

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

4th Sunday of the Season of Creation  
Orange Shirt Sunday  
September 28, 2025

**Clergy** Rev. David Allan    **Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Margaret Daniels    **Custodian** Lester Scott  
**Greeters** Sharon McKinnon & Charlene Roy  
**Audio & Visual Technicians** Shirley Allain & Lester Scott

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31	Lamentations 3:19-26 Psalm 137 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10
The bulletins today have been placed in loving memory of our father, <b><i>Sprague Wiseman</i></b> and our sister <b><i>Joy Wiseman</i></b> by Holly, Randy and family	

*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)*

This is a day for remembering,  
**for affirming and proclaiming that every child matters.**

Indigenous children,  
**children of all nations, backgrounds and circumstances,**

every child here and everywhere else, all, children of God.  
We remember that when followers wanted to send the children away, Jesus, a child of God, said,

**"Let the little children come to me"**

We remember too that he said,

**"Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."**

And so, remembering, we come to worship with lament and with love,

**we come as followers of Jesus, the way, and the truth, and the life, we come trusting in God, who reconciles and makes new. We come as disciples, as learners, as children of God, committed to the truth and to reconciliation too.**

We come to worship expectant,

**blessed by the Font of hope and of healing.**

We come to worship thirsty,

**blessed by the Font of love and of life.**

We come to worship thankful,

**blessed by the Font of grace.**

**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,***  
***ground us, ground us in you.***

**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, the first light of Creation. It is the lovelight shared with all, that shines within and from us all, young and old, that draws us ever closer to the Source of All. The light calls us forward as the one family of God, to see with new eyes, to love with shimmering hearts, to live in the brightness of hope, reconciliation, justice and peace.

**GATHERING PRAYER:** *(in unison)*

**We have gathered here from the four directions, bathed in light, as children of light. May our time here together this morning be illumined with joy, that we may be a light to each other. May we be filled with Living Water, that we may quench one another's thirst. And may we be filled with the Breath of Love, that we may give new life to all who gather here, and to all we will encounter in this life of blessing, of beauty, and of eternal belonging. Amen**

**\*GATHERING HYMN:** "Joyful, Joyful We Adore You" VU #232

Joyful, joyful we adore you,  
God of glory, life and love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before you,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the gloom of doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you,  
earth and heaven reflect your rays,  
stars and angels sing around you,  
centre of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
sound their praise eternally.

You are giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
Source of grace and fount of blessing,  
let your light upon us shine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals join the mighty chorus  
which the morning stars began;  
God's own love is reigning o'er us,  
joining people hand in hand.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife;  
joyful music leads us sunward  
in the triumph song of life.

**WE OPEN OUR HEARTS:**

We have just sung with and of joy, thankfulness and praise. And we sang too of our mortality, sadness, doubts, of days spent in the midst of strife and in need of forgiveness. As we prepare to joyfully welcome two beautiful children through the sacrament of baptism, we also remember that the church did not always welcome the children of Turtle Island for their beauty, the blessings that they were and their sense of belonging. Baptised or not, we know that life brings many things, that a life of faith is not always without trouble, temptation or trepidation. It is not always without regret and remorse. As a beloved people, as a people of faith, we also know and declare that we are not alone, that even in our wilderness wanderings, in the deserts of despair on the far side of this font, God whispers in our hearts and sings to our souls:

***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.***

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

**OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED:**

Don’t be afraid. Because you – we – are always in the heart of God, always right here in the embrace of the Lover, the Life-giver, the One who leads us on the journey with a pillar of light. We are all always invited into new life, invited together into a resurrected life, reconciled with each other and with the Holy One, who is here.

**SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST:** *(responsively)*

And so, I say to you all, just as was Jesus when he rose from the waters of the Jordan, you too are God’s beloved child, God’s cherished creation, in whom God is well pleased. Yes, my Easter people, Christ is risen and you have been lifted into new life together.

The Peace of the risen Christ be with you all!

**And also with you!**

*Please share with one another words and signs of peace, your commitment to peace.*

**\*HYMN:** “Sweetgrass and Candle”

*(Words by John Oldham/Music by Ron Klusmeier)*

Sweetgrass and candle, the peace pipe and bible,  
the stories of elders and beat of the drum;  
these are the symbols of hope, faith and justice.  
We gather in circle affirming we’re one.

