

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

10th Sunday after Pentecost – August 17, 2025

Clergy Rev. David Allan **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Brooke Knowles & Beth Sullivan
Audio & Visual Technicians Ralph Jamieson & Donald Eddy

<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19 Hebrews 11:29-12:2 Luke 12:49-56	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 Hebrews 12:18-29 Luke 13:10-17
We welcome Rev. Bill MacLeod and thank him for leading our worship service this morning!	

*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)*

Leader: We gather as a community of faith:
men and women,

People: **old and young,**

Leader: from near and far,

People: **different faces,**

Leader: a great gathering of witnesses,

People: **with a past, a present, and a future:**

All: **God's people, come to worship!¹**

*Worship Notes: 1-4 –
Seasons of the Spirit, Congregational Life Pentecost 1, 2007, pp. 108*

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "Come Touch Our Hearts"

MV #12 (verse 2)

***Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;
create a space for spirit to grow in us,
let life and beauty fill us,
come touch and bless our souls.***

GATHERING PRAYER: *(in unison)*

We come before you this day, O God, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. As you have been with your people throughout history, so we know you are with us even now. In this time of worship, help us to celebrate your presence among us, and strengthen us to continue the work you have begun. Amen.²

***GATHERING HYMN:** "Worship the Lord"

VU #401

Refrain:

*Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!*

Raising our hands as a sign of rejoicing,
and with our lips our togetherness voicing,
giving ourselves to a life of creativeness,
worship and work must be one!

Refrain:

*Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!*

Praying and training that we be a blessing,
and by our handiwork daily confessing:
we are committed to serving humanity,
worship and work must be one!

Refrain

Called to be partners with God in creation,
honouring Christ as the Lord of the nation,
we must be ready for risk and for sacrifice,
worship and work must be one!

Refrain

Bringing the bread and the wine to the table,
asking that we may be led and enabled,
truly united to build new communities,
worship and work must be one!

Refrain

Now in response to the life you are giving,
help us, O Father, to offer our living,
seeking a just and a healing society,
worship and work must be one!

Refrain

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE: *(responsively)*

Leader: We light this candle to remind ourselves that Christ is present among us, never abandoning us, always lifting us up.

All: **Light is a gift from God, a gift to be shared.
Jesus came into our midst as the light of the
world and the Holy Spirit is present to illumine
our work and witness. Amen.**

Psalm: Psalm 80:1–2, 8–19

Part Two VU page 794-796

"Care, O God, for the vine you brought from Egypt."

Refrain:

Your face, God, shine on us and give us peace.

Shepherd of Israel, hear us,

**you who lead Joseph like a flock,
you who are enthroned amidst the cherubim.**

Shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh;
stir up your might, come and save us.

Refrain:

Your face, God, shine on us and give us peace.

You brought a vine out of Egypt,
you drove out the nations and planted it.

**You cleared the ground for it;
it sank deep roots, and filled the land.**

The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches.

**It stretched out its branches as far as the Sea,
and its shoots as far as the River.**

Why then have you broken down its enclosure,
so that all who go by pluck its grapes?

**The boar from the forest roots it up,
and the beats of the field devour it.**

Refrain:

Your face, God, shine on us and give us peace.

Turn to us again, God of hosts, look down from heaven and see.

**Bestow your care on this vine,
on the stock which your right hand planted.**

As for those who set it on fire, who cut it down,
may they perish at the frown on your face.

**Let your hand rest on the one by your side,
on the one you have made strong for yourself.**

Then we will never forsake you;

give us life, and we will call on your name.

Refrain:

Your face, God, shine on us and give us peace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(in unison)*

Loving God, you have provided all we need and watched over us. But in response we have often ignored your care, and have not always lived in ways you long for. We know that, like those who have gone before us, and all of your people even now, we at times disappoint you, going against your hopes and dreams. Forgive us, God. Don't give up on us. Continue to care for us, that we might do your will, producing the fruits of justice and proclaiming your praise. Amen.³

ASSURANCE:

Leader: God has been with saints throughout history, and God is with us now. Know that you are forgiven and invited by God into new living.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.⁴

CHORAL RESPONSE – "Take, O Take Me as I Am" MV #85

***Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me, in me.***

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST: *(responsively)*

The peace of Christ be with you all...

And also with you!

Please share with one another words and signs of peace.

SHARING OUR STORIES

***HYMN:** "Dance with the Spirit" MV #156

Dance with the Spirit early in the morning',
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-born-in,
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

Dance with the Spirit early in the morning',
move with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-born-in,
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

Dance with the Spirit early in the morning',
sing with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-born-in,
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

God, your word is a light to our path, your word is a breath in our stillness, your word is water to our thirst: Refresh us now, and speak through your word. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: *Isabel MacLaggan*

Isaiah 5:1–7

The unfruitful vineyard will be purged.

