

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

5th Sunday of the Season of Creation
World Communion Sunday
October 5, 2025

Clergy Rev. David Allan **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Julie & Harvey Spence
Audio & Visual Technicians Brenda Parrott & Lester Scott

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Lamentations 3:19-26	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
Psalms 137	Psalms 111
2 Timothy 1:1-14	Philippians 4:4-9
Luke 17:5-10	Luke 17:11-190
Today's bulletins have been placed in loving memory of John M. Daley by Helen 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)*

It takes a variety of ingredients to make a loaf of bread...

It takes a variety of people to be the church.

A measure of flour, of wheat or some other grain...

People from farmland and expanses of prairie.

A measure of water and salt...

People from the seashore and islands too.

A measure of sparkling sugar...

People from places where the snow glitters in the moonlight.

We mix them all together with enough yeast to leaven the bread.

We gather together too, here with our gifts, to be uplifted and transformed!

Acknowledgement:

Call to Worship adapted from one by Heather Ferrier,
Trinity UC, Mahone Bay, NS. *Gathering*, Pentecost 2, 2022, p. 42.
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CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "Where Two or Three Are Gathered"
MV #14

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE: *(The Christ Candle is lit)*

We have gathered in the presence of this font, a symbol of our identity as God's beloved and gathered creation. We have gathered in the presence of this table, as people who hunger and thirst for oneness in God, where we are nourished to wholly love the world. 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, 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, gratitude, and a faith that increases through the ministry that we share.

GATHERING PRAYER: *(responsively)*

With water and light you created all things, O God. Gently stream upon your creation the water that gives new life. Shine on all people and places the light that gives growth.

Alleluia! Let it be!

With bread and wine you reminded us that we are always yours, O God. Fill all who are hungry with the bread that gives new life. Fill all who are thirsty with the wine of Christ's love.

Alleluia! Let it be!

In this place. In all places. Let it be!

Alleluia! Amen

Acknowledgement:

Opening Prayer adapted from one by Richard Bott, then of Vancouver, BC, Gathering, Pentecost 2, 2022, p.42. Used with permission.

***GATHERING HYMN:** "All Who Hunger"

VU #460

All who hunger, gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering.
Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers;
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together;
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table
live their lives in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

***WE OPEN OUR HEARTS:**

Psalm 137 By the rivers of Babylon

VU #858

Refrain:

By the rivers of Babylon, there we wept.

By the rivers of Babylon we sat down and wept
when we remembered Zion.

**There on the willows we hung up our harps
when our captors asked us for songs.**

Our tormentors called for entertainment, saying
"Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

Refrain:

By the rivers of Babylon, there we wept.

How could we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my hands wither!

Let me tongue stick to the roof of my mouth
if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.

Refrain:

By the rivers of Babylon, there we wept.

OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED:

Our Psalm was written of a people in exile, for whom the light that had guided them for so long and through so much seemed to have gone out. We too can feel dispirited, lost in the shadows, exiled from the way things used to be, from understandings, assumptions, things we thought would last forever. And we can turn to ancient wisdom, to the faith of a writer long ago who lamented the destruction of Jerusalem and his people's exile in Babylon...

LAMENTATIONS 3:19-26 *(responsively)*

¹⁹ I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall.

²⁰ I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me.

²¹ Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:

²² **Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.**

²³ **They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.**

²⁴ **I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."**

²⁵ **The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him;**

²⁶ **it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.**

CHORAL RESPONSE – "Jesus, You Fill Our Hearts" MV #101

*Jesus, you fill our hearts with your love,
our minds with your peace,
and our lives
with your joy.*

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

In the silence before time began, in the quiet of the womb, in the stillness of early morning is your beauty. At the heart of all creation, at the birth of every creature, at the centre of each moment is your splendour. Rekindle in us the sparks of your beauty that we may be part of the splendour of this moment. Rekindle in us the sparks of your beauty that we may be part of the blazing splendour that burns from the heart of this moment.

