

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

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – July 6, 2025

Clergy Rev. David Allan **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Dawn Yao and Gayle Ferron
Audio & Visual Technicians Shirley Allain & Donald Eddy

Today's Music Leader – Linda Knowles MacPherson

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
2 Kings 5:1-14	Amos 7:7-17
Psalm 30	Psalm 82
Galatians 6:(1-6), 6-16	Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20	Luke 10:25-37

*The asterisk * identifies those times in the service where you are invited to stand as you are able.*

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(responsively)*

Gathered together, we come to worship.

**Born of the Spirit and borne anew by Love,
we come to this place.**

A place from where we can still hear hosannas, cries of "Help us now,"

and a place where healing, hope and holy hospitality is found.

A place where we humbly pray for peace and commit to lives of love,

**and a place where we lift our hallelujahs,
our thanks and praise to God.**

Here, in this house of God where we are gathered,

and in our hearts where God too makes a home,

we worship and sing,

**for here, as we live out our calling,
the kingdom of heaven is near.**

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "Gather Us In" MV #7

Gather us in, ground us in you.

Gather us in, ground us in you.

Gather us in, gather us in,

Gather us in, gather us in,

ground us, ground us in you.

GATHERING PRAYER:

Loving God, you open yourself to us, pouring out love, grace and renewal. In this time of worship may we open ourselves to you, all that we are, our best qualities and our quirks, our compassion, our conviction, and our created goodness. May we open ourselves to you in one another and all your Creation. We pray in the name of the One who came to us in love, who comes to us in the Spirit.

Amen

***GATHERING HYMN:** "Open My Eyes, That I May See" VU #371

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

(The Christ Candle is lit)

We light this candle as a symbol and a reminder of the presence of Christ, the light of the world. It is the light that is never overcome, the first light of Creation, the beginning and the end. It is the Lovelight that beckons and attracts, with open eyes and hearts and spirits the light through which we see more clearly the beauty and the need of the world. It is the light in which we respond with a daring and a tender love, and so in the words of our teacher, are blessed to be ourselves the light of the world too. It is the light, my friends, God's Easter people, of dawning joy.

PSALM 30

Refrain:

***Though tears flow for a night,
the morning brings new joy.***

All praise to You, O Beloved,

**for You have raised me up, and have not let my fears
overwhelm me.**

O Compassionate One, I cried for help, and You comforted me.

You, O Love, helped me release my soul from despair;

You gave me strength to face my fears;

now love is awakening in me.

Refrain

Sing praises to the Beloved, all you saints, giving thanks to Love's holy Name.

Love withdraws when we close our hearts,

yet ever awaits an open door.

In the evening we may weep,

yet joy comes with the morning.

Refrain

In my prosperity, I had lost sight of Love,

I found power in my wealth.

In your mercy, O Beloved, my foundations You shook,

and in recognising my separation from You,

I was dismayed.

Refrain

I cried to You for help; I pleaded for forgiveness:

"What profit in my riches if I am separated from Love?

Will emptiness praise You? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

Hear me, O Beloved, and be gracious to me!

O Love, hasten to my assistance!"

Refrain

And You turned my mourning into dancing;

You set me free and clothed me with gladness.

My soul rejoices and is glad in You;

songs of gratitude fill my soul rising up to You,

O Beloved.

Amen!

Acknowledgement:

Paraphrase of Psalm 30 by Nan C. Merrill,

Psalms for Praying: an invitation to wholeness

(New York: Bloomsbury, 2007) pp. 49-51.

Refrain by Norman L. Warren, 1969; VU 757

CHORAL RESPONSE – "How Deep the Peace"

MV #95

***How deep the peace, the confidence,
of those whose wrongs are forgiven.***

***How deep the peace, the confidence,
Of those whose hearts are healed.***

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

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST: (responsively)

...The peace of the risen Christ be with you all!

And also with you!

Please share with one another words and signs of peace.

