

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

November 16, 2025

Minister Rev. David Allan **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Linda Knowles MacPherson & Beth Sullivan

Audio & Visual Technicians Ralph Jamieson & Margaret Payne Chenard

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Isaiah 65:17-25	Jeremiah 23:1-6
Isaiah 12 VU #880	Psalm 46
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 21:5-19	Luke 23:33-43

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

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

WELCOME

***TERRITORY 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

We come seeking comfort, we come for understanding,
we come with our trust and we come with our fears.
We come with our joys and stories and songs,
we come with our praise and gratitude too.

We come to worship, for a time of peace;
we come to be strengthened, remembering we're loved.

We come to worship, we come as we are,
together we come to God.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "Come Build a Church"
(Seasons of the Spirit – volume 7)

***Come build a church with soul and spirit,
come build a church of flesh and bone.
We need no tower rising skyward;
no house of wood or glass or stone.***

***Come build a church with human frailty,
come build a church of flesh and blood.
Jesus shall be its sure foundation.
It shall be built by the hand of God.***

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GATHERING PRAYER:

God who is near and everywhere, you abide in our hearts as we dwell within you. In you love overlaps, tangles and swells. In you the complexity of our lives is met and in you we know wisdom and peace. As we gather together, in our yearning and in our unknowing, be with us, make us new, make us, O God, your joy and your delight. Remake us, God of vision, in your likeness and light. **Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN:** "God of the Bible"

MV #28

God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,
Hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
You are our centre, daylight or darkness,
Freedom or prison, you are our home.

Refrain:

***Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, You do not change,
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.***

God in our struggles, God in our hunger,
Suffering with us, taking our part,
Still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit
Feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.

Refrain:

Those without status, those who are nothing,
You have made royal, gifted with rights,
Chosen as partners, midwives of justice,
Birthing new systems, lighting new lights.

Refrain:

Not by your finger, not by your anger
Will our world order change in a day.
But by your people, fearless and faithful,
Small paper lanterns, lighting the way.

Refrain:

Hope we must carry, shining and certain
Through all our turmoil, terror and loss,
Bonding us gladly one to the other,
Till our world changes facing the Cross.

Refrain:

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

Out of the unknown the Creator's first words shimmer, "Let there be light." The eternal Word with, in, and of God brightens, the Christ light shines through time and space, revealed in Creation, revealed in Jesus, revealed in you and me. The Lovelight fills and illumines and guides, and no darkness, no shadow can overcome it.

We give thanks to God for the Light.

***WE OPEN OUR HEARTS:**

Isaiah 12 Give thanks to God

VU Page #880

Refrain:

***Proclaim God's marvelous deeds
to all the nations.***

I will praise you, O God,
**For though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away, and you comforted me.**

Surely God is my salvation.

I will trust and not be afraid,

**For you, God, are my strength and might;
you show yourself my saviour**

Refrain:

With joy we draw water from the well of salvation.

Give thanks and call on God's name.

Make known God's deeds among the nations;

proclaim that God's name is exalted.

Sing praises to God, whose work is glorious;

let it be known in all the earth.

**Shout for joy, you who dwell in Zion,
for the Holy One of Israel is majestic among you.**

Refrain:

OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED:

God is our salvation, from whom we arise and in whom we rest.
In God we are our true selves, our whole selves; together we are
made new, meant for lives of meaning, given lives of grace. In
God is our eternal hope, and there the eternal Heart sings to our
hearts...

CHORAL RESPONSE: "And When You Call for Me"

MV #96

***And when you call for me,
I have already answered.
And when you call for me,
I am already there.***

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.

***HYMN:** "God of the Sparrow"

VU #229

God of the sparrow God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbour God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(in unison)*

**As we listen and reflect may we gain new understanding,
new delight and new hope. May we be changed and
readied for our place in the life of the world. May we hear
more nearly, more deeply the call of Love. Amen**

SCRIPTURE READING

Anne Wilson

Isaiah 65:17-25 *new heavens, a new earth*

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 *never tire of doing what is good*

Luke 21:5-19 *"I will give you words and wisdom"*

REFLECTION: Promise and peril

GIFT OF MUSIC – "In the Quiet Curve of Evening"

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

Yes, we are freed when the walls of fear and want and despair are broken down; it is with a generous and persistent faith, with love and grace that the world is made new. And so, with open eyes and open hearts we freely give. Our offerings will now be gathered.

THE 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.***

***THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD**

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

**Just as we pray for peace, we pray that all experience
abundant life. May all that we offer here and through the**

gifts of our lives help to transform the lives of those of us in need. May all that we offer be a part of a new creation, a new heaven and earth, the kingdom of love, where love weaves all in unity and harmony, and justice and peace. This is our hope; this is our prayer. Amen

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF JESUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN:** "To Show by Touch and Word" VU#427

To show by touch and word devotion to the earth,
to hold in full regard all life that comes to birth,
we need, O God, the will to find
the good you had of old in mind.

Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most,
our hearts to long for truth till pride of self is lost.
For every challenge that we face
we need your guidance and your grace.

Let love from day to day be yardstick, rule, and norm,
and let our lives portray your word in human form.
Now come with us that we may have
your wits about us where we live.