Acknowledgement:

Prayer from *Sounds of the Eternal:
a Celtic Psalter*, by John Philip Newell
(New Beginnings: San Antonio, 2012), p.38.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

Faithful God, you provide what we need. Send your Spirit into our listening and reflecting; fill us with curiosity and a desire for understanding. As we receive ancient words of a people of faith, may our faith come to life. May we, like our faith, truly live. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Helen Knowles

2 Timothy 1:1-14

A faith that lived in your grandmother and mother

Luke 17:5-10

Increase our faith! Faith as a mustard seed.

REFLECTION: Enough, already!

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION *(Page 11 & 12)*

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Martha Vickers

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING:

We have been fed by word and sacrament, strengthened with Love's offering to be people of a living faith. In being made whole, we respond with our whole selves, we give. Our offerings will now be gathered.

OUR OFFERING IS GATHERED

***OFFERING RESPONSE:** "What Can I Do?"

MV #191
(2 times)

*What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.*

OFFERING PRAYER: *(in unison)*

As you have blessed us, God of Life, bless all that we offer here. As bread and wine are transformed into symbol and source of a greater love, may we and these gifts nourish your world with a love that never ends. Creator of All, this we pray in the name of the Bread of Life. Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CLOSING HYMN – “Let There Be Light”

VU #675

Let there be light,
let there be understanding,
let all the nations gather,
let them be face to face;

open our lips,
open our minds to ponder,
open the door of concord
opening into grace;

perish the sword,
perish the angry judgment,
perish the bombs and hunger,
perish the fight for gain;

hallow our love,
hallow the deaths of martyrs,
hallow their holy freedom,
hallowed be your name;

your kingdom come,
your spirit turn to language,
your people speak together,
your spirit never fade;

let there be light;
open our hearts to wonder,
perish the way of terror,
hallow the world God made.

*CHORAL SENDING FORTH “When You Walk from Here” VU #298

***When you walk from here,
when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy,
and with God’s humble care.***

*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	9:30 AM-11:30 AM	Quilters – DEMH Downstairs office
	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Knitting Group – Eddy Room
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market – GYM
Sunday	10:00 AM	Thanksgiving Worship Service

Peanut Butter –Our quota for 2025 is to collect 1,000 jars of peanut butter for the Volunteer Center. Up to October 2, 2025 we have received 799 jars with funds on hand to purchase 40 jars.

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

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.

The power of God’s generosity in your life is stronger than you know. Remember this when you are given the chance to help others.

The Knitting Group meets on Tuesday afternoons at 1 PM in the Eddy Room of the Donald Eddy Hall.

Quilters meet each Tuesday morning at 9:30 AM. If you like to quilt or would like to learn to quilt, come and join us each Tuesday morning from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM downstairs in the old office in the DEMH. Tea and Coffee supplied.

All new members welcome.

The Ways and Means Team would like to express a sincere thank you to all who helped in anyway with our Beef BBQ Supper on September 18th. A very special ***“thank you”*** to Hatheway Group of Companies for their generous sponsorship. The net profit was \$4,860.05.

Church News

Rev. David will be on vacation after Thanksgiving from **October 13th until Monday October 27th**. Rev. Blair Lewis (506-252-0305) will be available for any pastoral care emergencies from October 13th to 20th and Rev. Jean Herman (506-252-5150) from October 21st to 27th. **Thank you** to our Sunday worship leaders in Rev. David's absence:

October 19: Rev. Blair Lewis

October 26: Helen Knowles

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.

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) 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.

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional News

President's Message

Hello again friends,

And suddenly it is October, a time of year when our attention is drawn almost automatically to the wonders of creation. Orange pumpkins, colourful pots of mums, fresh red tomatoes, leaves of brilliant orange and red and yellow. It is almost as if God is shouting "People! Pay attention!"

On September 30 we recognized the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Canada's indigenous culture and beliefs are so closely tied to nature and creation that this special day seems to fit so comfortably into the liturgical calendar and the Season of Creation. Truth and Reconciliation is more than a day on the calendar. It requires intention as we make efforts to live into the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. If you have not done so previously, I encourage you to read the full 94 recommendations. Take your time with each one. Ponder them individually. What are they saying to you? What do you feel empowered or able to support and how?