Welcome the stranger for he is our brother  
and she is our sister of mother earth.  
Care for creation for all life is sacred  
and we are united by vision’s rebirth.

Join in the circle that will have no ending,  
for we are all equal and loved in God’s sight.  
Praise the Great Spirit! We gather as family  
to sing of Love’s freedom and dance with delight!

Welcome the stranger for he is our brother  
and she is our sister of mother earth.  
Care for creation for all life is sacred  
and we are united by vision’s rebirth.

Sweetgrass and candle, the peace pipe and bible,  
the stories of elders and beat of the drum;  
these are the symbols of hope, faith and justice.  
We gather in circle affirming we’re one.

**SHARING OUR STORIES**

As daylight breaks the darkness of night, as the first movements of morning pierce the night’s stillness, so a new waking to life dawns within us, so a fresh beginning opens. In the early light of this day, in the first actions of the morning, let us be awake to life. In our soul and in our seeing let us be alive to the gift of this new day, let us be fully alive. Amen

**Acknowledgement:**

Prayer from *Sounds of the Eternal: a Celtic Psalter*,  
by John Philip Newell (New Beginnings: San Antonio, 2012), p.26

**A READING:**

from *North of Nowhere*, by TRC Commissioner Marie Wilson

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:**

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:9-11

*Anne Brooks*

**BAPTISM HYMN: "Out of Deep, Unordered Water"** VU #453  
*(Inclusive language change, September, 2025)*

Out of deep, unordered water  
God created land and life;  
world of bird and beast, and later,  
two-some people, joined in love.

*Refrain*

*There is water in the river  
bringing life to tree and plant.  
Let creation praise its giver:  
there is water in the font.*

Water on the human forehead,  
birthmark of the love of God,  
is the sign of death and rising;  
through the sea there runs a road.

*Refrain*

Standing round the font reminds us  
of the Hebrews' climb ashore.  
Life is hallowed by the knowledge:  
God has been this way before.

*Refrain*

**INVITATION TO THE FAMILIES**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE SACRAMENT**

**PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES:**

***Kate Stephanie James Kenny,***  
daughter of Laura and Adam Kenny

and

***Oliver Eric James Boucher***  
son of Whitney and Kristopher Boucher

**PROFESSION OF FAITH AND PARENTAL PROMISES**

**CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT:** *(in unison)*

**As a baptised and baptising community, we commit ourselves to the Christian life of justice, mercy and kindness. On behalf of the world-wide Church, we commit ourselves to sharing these values with all of God's children as with one another, and to learning to live them out, both here and in the world. We will love you, and commit ourselves to growing with you, showing and discovering with you and each other the wisdom, beauty and diversity of all that our faith tradition holds for you and for our world, for all that God so loves.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:** *(in unison)*

**God of this watered world, we give thanks for your love poured out upon us. Bless what we do here together, that all, both elder and child, seeker and witness, disciples of your desire, experience the love that makes us whole, that makes us one in you. Amen**

**RITE OF BAPTISM**

**DECLARATION AND PRESENTATION OF SYMBOLS AND GIFTS**

**BLESSING**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:**

**Gentle God, your spirit touches the deepest places of our being. May your word coming to us through all of our senses provoke us to fall deeply in love with you. Let new insights rest gently within us, that we might be transformed. Open us to your healing, life-giving truth. This we pray, in the name of the Liberating Christ. Amen**

**Acknowledgement:**

Prayer for Illumination by Laura J. Turnbull,  
while at Trinity UC, Creston, BC.  
*Gathering*, Pentecost 2, 2022, p. 37.  
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## SCRIPTURE READING:

*Judy Losier*

Luke 16:19-31      The rich man and Lazarus

**SERMON:** Who's at the door?

**GIFT OF MUSIC:** "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"

## YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

*Helen Knowles*

## INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING:

We have been called to this place, to worshipping together. We have remembered who we are and are called to be. Remembering the baptism of Jesus we have welcomed little ones into the family of Christ, just as we welcome all who brighten our doors with their light. We have remembered the story of Lazarus and the rich man, a story of disconnect and dismay, and of discovery too. And we have remembered the story of a little one who had her orange shirt taken away just as she was taken away along with so much more. Remembering and reflecting in love grounds us in truth and in faith, and it is the soil in which we can grow into fruitful, faithful souls. Remembering and envisioning the kin-dom of God, our grateful offerings will now be gathered.