SHARING OUR STORIES

***HYMN: "I've Got The Joy, Joy, Joy"**

Text: George W. Cooke

Tune: I'VE GOT THE JOY, Irregular; George W. Cooke

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

I've got the peace that passes understanding,
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;
I've got the peace that passes understanding,
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus,
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;
I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus,
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

**God of outpouring love, in the hearing of your word may
we grow in wisdom, in reflecting upon your word may we
respond with love, in living out your word may we find
abundant life. This we pray in the Light of the World.
Amen**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Anne Wilson

2 Kings 5:1-14 Naaman comes to Elisha for healing

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 Jesus sends the 72, carrying nothing

SERMON "Amazing, vulnerable grace"

GIFT OF MUSIC: "Come Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love" VU #574

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING:

God creates beauty and diversity; the Spirit gives many different gifts.
Through it all the power of love pulses and prods, and giving of
ourselves is who we 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 blessings 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)*

**The world calls in hunger and hope, creation calls in
woundedness, and we see Christ in all. Bless all that we offer
here, O God, bless our lives and what we do, that your desire
is fulfilled and all are filled full with love. This we pray as
your people; this we offer as your very own. Amen**

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF JESUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN:** "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"

VU # 509

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL CLOSING:** "May God's Sheltering Wings"

MV #214

***May God's sheltering wings,
her gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms,
her cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love,
and hold you in her love.***

***SHARING THE LIGHT**

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

Church News

Summer hours are now in effect – The office will be closed on Fridays until the Labour Day Weekend.

Choir Practice – The weekly practice will resume in the fall. There will be a short practice session just prior to each weekly service.

Peanut Butter –Our quota for 2025 is to collect 1,000 jars of peanut butter for the Volunteer Center. Up to July 3rd we have received 466 jars and have funds on hand to purchase another 100 jars.

Rev. David is on vacation from Tuesday July 8 until Monday July 14. Rev. Blair Lewis is available for pastoral care emergencies, and our guest worship leader and preacher on Sunday July 13 will be Rev. Dr. Bev Daley.

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.

We may not be able to help everyone, but each of us can make a difference to someone.

Thank you to our volunteers in June - Counters – Anne Brooks, Wayne Cormier, Margaret Payne-Chénard and Mike Kierstead; **Greeters** – Lola Nelson and Gary Branch, Beth Sullivan; **Your Generosity Matters** – Bev Murphy, Ronalds family, Martha Vickers, Anne Wilson and Judy Losier; **Scripture Readers** –Brooke Knowles, Jennifer Oliver, Grace Larsen, Isabel MacLaggan and Wayne Lord; **Hospitality & Friendship** – Shirley Sealy, Wilma Dempsey, Gayle Ferron and Beth Sullivan; **Sound System** – Brenda Parrott, Shirley Allain, and Ralph Jamieson; and **Videographer** – Don Eddy as well as to Josh Gammon for uploading the YouTube link to the website and Facebook.

Community News

The annual general meeting for the *Stonehaven New Bandon Union Cemetery Inc.* will be held on **Monday, July 7, 2025 at 7 pm** at the chapel. All are welcome to attend.

A SUMMER FESTIVAL BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, July 19th from 8 AM – 10 AM**. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Tickets may be purchased in advance by dropping by the church office or calling 506-546-3225.

In 2025, the iconic **Old Bathurst Post Office turns 140 years old**. To mark this milestone, you are invited to join the Club 140, a special campaign to help preserve and rejuvenate this heritage landmark. With a one-time minimum donation of \$1,000, your name or that of a loved one will be permanently engraved on the staircase riser of the building – a tribute to your support and a symbol of your commitment to the arts and culture in our community. For information, please contact John Mann at 506-546-1602. Thank you.

*"The purpose of life is not to be happy.
It is to be useful,
to be honorable,
to be compassionate,
to have it make some difference
that you have lived and lived well."
— Ralph Waldo Emerson*

*The rainy days a man saves for
usually seem to arrive during his vacation.
~Author Unknown~*

Our story tells of a man with leprosy. In biblical times the word "leprosy" included any number of skin conditions, and not just what we today call leprosy, or Hansen's disease.

2 Kings 5:1-14

NIV

5 Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram [which is modern day Syria]. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.

2 Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. **3** She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

4 Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. **5** "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. **6** The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."

7 As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!"

8 When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." **9** So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. **10** Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

11 But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. **12** Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the

waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.

¹³ Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'!" ¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

NIV

10 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. ² He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. ³ Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. ⁴ Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

⁵ "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' ⁶ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

⁸ "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. ⁹ Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰ But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, ¹¹ 'Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.'

¹⁶ "Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me."

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

¹⁸ He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. ²⁰ However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

*For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us all, thanks be to God!*

