

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

11th Sunday after Pentecost – August 24, 2025

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

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<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 Jennifer Oliver and thank her for leading our worship service this morning!	
The bulletins today have been placed in loving memory of Edgar Brown , who died 3 years ago today. It's hard to believe - a very long road <i>I'll love you always, your wife H��l��ne</i>	

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

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

WELCOME

Due to copyright this week's service will not be livestreamed.

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.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE: *(responsively)*

(The Christ Candle is lit)

We light this candle to remind us

**that God sends Jesus to be a light to our path.
Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(based on Psalm 71:1-6) (responsively)*

In you, God of all, I take my shelter.

In your goodness, make me free.

You are my rock and my fortress.

Speak the word, and I will be healed.

You alone are my hope,

In you I have trusted since my youth.

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

***GATHERING HYMN:** "I Danced in the Morning"

VU #352

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

(Refrain)

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance, and they wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and for John;
they came with me and the dance went on.

(Refrain)

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.*

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and they left me there on a cross to die.

(Refrain)

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone;
but I am the dance and I still go on.

(Refrain)

They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

(Refrain)

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION *(inspired by Luke 13:10-17)*

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!

Let us rise and greet one another with peace.

SHARING OUR STORIES

***HYMN:** "Like a Healing Stream"

MV #144

Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth...
like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation,
yearning for an end to want and need...
like a gentle rain.

Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel in a new direction,
Calling for an end to hate and war...
like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow;
God will always challenge and provide!

Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,
like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Jennifer Oliver

Luke 13:10–17 Healing on a Sabbath

REFLECTION: "Together We Worship" by Rev. Lesley-Ann Wilson

GIFT OF MUSIC: "Bring Many Names"

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Judy Losier

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: (inspired by Hebrews 12:18-20) *(in unison)*

Holy God of goodness and truth, we are taught that your divine way of living is unshakeable. In response to this solid foundation, we bring our offering as an act of worship and faith. We join our hearts with all those who have gone before, as we dedicate these gifts to further your mission of justice and hope. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF JESUS

**Our Mother/Father/Creator
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,
and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CLOSING HYMN: "O God of Bethel"

VU #650

O God of Bethel, by whose hand
thy people still are fed,
who through this weary pilgrimage
hast all our fathers led;

Our vows, our prayers, we now present
before thy throne of grace;
God of our fathers, be the God
of their succeeding race.

Through each perplexing path of life
our wandering footsteps guide;
give us each day our daily bread,
and raiment fit provide.

O spread thy covering wings around
till all our wanderings cease,
and at our Father's loved abode
our souls arrive in peace.

*SENDING FORTH: *(responsively)*

God calls us to seek renewal and hope.

May we bring renewal and hope into the world.

God gives us strength and courage.

May we welcome the needs of others.

God sends us to be relief to the world.

Let us lessen burdens wherever we go. Amen.

BLESSING (based on Hebrews 13:20-21)

***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.***

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE



Church News

Peanut Butter –Our quota for 2025 is to collect 1,000 jars of peanut butter for the Volunteer Center. Up to August 20th we have received 647 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.

Feeling anxious, worried or fearful? Giving and gratitude are the antidote for an anxious brain and a news cycle which tells us there is never enough.

Rev. David returns from holidays and study leave on *Tuesday, August 25th*. Thank you to all of our worship leaders during his absence.

*The Ways & Means Team are pleased to announce that their famous **BBQ BEEF SUPPER** will be held on Thursday, September 18th.*

Take out will be from 4:00 PM to 5 :30 PM

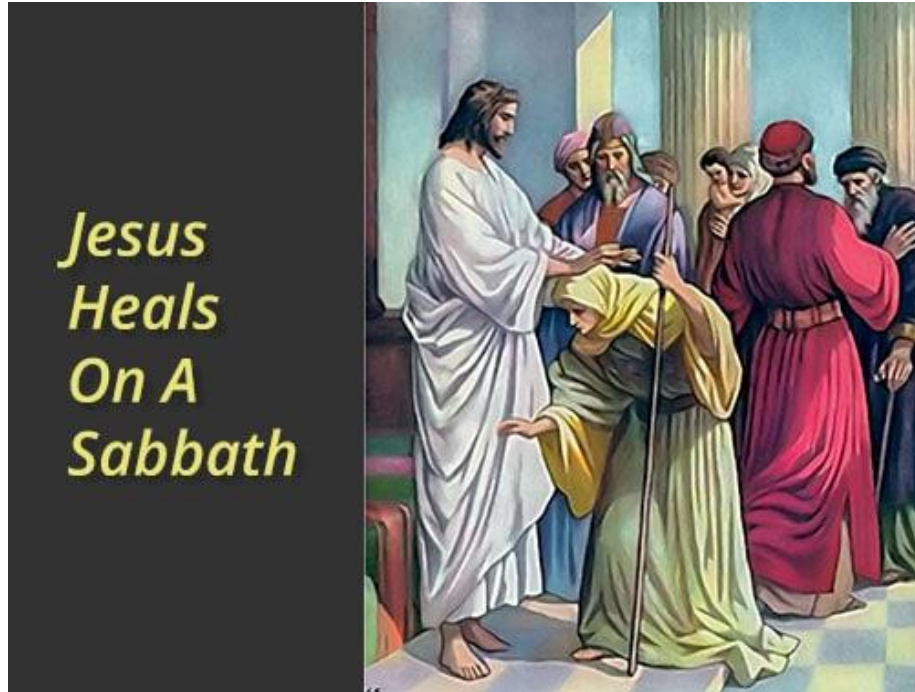
Eat in will be from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM

Tickets will be available next week - **\$18** for adults and **\$6** for children. As there are a limited number of tickets they will be sold on a first come-first served basis. Please contact a member of the *Ways & Means Committee* or drop by the church office from 9 AM to 3 PM.

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Community News

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on Saturday, September 13th from 8 AM to 10 AM. As this community event helps 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.



*Healing takes courage,
and we all have courage,
even if you have to dig a little.
~Tori Amos ~*

SCRIPTURE READINGS – Common English Bible

LUKE 13:10–17

Healing on a Sabbath

10 Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.

11 A woman was there who had been disabled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and couldn't stand up straight.

12 When he saw her, Jesus called her to him and said, "Woman, you are set free from your sickness."

13 He placed his hands on her and she straightened up at once and praised God.

14 The synagogue leader, incensed that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, responded, "There are six days during which work is permitted. Come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath day."

15 The Lord replied, "Hypocrites! Don't each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from its stall and lead it out to get a drink?"

16 Then isn't it necessary that this woman, a daughter of Abraham, bound by Satan for eighteen long years, be set free from her bondage on the Sabbath day?"

17 When he said these things, all his opponents were put to shame, but all those in the crowd rejoiced at all the extraordinary things he was doing.