## OUR OFFERING IS GATHERED

**\*OFFERING HYMN** – "These Gifts We Bring"

*These gifts we bring with grateful hearts,  
to reconcile, make new.*

*Gather us in grace, show us the way,  
to live our lives in Truth  
to share Your love in all we do.*

**OFFERING PRAYER:** *(in unison)*

**God of love and of life, bless us and these offerings that together we continue to be a people of your vision, seeking to recognise, know and love one another. Through all that we offer may your world know healing and hope, and so know you and your joy. Amen**

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## PRAYER OF JESUS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*CLOSING HYMN** "Oh a Song Must Rise"

MV #142

*Refrain:*

*Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend  
Oh a song must rise once again  
Singing out God's praises and glory,  
The faithful voices blend,  
Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend.*

From the mountains to the valleys,  
from the desert to the sea,  
a song must rise once again.  
From the voices of our leaders,  
the voice of you and me,  
a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

*Refrain:*

From poverty and riches,  
from the voice of young and old,  
a song must rise once again.  
From the free and imprisoned,  
the timid and the bold,  
a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

*Refrain:*

From every house of worship,  
in every faith and tongue,  
a song must rise once again.  
From the villages and cities  
a new song must be sung,  
a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

*Refrain:*

**\*COMMISSIONING and BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL SENDING FORTH** "Lift Us Up, Send Us Out"

*Lift us up, send us out  
as we now go in peace  
and our worship and living entwine.  
May God's presence be near  
and may concord increase  
when our hope and our actions combine.*

*Be the salt, be the light  
and let each be a sign  
that our caring will highlight the way.  
Share a meal, plant a tree,  
let our faith underline  
that by giving, our love is conveyed.*

*text © Allan Baer, 2014  
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**\*SHARING THE LIGHT**

*(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)*

**POSTLUDE**

# Church News

**This Week at First United Church**

**Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday to Friday**

Tuesday	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	National Day of Truth & Reconciliation
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market – GYM
Sunday	10:00	World Communion Sunday

**Peanut Butter** –Our quota for 2025 is to collect 1,000 jars of peanut butter for the Volunteer Center. Up to September 25, 2025 we have received 789 jars.

**We welcome into our church family** this morning, Kate Stephanie James Kenny, daughter of Laura and Adam Kenny and Oliver Eric James Boucher, son of Whitney and Kristopher Boucher

**October 5<sup>th</sup> is World Communion Sunday** and we will be celebrating the sacrament of communion.

**Thanksgiving – October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025** – Anyone wishing to contribute items to decorate the church is encouraged to bring them in by **3 PM Thursday October 9<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you in advance.

**Bible Study** - Rev. David is planning to hold a weekly Bible study, beginning the last week of October. Please let him know by Thanksgiving Sunday (October 12) if you are interested, and which days and times during the week would work best for you so that we can accommodate as many of those interested as possible.

**Affirming**- We want to get started on our commitment to becoming an Affirming congregation and ministry, and so as an initial step need to establish an ad hoc steering team. We already have a few people who have indicated an interest in serving, and we'd like to have some more, including young people. If you are interested or have questions about what this might entail, please speak with Rev. David. We hope to have an initial meeting sometime before Thanksgiving.

**Are you missing your cake pan?** If you have left it behind after a supper you may be able to find it in the narthex or the kitchen.

## Church News

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 have all been blessed, so we all have a great opportunity to bless others through generosity.

## Community News

### **"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.

**A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST** will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, October 11th from 8:00 – 10:00 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.

## Your Baptism Day

*You've been a special blessing  
since the day that you arrived,  
Bringing so much happiness  
and filling hearts with pride.*

*And now that it's your  
Baptism Day,  
this brings a special prayer  
That God will always keep  
you in the shelter  
of His care.*

### **Scripture reading for Sunday September 28, 2025**

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#### **MARK 1:9-11      NIV**

#### **The Baptism and Testing of Jesus**

9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

10 Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

**LUKE 16:19-31**

**NIV**

<sup>19</sup>“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. <sup>20</sup>At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores <sup>21</sup>and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

<sup>22</sup>“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup>In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup>So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

<sup>25</sup>“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup>And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

<sup>27</sup>“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, <sup>28</sup>for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

<sup>29</sup>“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

<sup>30</sup>“‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

<sup>31</sup>“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

*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.*