

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

October 19, 2025

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

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Jeremiah 31:27-34 Psalm 119:97-104 2 Timothy 3:14--4:5 Luke 18:1-8	Joel 2:23-32 Psalm 65 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14
<i>Today's bulletins have been placed in loving memory of:</i> John Duncan by Sharon, Stephen, Michael & families and Vivian Howatt by her family and <i>the bulletins and flowers at the front of the church are placed in loving memory of</i> Betty & Blair, Bradley & Gordie Chamberlain <i>by the family</i>	
<i>Welcome and thank Rev. Blair Lewis for leading us in worship this morning.</i>	

*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 have gathered to worship God.

**We have come seeking comfort,
inspiration, community, and insight.**

We have come to open ourselves
to the power of God's presence in our midst.

**We have come to offer up the seasons
and the turnings in our lives,
and to ask God's help in our learning
and in our growing.**

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP:

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" VU #400

***Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power send us grace!***

GATHERING PRAYER: *(in unison)*

**Wondrous God:
you touch our lives with healing and with justice;
new life is your gift.**

**We praise you for the Good News
which is ours through Jesus Christ.
May this time of worship nourish us
with your promise of meaning and purpose.**

**May we be empowered to carry your goodness
into the coming week.**

We pray in Jesus' name, our Source and Saviour. Amen

***GATHERING HYMN:**

"All Beautiful the March of Days"

VU #530

All beautiful the march of days,
as seasons come and go;
the hand that shaped the rose has wrought
the crystal of the snow,
has sent the silvery frost of heaven,
the flowing waters sealed,
and laid a silent loveliness
on hill and wood and field.

O'er white expanses sparkling pure
the radiant morns unfold;
the solemn splendours of the night
burn brighter through the cold;
life mounts in every throbbing vein,
love deepens round the hearth,
and clearer sounds the angel hymn,
good will to all on earth.

O God, from whose unfathomed law
the year in beauty flows,
yourself the vision passing by
in crystal and in rose;
day unto day declare thro' speech,
and night to night proclaim
in ever-changing words of light
the wonder of your name.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE: *(responsively)*

(The Christ Candle is lit)

God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit You are with us,
we thank you our God for the changes October brings.

**Our help is in your name;
you created life and made heaven and earth.
While the earth remains,
seed time and harvest, cold and heat,
winter and summer, day and night, shall not cease.**

**We are embraced by your presence,
We open our hearts to you.**

As we light the Christ candle
we are encouraged by your love.

**We release our thoughts to you,
and we are intrigued by your mysteries,
As we search for your way for our lives.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(in unison)*

**You asked for my hands,
that you might use them for your purpose.
I gave them for a moment,
then withdrew them for the work was hard.**

**You asked for my mouth,
to speak out against injustice.
I gave you a whisper, that I might not be accused.**

**You asked for my eyes,
to see the pain of poverty.
I closed them, for I did not want to see.**

**You asked for my life,
that you might work through me.
I have a small part, that I might not get too involved.**

**O God, forgive me for my calculated efforts to serve you
only when it is convenient for me to do so,
only in those places where it is safe to do so,
and only with those who make it easy to do so.**

**O God, forgive me,
renew me,
send me out as a useable instrument,
that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross.**

South Africa

OUR ASSURANCE:

Take comfort in the assurance
that even those things that are hidden from memory,
or are too deep for our words,
are not beyond God's forgiving love.

God, who knows us completely,
bestows pardon and peace.

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

***HYMN:** “Praise Our Maker” VU #316

Praise our Maker, peoples of one family:
God is love, God is love!
Praise our Maker, peoples of one family:
God is love, God is love!

Love our Saviour, followers of Jesus:
God is love, God is love!
Love our Saviour, followers of Jesus:
God is love, God is love!

Care for others, children of the Spirit:
God is love, God is love!
Care for others, children of the Spirit:
God is love, God is love!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

**O God, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that as the scriptures are read
and your Word is proclaimed,
we may hear what you are saying to us today. Amen**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Jennifer Oliver

Jeremiah 31:27-34

God’s new covenant will be written upon people’s hearts.

*Psalm 119:97-104 Part 4 Refrain 4

VU Page 840

How I love God’s law.

Refrain:

Teach me, O God

the perfect way of your divine commands.

O how I love your law!

It is my study all day long.

**Your commandment makes me wiser
than my enemies;
for it is always with me.**

I have gained more insight than all my teachers,
for you instruction is my study.

**I have more understanding than the aged,
for I keep your commandments.**

Refrain:

Teach me, O God

the perfect way of your divine commands.

I have held my feet back from every evil way,
in order to keep your word.

**I have not swerved from your judgements,
for you, yourself, have taught me.**

How sweet is your word on my tongue,
sweeter than honey in my mouth!

