; 18:1-15; 21:1-7
<p><i>The bulletins today have been placed in loving memory of  Edgar Brown by his wife Hélène</i></p> <p>And</p> <p><i>Betty (Branch) Lavigne by Judy, Macky and Jennifer</i></p>	
<p><i>The flowers are in memory of Betty (Branch) Lavigne placed  by Judy, Macky and Jennifer</i></p>	

*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*

**MUSIC FOR GATHERING**

**WELCOME**

**TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** *(in unison)*

**...As we gather to worship, let's respectfully pause to remember we live and love, 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.**

**\*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!

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

Let us give thanks to God, for God is good!  
**God's steadfast love endures forever!**  
God is our strength and our salvation!  
**We are raised with love, invited into new life!**  
This is the day that God has made!  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**  
Our Creator sings, "Let there be light," and a new day dawns!  
**It is marvelous in our eyes, and we come to give thanks!**  
Let us give thanks to God, for God is good!  
**God's steadfast love endures forever!**

**GATHERING PRAYER:**

God of all our journeys, we have travelled with you through so much. The road to Jerusalem was at times difficult. Yet the inward Lenten journey led us through the depths of our faith, the richness of our identity, and the breadth of your love. Enliven our hymns of hope, and hear our joyful hallelujahs. Continue to grant us your Spirit and your Peace, God of Life, as the risen Christ lives in us and as we continue to live in you, all along the way. Amen

**\*GATHERING HYMN:** "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" VU #155

### **LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:**

Yes, in this place today and in you God says, "Let there be light." All that would seal off our spirits, Love rolls away. The light shines in the shadows of our doubts, the light gleams in the gloom of our fears. The light radiates in the darkness of our regrets and our losses and laments, and never does the darkness overcome it. On this Easter day we rise to light this candle as a sign and a reminder of the light of Christ, the lovelight, the light of the world. It is the light that arises over every heart and new horizon, that beckons and attracts, the light through which we perceive the beauty and the need of the world, and the light in which together, we respond in love. So, my friends, fear not, because today you have been given new life, lit with a love that endures forever.

**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.*

### **SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

#### **SHARING OUR STORIES** (*with those of all ages*)

**HYMN:** "Come, Dare To Be"

Come dare to be all that you are in Christ;  
be what his loving, be what his thinking  
see in your person: you are eternal light.

All that you have, he gave to you at first;  
challenge and courage, will and commitment,  
spring from one fountain: so you will never thirst.

From yoke or bond his love has set you free;  
free to love others, praising and serving  
Christ who is present in human lives we see.

Even today you are what you will be;  
judged and forgiven, from death arisen,  
take up life's fullness, for Christ has made you free!

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### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:** (*in unison*)

**God of the sacred story, with your new and eternal light bless us with understanding. God of all of our stories, bless us your beloved, with belief. May we hear your word in scripture, encounter your word in one another, and live out your word in this world you so love. Amen**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

*Anne Wilson*

Isaiah 65:17-25

A new heaven and a new earth

Luke 25:50-56, & 24:1-12

An empty tomb and hearts filled with wonder

**REFLECTION:** Where's Jesus?

**GIFT OF MUSIC:** As the Wind Song Through the Trees

### **YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS**

*Anne Wilson*

### **INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING:**

We follow the One who shared all that he was and had, all that he knew would be. Let us now follow Jesus through the sharing of our offerings. Let us share our gifts that new life may again rise, that choruses of hallelujah may be lifted again.

