

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025

**Clergy** Rev. David Allan      **Music Director** Martha Vickers

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

**Greeters** Edie & Peter Gammon

**Audio & Visual Technicians** Shirley Allain & Donald Eddy

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<b>Lectionary for today</b>	<b>Lectionary for next Sunday</b>
Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30	Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35
<i>The bulletins today are placed in loving memory of <b>Alice Jagoe</b> by the 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*

## 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)*

Listen! Hear the song of love,  
**that we may dance and dream with open hearts.**  
Listen! Hear the call for peace,  
**that we may surrender to the truth, and see God in all.**  
Listen! Hear the heartbeat of hope,  
**that we may be strengthened, and work for heaven's reign.**  
Listen! Hear the voice of faith,  
**that we may follow, worship and trust, knowing we belong.**

## GATHERING PRAYER:

We belong to you, Shepherding God, and we belong to one another. As we long for you, you long for us, and you draw us ever closer into an intimate relationship that changes everything. In this time of coming together, raise in us a greater love and the desire for peace with justice. Mothering God, raise in us compassion, a confident hope and a strengthened faith. God of Grace, gift us that we may more deeply hear your voice, and be your loving, creative and transformed people, your Easter people. May we all, humanity and all of creation, your holy family, be at one with you, today and always. Amen

**\*GATHERING HYMN:**

"Come In, Come In and Sit Down"

VU #395

*(Refrain)*

*Come in come in and sit down,  
you are a part of the family.  
We are lost and we are found,  
and we are a part of the family.*

You know the reason why you came,  
yet no reason can explain,  
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,  
for we are a part of the family.

*(Refrain)*

God is with us in this place,  
like a Mother's warm embrace.  
We're all forgiven by God's grace,  
for we are a part of the family.

*(Refrain)*

There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;  
we are the branches, Christ is the vine.  
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine,  
but we are a part of the family.

*(Refrain)*

There's rest for the weary and health for us all;  
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.  
So come in and worship and answer the call,  
for we are a part of the family.

*(Refrain)*

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:**

We light this candle to remind us of the shining presence of our risen Christ and the Divine delight in our re-creation. It is the light that is never eclipsed, that rises over every heart and every new horizon. May the Lovelight always shine in our eyes, that together we see more clearly the beauty and the need of the world. In its light may we see ourselves anew. And together, may we respond with a love that helps overcome the shadows of fear with grace, hope, justice and peace.

**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**

The Peace of the risen Christ be with you all!

**And also with you!**

**WE OPEN OUR HEARTS:**

We have lit the Christ candle and shared Christ's peace, and yet we know that in every human life we are met with times of doubt and worry, of fear, hurting and despair. In such lonely times it can be hard to hear words of compassion and understanding, to hear the heart of one who sits with us in silence. It can be awfully difficult to share our own love, to share words of promise, peace and hope, to be our true selves as people of light. Life happens as they say, stuff happens, and the way forward can be hard to make out.

*A moment for silent reflection and contemplation,  
a time for listening...*

**OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED:**

But, my friends, we are not alone. The light that has shone in and for you never goes out, and when together, it shines even brighter among and before us. Follow the light, listen, because Love is calling you. Love is calling you from within and from the mystery of divine presence here in God's garden, a place of healing, of rising, of growth, grace and of sacred revelation, where want is met with life abundant. Where God's messengers sing, "Don't be afraid." We give thanks and we sing...

PSALTER 747

Psalms 23  
The Lord's My Shepherd

1 The Lord's my Shep - herd, I'll not want,  
 2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain,  
 \* 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
 4 My ta - ble thou hast fur - nish - ed  
 5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life

he makes me down to lie in pas - tures green, he  
 and me to walk doth make with - in the paths of  
 \* yet will I fear no ill, for thou art with me,  
 in pres - ence of my foes, my head thou dost with  
 shall sure - ly fol - low me, and in God's house for

lead - eth me, the qui - et wa - ters by.  
 right - eous - ness, even for his own name's sake,  
 \* and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.  
 oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows,  
 ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be.

Words: Scottish Psalter 1630  
 Music: Jessie Seymour Irvine 1872

CRIMOND  
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\*HYMN: "Are You a Shepherd?"

Are you a shepherd, good shepherd who leads us  
 Safely through danger, while calming our fears?  
 Are you a father who shelters and feeds us,  
 Shares in our laughter and wipes away tears?

*Refrain:*

*Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,  
 But you are greater than all that we know.  
 Holy and living, loving and giving,  
 God, you are with us wherever we go.*

Are you a mother, good mother who bears us,  
 Comforts, protects us and helps us to rest?  
 Are you a teacher who daily prepares us,  
 Challenging students to offer their best?

*Refrain:*

Great, gentle shepherd, forever beside us,  
 Lead all your children in paths that are right.  
 Great, loving parent, wise teacher, you guide us.  
 We want to love you and bring you delight.

*Refrain:*

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

**Creator God, you are always speaking a new thing into being. Into our being speak your word, gifting us with hearts to listen and ears to hear your voice. Help us to follow your desire, hand in hand with holiness. Amen**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

*Cheryl Brewster*

Acts 9:36-43 *Peter raises Tabitha to life*

John 10:22-30 *My sheep listen to my voice*

**SERMON:** "Listen up! Listen deep..."

**GIFT OF MUSIC:** "The Spring Has Come"

**YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS**

*Ronalds Family*

**INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING:**

We have been nourished by grace that we might grow in spirit. In gratitude to God, with peace, joy and love we give fully of all that we have and are. Our offerings will now be gathered.