Luke 12:49–56

Jesus comes to bring fire and division within households

SERMON: Kairos Moments

GIFT OF MUSIC

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

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)*

As we give, raise us up. As we give, bring us to unity with others. In this offering, discover our humble desire to be in communion with one another. May the resources we share here be transformative in this world, and express our thanksgiving, rather than our pride; our strength, rather than our shame. Bless these gifts, we pray. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF JESUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN:** "Let There Be Light" VU #679

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION:** *(responsively)*

Leader: We have been granted the presence of God's Spirit here. Now may the Spirit of peace be with us. We have remembered our ways and God's ways. Now may we remember God's will in all that we do.

All: **May the blessing of God, the love of Christ, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.**

***CHORAL SENDING FORTH** "We Wish You the Blessing"

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***We wish you the blessing of faith to sustain you,
friends to support, challenge to stir you,
songs to empower you, peace to refresh you,
tears to release you, laughter to heal you,
love to nurture your soul.***

SHARING THE LIGHT

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

*Worship Notes: 1-4 –
Seasons of the Spirit, Congregational Life Pentecost 1, 2007, pp. 108*

Church News

Peanut Butter –Our quota for 2025 is to collect 1,000 jars of peanut butter for the Volunteer Center. Up to August 13th we have received 549 jars and have funds on hand to purchase another 60+ jars.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

A HUGE shout out to everyone who donated to the ***Community Outreach Pantry*** restocking effort. During these uncertain times and high temperature days the requests for assistance continue to come in. Thanks to all who assisted.

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.

Caring for the financial health of your community of faith is not a sprint to be accomplished with one event or one campaign. It is a marathon which is only accomplished over time, by developing relationships, expressing gratitude, and teaching generosity as a spiritual practice.

Rev. David will be on vacation and study leave from ***Tuesday August 5 until Monday August 25.*** Rev. Jean Herman will be available for any pastoral care emergencies, and can be reached at (506) 252-5150. A big thank you to our Sunday worship leaders in Rev. David's absence:

August 24: Jennifer Oliver

***Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning
Waters Regional News***

August 13, 2025

A letter from our Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish

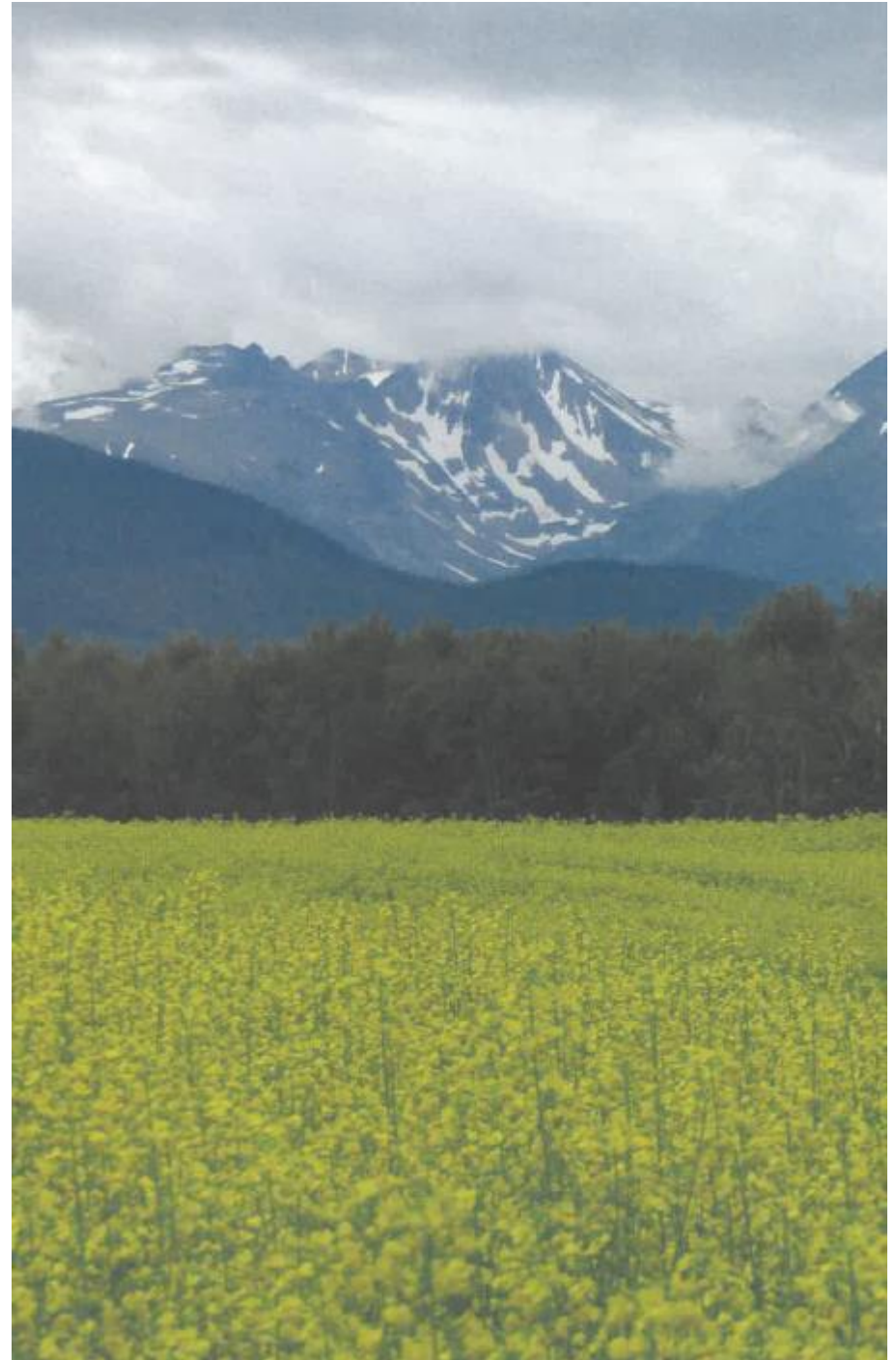
Re: Wildfires in the Atlantic Provinces

The wildfires in Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have caused devastating damage and continue to threaten our homes and communities. These fires are causing significant emotional and physical distress, damage, and property loss. The destruction is devastating to our natural habitat and the homes of our wildlife. We need each other's support and prayers as we navigate the challenges of evacuation, relocation, and eventually, rebuilding. Let us hold tenderly those who are getting news that their homes have been destroyed. Let us also remember that our young people, along with their coaches and families who have gathered in Newfoundland & Labrador for the Canada Summer Games, have had their joy overshadowed by the threat that these wildfires bring. Please pay attention to the authorities and the alerts, as it is for the safety of all of us.

We are grateful for all those who are working tirelessly to keep the fires under control and extinguished. I am sure there is a heavy personal toll that they and their families carry. Thank you to our leaders who have been working around the clock for the safety of our people, and the provinces that have been able to send help in these devastating situations.

These wildfires are very scary for many people either directly or indirectly. If you are affected now or in the future, it is very important to care for yourself and your family members. In the midst of such uncertainty, it is good to know that there are places to seek help. Please reach out to your local church community, your colleagues, your minister, and our regional council offices. If there is anything that local churches can do to give assistance for those who are displaced and in comfort centers, please do so by reaching out to the local authorities. Please continue to hold everyone affected by the wildfires in constant prayer.

Let us pray, *Caring God, you set our lives on a planet where both beauty and danger are found. We acknowledge before you the fear and anxiety that come in the wake of devastating disaster. Help us to recognize that in the depth of our being we are not alone, that you are truly present in these painful hours. Hear our prayers for those who are facing the destruction of fire and the loss of place. Grant tenderness, strength, and wisdom to those who are on the front lines and to all who assist them to minister to the human need. We pray for the fauna who are struggling to survive. May we be moved by compassion, and share willingly and generously where it is needed. May we each be called to do our part to tend to the healing of one another and all of creation. May we always know we are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.*



ISAIAH 5:1–7

The Song of the Vineyard

1 I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard:
My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.

2 He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the
choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as
well.

Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,
but it yielded only bad fruit.

3 “Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

4 What more could have been done for my vineyard
than I have done for it?
When I looked for good grapes,
why did it yield only bad?

5 Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard:
I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed;
I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled.

6 I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated,
and briers and thorns will grow there.
I will command the clouds not to rain on it.”

7 The vineyard of the LORD Almighty is the nation of Israel,
and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in.
And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;
for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

LUKE 12:49–56

Not Peace but Division

49 “I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were
already kindled!

50 But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under
until it is completed!

51 Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but
division.

52 From now on there will be five in one family divided against each
other, three against two and two against three.

53 They will be divided, father against son and son against father,
mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law
against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

Interpreting the Times

54 He said to the crowd: “When you see a cloud rising in the west,
immediately you say, ‘It’s going to rain,’ and it does.

55 And when the south wind blows, you say, ‘It’s going to be hot,’ and
it is.

56 Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth
and the sky. How is it that you don’t know how to interpret this present
time?