**Through your commandments I get understanding;
therefore I hate every false way.**

Refrain:

Teach me, O God

the perfect way of your divine commands.

Luke 18:1-8

The parable of the widow and the unjust judge.

THE UNITED CHURCH CREED: *(in unison)*

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

**We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968, alt. 1998

MESSAGE: "The Parable of the Widow and the Judge"

GIFT OF MUSIC - "Spirit, Open My Heart"

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Anne Wilson

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING:

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)*

**God of all peoples and God of all places,
we present these offerings,
that they may be used to extend your liberating reign.
With them, we offer our varied ministries,
that each of us may be part of your answer
to the cries of the world. Amen.**

PASTORAL PRAYER: *(responsively)*

**Almighty and merciful God, from whom comes all that
is good, we praise you for all your mercies: for your
goodness that has created us, your grace that has
sustained us, your wisdom that has challenged us,
your patience that has borne with us, and your love
that has redeemed us.**

Help us to love you and all your children, and to be thankful for all
your gifts, by serving you and delighting to do your will.

**In Jesus' name,
we pray for all who are afflicted
in body, mind, or spirit;
relieve their distress,
comfort and cheer all who live
with weariness or depression.
Let your presence be near them by day and night;
we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

**Our Father, 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, the power,
and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

***CLOSING HYMN** – “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” VU #684

Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your healing power,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

(Refrain:)

*O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

(Refrain:)

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

(Refrain:)

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

***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

Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Tuesday	9:30 AM-11:30 AM	Quilters – DEMH Downstairs office
	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Knitting Group – Eddy Room
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market – GYM
	3:00 PM	Chœur Louisbourg

Peanut Butter –Our quota for 2025 is to collect 1,000 jars of peanut butter for the Volunteer Center. Up to October 16, 2025 we have received 819 jars with funds on hand to purchase 60 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.

God asks us over and over again to listen to the people asking us for help, and to respond in faith and gratitude for what we have been given.

Men's Choir – We are hoping to have a Men's Choir again at First United! October 26th will be their first Sunday to sing together since 2020! If you enjoy singing, please join us in the choir loft at 9:30 AM on Sunday, October 26th 🎵 🎵

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

October 26: Helen Knowles

Church News

Rev. Shepherd Munikwa, our UCC East Minister for Mission, Justice and Outreach will be presenting a seminar at First United Church in **Campbellton** on Nov 1, 2025 from 1 PM to 4 PM entitled:

DIVERSITY: HOW CAN OUR CHURCHES BE RADICAL, INTENTIONAL, WELCOMING & INCLUSIVE IN TODAY'S GLOBAL VILLAGE

All interested individuals are welcome. Please indicate your intention to attend this unique educational event by contacting either Heather Ross (shross@nbnet.nb.ca) or Hugh Ellis (hughgellis57@gmail.com). There is no registration fee for this event. Blessings and hope to see you there!

Community News

Annual Remembrance Service - Each year, on the Sunday immediately prior to Remembrance Day, we honour our war veterans as well as those who lost their lives in war. Our Remembrance Service will be held Sunday, **November 9th**. Those wishing to place memorial crosses in the sanctuary are reminded to contact the Legion office no later than **November 5th** by telephone 506-546-3135 or drop by the Legion located at 1220 Bridge Street between 8:00 AM and 12:00 Noon Monday to Friday or during regular legion hours on the weekends.

Thank you for supporting our veterans and the Legion.



The crosses will be placed in the church on Thursday, November 6th.

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on Saturday, November 8th 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.

The **Chœur Louisbourg** invites you on a journey through time for its concert *"Italian Secret Gardens"*, featuring Renaissance Italian madrigals about love, passion, and betrayal. The performance on **Saturday, October 25th at 3 PM** at First United Church in Bathurst, will feature the choir accompanied by seven musicians playing period instruments like the harpsichord, theorbo, baroque guitar, douçaine, violins, and percussion. Tickets (\$30.00) are available on the [Chœur Louisbourg website](#) and at the door, with free admission for students.

SCRIPTURE READINGS – New International Version

JEREMIAH 31:27-34

27 “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will plant the kingdoms of Israel and Judah with the offspring of people and of animals.

28 Just as I watched over them to uproot and tear down, and to overthrow, destroy and bring disaster, so I will watch over them to build and to plant,” declares the LORD.

29 “In those days people will no longer say, ‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge.’

30 Instead, everyone will die for their own sin; whoever eats sour grapes—their own teeth will be set on edge.

31 “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.

32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD.

33 “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

34 No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

LUKE 18:1-8

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

2 He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought.

3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’

4 “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think,

5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’”

6 And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says.

7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?

8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

*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.*