### **THE OFFERING IS GATHERED**

**\*OFFERING RESPONSE:**

VU #541

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

*Praise God from whom all blessing 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, we offer to you wholly of ourselves. Receive our humble offerings and bless these simple elements of bread and juice. May they be transformed into sacred gifts. Transform us; give us new life that resurrection may come to all of creation. We pray in the name of the risen Christ, who gave his all. Amen**

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION** *(see insert)*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN:** “Christ Is Alive” VU #158

**\*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION; SHARING THE LIGHT**

**\*CHORAL SENDING FORTH:** “As We Go Into The Future”  
*(Tune Promise VU 703)*

*As we go into the future,  
As we tell of the Good News,  
We will show our love for others,  
Just as Christ has told us to.  
We will tell the wondrous story,  
Of a love that’s made for you,  
And it’s all because of Easter—  
Sing a joyous Hal-le-lu!*

**POSTLUDE**

# Church News

## This Week at First United Church

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

Monday	<b>Office Closed</b>	
Tuesday	9:30 AM-11:30 AM	Quilters – DEMH Downstairs office
	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Knitters - RMR
Wednesday	9:00 - 11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
	10:00 AM – 3:00	FSLDW Cluster Mtg - RMR
Thursday	4:15 PM	Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market - GYM

**Peanut Butter** –Our quota for 2025 is to collect 1,000 jars of peanut butter for the Volunteer Center. Up to April 17<sup>th</sup> we have received 341 jars and have funds on hand to purchase another 85+ jars.

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 minister and to the Pastoral Care Team.

**Eat in or Take out Ham & Scallop Potato Supper** will be held on **Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**. \$18 for adults and \$6 for children. Please contact a member of the *Ways & Means Committee* or drop by/call (506-546-3532) the church office for tickets. Tickets are on a first come/first serve basis.

*Sponsored by  
Bayside Automotive Group*



**Livestream Update** – We are now live-streaming our services through YouTube. Please have patience with the sound issues as we become comfortable with the program. You can click on the link below to access this Sunday’s Morning Service (*hopefully*). Many thanks to Lester Scott and Donald Eddy for their hard work bringing the livestream to fruition.

<https://youtube.com/live/ND2MCjZvmO4?feature=share>

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.

Where would we be if the women at the tomb had not shared what they experienced? Or if the disciples had not shared their stories? Or if people of vision had not shared their faith in your community? A legacy of sharing is why we are here. What do you have to share because of the resurrection?

## *Community News*

Come and enjoy an evening of music with Derek Knowles and the Jammers when they perform at **Christ Church Hall** in Clifton on **Saturday, April 26** beginning at 6:30 pm. No tickets are needed in advance but a free will offering will be accepted at the door. Looking forward to seeing you there.

The Anglican Parish of New Bandon will hold its **Annual Fishermen's Service** on Sunday **April 27<sup>th</sup> 2 PM Christ Church in Clifton.**

You are invited to come out join in the blessing of the 2025 fisheries.

A **take-out lobster supper** is being held at **Central United Church** in Clifton on **Saturday May 10 from 4:00-6:00.** For tickets, please contact Lois Archibald (506-548-8927). The cost is \$30 per dinner.

**The Bathurst Legion** will begin serving a delicious breakfast every Sunday beginning today. 9 AM to 1 PM - \$10 per person. This will be a weekly project and everyone is welcome.

You are **invited to gather and celebrate with Stewart Daley** on the occasion of **his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday** at the home of Terry & Laura McNulty 8753 Route 11 New Bandon, Saturday **April 26, 2025** from 2 to 3:30 PM

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS –Isaiah 65:17-25**

NIV

<sup>17</sup>“See, I will create new heavens and a new earth.

The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.

<sup>18</sup> But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy.

<sup>19</sup> I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.

<sup>20</sup>“Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child; the one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed.

<sup>21</sup> They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

<sup>22</sup> No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat.

For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands.

<sup>23</sup> They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the LORD, they and their descendants with them.

<sup>24</sup> Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.

<sup>25</sup> The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent's food.

They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain," says the LORD.

**Luke 23:50-56, 24:1-12** NIV

<sup>50</sup> Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, <sup>51</sup> who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God. <sup>52</sup> Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. <sup>53</sup> Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. <sup>54</sup> It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

<sup>55</sup> The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. <sup>56</sup> Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

**24** On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. <sup>5</sup> In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: <sup>7</sup> The Son of Man must be delivered over to the

hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" <sup>8</sup> Then they remembered his words.

<sup>9</sup> When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. <sup>10</sup> It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup> But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. <sup>12</sup> Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