* **COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL SENDING FORTH:** "May the God of Peace MV 224

*May the God of peace and of all good,
may the God of peace and of all good
be always with you. Amen!
May God's peace be with you. Amen!*

***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
	3:00 PM	Bible Study Cancelled
	4:00 PM	Bathurst Pastoral Council
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
	7:00 PM	Christmas Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market – GYM



Church News

Peanut Butter –Our quota for 2025 is to collect 1,000 jars of peanut butter for the Volunteer Center. Up to November 13, 2025 we have received 843 jars with funds on hand to purchase 60+ jars.

Sunday, December 7th at 2 PM – Memorial Hymn Sing



To celebrate the **100th Anniversary** of The United Church of Canada, First United Church along with some choir members from Central United in Clifton and a couple of other churches, will be offering an afternoon of Christmas Carols that mean so much to us as we remember our loved ones. A reception will follow.

The deadline for requests for the hymn sing is drawing to a close. If you have not already done so, please fill out the information and submit it to the office by dropping it in the mail, offering plate or leaving it at the church office **no later than November 26th**.

Turkey Supper will be held on Thursday, November 27th

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 \$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 Team* or drop by the church office from 9 AM to 3 PM Monday to Friday.

*Sponsored by
Kenny's Trucking Ltd. & Shine House
(A Division of Stothart Automotive)*

Community News

The Annual **Scottish Feast of Saint Andrew** will be held on **today at 12:30 PM** at Gowan Brae Golf and Country Club. The afternoon event will include a glazed ham dinner with raisin sauce, haggis, choice of dessert, entertainment, prizes and more. Everyone is welcome!! Call Isabel MacLaggan (506-546-5521) for tickets or more information.

Community News

The Downshore Community choir, which consists of the Anglican and United Church choirs and friends, will present "*An Evening of Christmas Carols*" on Saturday, December 13, at 7 PM at Central United Church in Clifton. Please mark the date on your calendar and join us for some familiar favourite carols. Admission at the door will be \$10.00, under 10 years free. Proceeds will be shared by both local churches.

The Bathurst Community Concert Band Flute and Clarinet Ensembles present:

A Christmas Celebration: Music for the Season.

On Sunday November 30th at 2 p.m. St. Lukes Presbyterian Church, 395 Murray Ave. Free-will donations accepted.

Come together with family, friends, and neighbors to hear local musicians perform a selection of beloved carols, that capture the true spirit of the season.



SHRINERS – Give help and hope for kids

Shriners are a brotherhood of men committed to family, engaged into ongoing personal growth, and dedicated to providing care for children and families in need. Our backgrounds and interests are diverse, but we are bound together by our shared values and a desire to have fun, do good and build relationships that can last a lifetime.

Once again, this year you can help the Shriners with their fundraiser. Purchase a calendar for \$20 and have a chance to win prizes every day of the year. The fruitcakes are delicious and you can get a box of three for \$25. Or a package Milk Chocolate Almonds for \$5. All the money from this fundraiser goes to help the children in our area. Contact Harvey Spence at 506-546-2742 for reservation.



**Covenanting Service
Dalhousie – New Mills Pastoral Charge**

A Covenanting Service between Kimberly Inglis, Diaconal Candidate, The Dalhousie – New Mills Pastoral Charge and the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council will be held at Bethel United Church, 23249 Route 134, Nash Creek N.B. E8B 1G8 at **1 p.m. today**. All are welcome.

We pray that God will richly bless this ministry between Kimberly, the Dalhousie – New Mills Pastoral Charge and the Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters Region.

SCRIPTURE READINGS - New International Version

ISAIAH 65:17-25

New Heavens and a New Earth

- ¹⁷ "See, I will create
new heavens and a new earth.
The former things will not be remembered,
nor will they come to mind.
- ¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I will create,
for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight
and its people a joy.
- ¹⁹ I will rejoice over Jerusalem
and take delight in my people;
the sound of weeping and of crying
will be heard in it no more.
- ²⁰ "Never again will there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not live out his years;
the one who dies at a hundred
will be thought a mere child;
the one who fails to reach^[a] a hundred
will be considered accursed.
- ²¹ They will build houses and dwell in them;
they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
- ²² No longer will they build houses and others live in them,
or plant and others eat.
For as the days of a tree,
so will be the days of my people;
my chosen ones will long enjoy
the work of their hands.
- ²³ They will not labor in vain,
nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune;
for they will be a people blessed by the LORD,
they and their descendants with them.
- ²⁴ Before they call I will answer;
while they are still speaking I will hear.

²⁵ The wolf and the lamb will feed together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox,
and dust will be the serpent's food.
They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,"
says the LORD.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-13

Warning Against Idleness

⁶ In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching^[a] you received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. ⁹ We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."
¹¹ We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. ¹² Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. ¹³ And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.

LUKE 21:5-19

The Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

⁵ Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, ⁶ "As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down."

⁷ "Teacher," they asked, "when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?"

⁸ He replied: "Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them. ⁹ When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away."

¹⁰ Then he said to them: "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.

¹² "But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. ¹³ And so you will bear testimony to me. ¹⁴ But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. ¹⁵ For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ Everyone will hate you because of me. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ Stand firm, and you will win life.