Sunday Oct 5 many of us will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion as part of Worldwide Communion Sunday when Christians across the globe will partake of the bread and wine in accordance with our unique practices and beliefs. It is a time of coming together in an increasingly fractured and changing world and maybe a time to consider the things we have in common as opposed to those that separate us and draw us apart. Worldwide Communion Sunday offers us a time to find the "humanity" in our neighbour.

The following Sunday we will celebrate Thanksgiving here in Canada. There will be family gatherings, walks in the crisp air, laughter and memories shared, special family recipes and hopefully a shared meal with family and/or friends. As we decorate our churches with leaves and samples of harvest, we offer thanks for how fortunate we are to live and work and worship where we do. Life is never perfect, but I am certain we can all find things for which we are grateful. Most of us have more than we require for our basic needs and for that alone we should offer thanks. Give some thought in this wonderful season of plenty as to how you can share of that abundance with those who have less or maybe nothing at all. Support your food bank, invite someone who might be alone to share a meal or deliver one to them if they have mobility issues, make a special donation to Mission and Service or offer a gift of your time or talent to make someone's life just a little easier.

Celebrate Creation and Happy Thanksgiving! May Creator continue to bless us all so that we in turn may be a blessing to others

Hugh

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Peace of Christ be with you all!

And also with you!

God welcomes and is with you always.

And so also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to God.

Let us give our thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We give thanks for the beauty and wonder of Creation, the turning of the seasons and the turning of the universe through which the love of God is revealed. We turn to God. We give thanks for the world-wide Church, in the beauty of its diversity, tradition and witness, for the gifts of humility and hope and its call to love. We give thanks for the beauty, wonder and generosity of our lives through which the light of Christ shines. Together we give thanks for our gifts, of and through the Spirit, shared for the nourishment and healing of the world. We give thanks for the life of Jesus, living bread, love made flesh. And we proclaim together,

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space. MV 203

All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.

Hosanna in the highest heaven, creation sings your praise.

And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always!

On the night before he died, Jesus gathered with his closest friends. Looking at them with love, he spoke of how he had shared his life, his living, the entirety of his being with them. In an upper room Jesus spoke of the intimacy that is the kingdom, and of the wide open grace of unconditional love. He picked up a loaf of bread, gave thanks, broke it and said, "I have given my body, like this bread, for you. Take and eat, and give and do likewise, remembering me. For this is the Bread of Life." He took a cup, gave thanks, and said, "With every beat of my heart, I have given my lifeblood, like this wine poured out, for you. Take and drink, and give and do likewise, remembering me. For this is the Cup of God's ever new Promise."

Remembering, together in praise we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again! MV 204

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Hopeful, together we pray:

Generous God, send your Spirit among us and these gifts, that we too may be a sacrament, sharing lives that are signs of love and hope, broken bread for a broken world, poured wine for a thirsty creation. Together in faith we say amen, hosanna and amen!

As a sacramental people, recognising the Divine presence in all, we pray for one another, we pray for Creation's healing...

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus:

Ecumenical Version

VU 921

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

now and forever. Amen.

We Sing Amen:

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!

MV 205

Amen, amen, O Holy One, Hosanna and Amen!

Breaking the Bread, Pouring the Wine, Sharing the Feast

Choir Offering: Put Peace into Each Other's Hands

MV 173

Post Communion Prayer:

We have tasted life, we have tasted love. And God for this we are grateful.

May we be sent into the world by the Spirit in hope, heralding your healing

presence and your peace. May we live in remembrance of Jesus, as

members of the Body of Christ. May we be always in communion with you,

our Love and Sustainer. Amen

Acknowledgement: sung responses in the Communion liturgy by William S. Kervin and Paul Stott, More Voices 203, 204, 205.

SCRIPTURE READINGS – New International Version

2 Timothy 12:1-14

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

2 To Timothy, my dear son:

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.

4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.

5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

8 So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.

9 He has saved us and called us to a holy life - not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

11 And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.

12 That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.

13 What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.

14 Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you - guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

Luke 17:5-10

5 The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

6 He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.

7 "Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'?

8 Won't he rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'?

9 Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do?

10 So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"

*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.*