

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

**12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – August 31, 2025**

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

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Jeremiah 2:4-13	Psalm 139
Psalm 112	Philemon
Hebrews 11:1-8, 15-16	Luke 14:25-33
Luke 14:7-14	

*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)*

We gather and take our seats,  
perhaps in a spot where we've always sat,  
perhaps somewhere new, with someone new.

**Not to impress anyone of course,  
not to impress God with our faithfulness,**

but to share a song of praise, a moment of prayer,  
**to receive the gift of scripture and a word of hope,**  
and to offer freely of our giftedness and love.  
**For we are a community that worships together,  
that seeks to be of one heart in God,**  
the Soul behind all souls.

*Call to Worship adapted from one by Sandy Ferguson,  
Strathearn UC, Edmonton, AB.  
Gathering, Pentecost 1, 2022, p. 38. Used with permission.*

**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)*

**God of all time and place, you are here where we are, with us as we are, loving us as we will be. As we worship may your Spirit shape us into your new creation, a people of a greater love, seeking justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with you, always placing our trust in you. You invite us to sit at your side, and so we take our place on the side of Love. This we pray in the name of the One who walks alongside us all. Amen**

**\*GATHERING HYMN:**

VU #395

"Come In, Come In and Sit Down"

*(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)*

*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.*

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:** *(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 lovelight shared with all, that shines within and from us all, that draws us ever closer to the Source of All. The light calls us forward as the family of God, to see with new eyes, to love with shimmering hearts, to live in the brightness of hope.

**\*PSALM 112:** The just shall trust in God alone. VU Page #834

**WE OPEN OUR HEARTS:** *(responsively)*

When things aren't going our way, it can be hard to trust in God.  
When everything goes sideways and upside down our faith can be sorely tested. When no one seems to be able to truly see us, to understand, to empathise, we can feel truly alone.

**We confess that sometimes we find it hard ourselves to understand, to empathise with those of us in the world who suffer, who know pain and despair. We're not alone in that either. From where we sit in relative comfort or with our own challenges, we can feel helpless, not knowing what to do. It can be hard to trust in God.**

**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.***

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

**OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED:**

My friends, our God trusts in us. In love our God of relationship gives us the gift of faith, another word for trust, and the gifts of compassion and hope. We are graced with a place in God's heart and invited into righteousness, the ways of unconditional love for all, the ways of light and liberation. The way of Christ.

**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:** "Though I May Speak"

VU #372

Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain,  
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,  
and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within,  
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
by this we worship, and are freed.

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

**God of Wisdom and the Word, may we be moved, find new life and grow in the reading of scripture. May our human words join with yours, as a story of re-creation, restoration and resurrection continues to be written and told. Bless us, God, with understanding that fosters action and compassion; bless us with ears to hear, that we might listen to the Spirit speak of love. Amen**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

*Stephen Maisey*

Jeremiah 2:4-13	<i>The people have forsaken living water and have dug their own cisterns</i>
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	<i>How to live in mutual love</i>
Luke 14:1, 7-14	<i>Those who exalt themselves will be humbled</i>

**SERMON:** "Come in, come in and sit down"

**GIFT OF MUSIC**

**YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS**

*Anne Wilson*

**INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING:**

As we heard earlier from the Letter to the Hebrews, let us now through Christ offer a sacrifice of praise to God. Let us do good and share what we have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. 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)*

**Through these gifts, God of abundant life, may your deep-seated love raise up the people of your heart, bringing new life, hope and joy. Through these gifts may you be honoured through all of creation, may hearts sing and blessings abound forever. Amen**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER OF JESUS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN:**

VU #681

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

Where cross the crowded ways of life,  
where sound the cries of race and clan,  
above the noise of selfish strife,  
we hear your words of life again.

In haunts of wretchedness and need,  
on shadowed thresholds, dark with fears,  
from paths where hide the lures of greed,  
we catch the vision of your tears.

The cup of water given for you  
still holds the freshness of your grace;  
yet long these multitudes to view  
the strong compassion of your face.

O Jesus, from the mountainside,  
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;  
among these restless throngs abide;  
and tread the city's streets again,

till all the world shall learn your love  
and follow where your feet have trod,  
till glorious from your heaven above  
shall come the city of our God.

**\*SENDING FORTH:** *(responsively)*

**\*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**\*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**

## Church News

**Peanut Butter** –Our quota for 2025 is to collect 1,000 jars of peanut butter for the Volunteer Center. Up to August 27<sup>th</sup> we have received 653 jars.

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.

Hospitality is how we show guests that we mean it  
when we say,  
*You are welcome and a beloved part of the body of Christ.*

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

***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 are now available - **\$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.

***Sponsored by Hatheway Auto Group***

Please note the **office will be closed this Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup> for Labour Day.** The office will reopen on Tuesday at 9 AM and will now be open on Friday's as well.

**Coffee Time** will resume next Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> after the worship service. Thanks to our Hospitality & Friendship Team members for all of their hard work. It will be held in the Narthex.

# Community News

**A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST** will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **"HELP LESOTHO" CALENDARS**

The Anglophone School District – North has been sponsoring "Help Lesotho" since 2006 as part of its global awareness initiative. As a fundraiser where all of the money raised goes to help finance its work with orphans, vulnerable children, and grandmothers in Lesotho, Africa; "Help Lesotho" has 2026 calendars for sale at a cost of \$15.00. You are invited to support this initiative with your donation. Gary Branch (506-546-9208) ([egbranch@rogers.com](mailto:egbranch@rogers.com)) will be taking orders for these calendars until October 14, 2025. Payment can be made in advance by cash, cheque, or e-transfer, or when the calendars are delivered in November. Cheques are to be made payable to "Help Lesotho". Thank you to the congregation of First United Church for your continued support of this initiative.



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

### **JEREMIAH 2:4-13**

**4** Hear the word of the LORD, you descendants of Jacob, all you clans of Israel.

**5** This is what the LORD says:  
"What fault did your ancestors find in me, that they strayed so far from me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves.

**6** They did not ask, 'Where is the LORD, who brought us up out of Egypt and led us through the barren wilderness, through a land of deserts and ravines, a land of drought and utter darkness, a land where no one travels and no one lives?

**7** I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. But you came and defiled my land and made my inheritance detestable.

**8** The priests did not ask, 'Where is the LORD?'  
Those who deal with the law did not know me; the leaders rebelled against me. The prophets prophesied by Baal, following worthless idols.

**9** "Therefore I bring charges against you again," declares the LORD.  
"And I will bring charges against your children's children.

**10** Cross over to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and observe closely; see if there has ever been anything like this:

**11** Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols.

**12** Be appalled at this, you heavens, and shudder with great horror," declares the LORD.

**13** "My people have committed two sins:  
They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

## **HEBREWS 13:1-8, 15-16**

- 1** Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters.
- 2** Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.
- 3** Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.
- 4** Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.
- 5** Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,  
"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."
- 6** So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"
- 7** Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.
- 8** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
- 15** Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise - the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.
- 16** And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

## **LUKE 14:1, 7-14**

- 1** One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.
- 7** When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honour at the table, he told them this parable:  
**8** "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honour, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited.  
**9** If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this person your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place.  
**10** But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honoured in the presence of all the other guests.  
**11** For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."  
**12** Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid.  
**13** But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,  
**14** and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."