**OUR 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)*

**Loving God, we dedicate these gifts, what we have given here and the lives that you have given to us. We dedicate them to the work of your church and to the healing of the world that you so love. Bless these gifts, that through them your voice be heard. Bless them that all might know that in your creating hands we know the promise of eternal and abundant life, that all belong in you. Amen**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER OF JESUS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN –**

VU #556

"Would You Bless Our Homes and Families"

Would you bless our homes and families,  
Source of life who calls us here; in our world of stress and tension  
teach us love that conquers fear.  
Help us learn to love each other with a love that constant stays;  
teach us when we face our troubles, love's expressed in many ways.

When our way is undemanding, let us use the time that's ours  
to delight in simple pleasures, sharing joys in gentle hours.  
When our way is anxious walking and a heavy path we plod,  
teach us trust in one another and in you, our gracious God.

From the homes in which we're nurtured,  
with the love that shapes us there,  
teach us, God, to claim as family every one whose life we share.  
And through all that life may offer, may we in your love remain;  
may the love we share in families be alive to praise your name.

Let us reach beyond the boundaries of our daily thought and care  
till the family you have chosen spills its love out everywhere.  
Help us learn to love each other with a love that constant stays;  
teach us when we face our troubles love's expressed in many ways.

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

*Christ Candle is extinguished*

**\*Choral Sending Forth:** "When You Walk from Here" VU #298

***When you walk from here,  
when you walk from here,  
walk with justice, walk with mercy,  
and with God's humble care.***

**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
Tuesday	9:30 AM-11:30 AM	Quilters – DEMH Downstairs office
	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Knitters – Eddy Room
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Wednesday	9:00 - 11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
	7:00 PM	West Bathurst Cemetery - Office
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 May 8<sup>th</sup> we have received 425 jars and have funds on hand to purchase another 45+ jars.

**Covenanting Service:** The special worship service celebrating the new covenant between First United Church, the Rev. David Allan, Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council and our loving God will take place at **2:30** on **Sunday May 25, 2025**, at the church. Our guest preacher will be our friend the Rev. Ivan Gregan. A time of fellowship will follow. All are welcome to this important celebration of ministry and pastoral relationship in the life of our congregation and in our community.

As part of our **Stewardship Program** here at First United, information on Planned Giving through Wills and Bequests is available to our congregational membership. The information is available from the church office. Below you will find a stewardship quote relating to the same.

Let us take time to listen to the Spirit within us that calls us to follow the example of Jesus.

**Calling all graduates** – from high school, university and/or college. If you are aware of anyone graduating this year, please let either Rev. David or the church office know by **Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**. The annual celebration for the graduates will be held during our worship service on Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>.

# Church News

**Thank You:** The Ways and Means team would like to express a sincere thank you to all who helped in anyway with our Ham & Scallop Potato Supper from the planners, to the food preparers, cooks, bakers, servers, set uppers and take downers, dishwashers, ticket sellers and to all who purchased a ticket to support us. Thanks to the sponsorship of **Bayside Automotive Group**, we made a profit of \$4,066.68.

**Membership:** If you would like to become a member of First UC, or to learn more about what membership is all about, please speak to Rev. David or contact the office. Membership can come about in a number of ways, through Confirmation, transfer from another congregation, or by Profession of Faith. We already have one person taking this meaningful step; might there be more? Might it be you?

**HELP!!!** - The Community Outreach Sub Team needs assistance restocking the pantry with non-perishables. Keep in mind that some recipients may be homeless. Preferred contributions include: reusable grocery bags, pasta & sauce, cans of soup, crackers, cereal, cereal bars, juice boxes, canned sandwich fillings, canned vegetables including brown beans, canned pasta products (ravioli, beefaroni, spaghetti), Kraft Dinner, powdered milk, bath soap and toilet paper.

**Rev. David will be away on study leave this week**, at the Atlantic Seminar in Theological Education at Tatamagouche, NS. The focus of this year's seminar is embracing the kinship of Creation, our community. In Rev. David's absence our worship service on Sunday May 18 will be led by Rev. Blair Lewis. Should any pastoral care needs arise during this time, please contact the office or in the case of an emergency, Rev. Sue White will be available (506-547-5745).

## Community News

The Anglican Parish of New Bandon is holding its annual **take-out only Lobster Supper** on Saturday, June 7, 2025 at Christ Church Hall, Clifton. Tickets are \$25 each. For tickets contact Kay Addison 506-350-0960, Darlene Dempsey 506-544-6997, Nancy Hodnett 506-545-5263, or Lesa Scott 506-544-1470.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS – New International Version**

### **ACTS 9:36-43**

**36** In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor.

**37** About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room.

**38** Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!"

**39** Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

**40** Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up.

**41** He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive.

**42** This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

**43** Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

### **JOHN 10:22-30**

#### **Further Conflict Over Jesus' Claims**

**22** Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter,

**23** and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade.

**24** The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

**25** Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me,

**26** but you do not believe because you are not my sheep.

**27** My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

**28** I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.

**29** My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

**30** I and the Father are one."