

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

February 15, 2026

Transfiguration Sunday

Minister 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>
Exodus 24:12-18	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Psalm 99	Psalm 32
2 Peter 1:16-21	Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 17:1-9	Matthew 4:1-11

*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: *(responsively)*

Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear light.

And so, in the corners of our hearts, we welcome the light.

Jesus bids us shine first of all for him.

**And in this small corner of the world,
we seek to be the light.**

Jesus bids us shine for all around.

We come to worship, where through our songs and prayers and the spark of God's word, we are empowered to shine the light of love upon the shadows, sorrows and suffering of the world.

In the light we are transformed;

together our lives are transfigured into light.

From the mountaintops and into the valleys below,
from both far away and right around the corner,

**Love moves the world in the light of grace,
hope and peace.**

Lift up your hearts! Give thanks to God!

It is good to give our thanks and praise!

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "Arise, Your Light is Come"

VU #79 (*verses 1 & 4*)

Arise, your light is come!

The Spirit's call obey;

***show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.***

Arise, your light is come!

The mountains burst in song!

Rise up like eagles on the wing;

God's power will make us strong.

GATHERING PRAYER:

God on high, we give our thanks. We are grateful because it is good to be here, in church or at home, and here in your world. God within us, it is good to live in you as you shine and dwell in us. Blessed are you, O God. And in the height and depth of your steadfast love, God among us, continue to bless us as we worship and as we journey in the light of your love and your way. **Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN: "It Only Takes a Spark"**

VU #289

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing:
that's how it is with God's love,
and once you've experienced it:
you spread God's love to everyone,
you want to pass it on.

What wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding,
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring,
you want to pass it on.

I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found---
on God you can depend, it matters not where you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top;
I want my world to know:
The Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.

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

Brighter than the first evening star, brighter still than the
awakening dawn, the Christ light shines, the Love light glows, the
light of the world illumines all people and all things. The morning
star rises in our hearts and love sparks and flames. We light this
candle as a reminder of the presence and the power of the light.
We light this candle as a reminder that through the light, the
beauty and the need of the world is revealed. The season of
Epiphany is coming to an end. Yet through the light, we continue
to respond, in love revealed.

CHORAL RESPONSE: "Light of Christ"

***Light of Christ shine in and through me.
Light of Love be with me now.
Take these hands, healing hands.
Light of Christ flow through me now.***

*Gathering, A/C/E 2025/26
Pat Mayberry and David Kai*

***PSALM 99**

***Refrain:
You rule with justice in delight,
and faithfulness maintain.***

Awaken, O you people! Entrust your hearts to Love.

**For the Beloved reigns supreme;
let all the earth give thanks!**

Your unseen Presence is great in the land; You sit with the leaders
of nations.

**Let them be silent and guided by your Voice!
Holy are You!**

You are mighty and love justice; You establish equity;
**out of the Silence, your Word can be heard in the land
inviting the nations to live in peace.**

Listen O you people! Open your hearts to the Beloved,
that Truth may be born anew!

***Refrain:
You rule with justice in delight,
and faithfulness maintain.***

Many who have gone before you followed the Beloved's Voice,
the unknown saints of all generations.

**They surrendered themselves into the Beloved's hands,
and walked with confidence.**

They were guided through difficult times, keeping to Love's way,
and trusting in Love's promises.

**O Heart of all hearts, You answered their prayers;
with mercy, You forgave them their wrongdoings,
always inviting them to new life.**

Sing praises to the Beloved,
and aspire to ascend the holy mountain.

Holy are You, O Giver of Life!

Refrain:

***You rule with justice in delight,
and faithfulness maintain.***

Nan. C. Merrill,

Psalms for Praying: an invitation to wholeness

(New York: Bloomsbury) pp. 194-195

Refrain from VU Page 819

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

...The peace of Christ be with you all!

And also with you!

Please share with one another words and signs of peace.

***HYMN:** "My Lord, What a Morning"

VU #708

African-American Spiritual

Refrain:

My Lord, what a morning,

My Lord, what a morning.

My Lord, what a morning

when the stars begin to fall.

You'll hear the trumpet sound
to wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand
when the stars begin to fall.

Refrain

Refrain:

My Lord, what a morning,

My Lord, what a morning.

My Lord, what a morning

when the stars begin to fall.

You'll hear the sinner cry
to wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand
when the stars begin to fall.

Refrain

You'll hear the Christian shout
to wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand
when the stars begin to fall.

Refrain

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

**God of light, in your presence here, shine your wisdom and
your way upon our understanding. From there shine too
upon our undertakings, as we seek to follow Jesus through
all the peaks and valleys of life. May we be enlightened for
life in you, and the continuing creation of the sacred story.
Amen**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Gary Branch

Exodus 24:12-18

God calls Moses up the mountain

2 Peter 1:16-21

The morning star rises in your hearts

Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus transfigured on the mountain

SERMON: Peter's story, and ours

GIFT OF MUSIC: "Deep In Our Hearts"

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

Sometimes, like Peter, we don't know what to think or say. We do know what to do. We know how to love, to give out of the blessing that is all that we are, so that things as they are do not stay the same. Our offerings will now be gathered.

* OFFERING RESPONSE: "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.*

*Words & Music: Pat Mayberry ©2016
Arrangement: David Kai ©2016*

*OFFERING PRAYER (in unison)

We have asked you to bless us and our worship, gracious God, and we have acknowledged the blessings of your many gifts. Bless now what we offer here, all that we have and are, as in love and in gratitude we seek the healing of the world. Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF JESUS

*CLOSING HYMN: "As a Fire Is Meant for Burning" VU #578

As a fire is meant for burning
with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission,
giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs,
but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations,
finding neighbours everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers;
we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers;
we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions,
we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit,
we would live to God's delight.

As a green bud in the springtime
is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness
mid earth's peoples, many-hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens
when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance
of God's new and glorious dawn.

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL SENDING FORTH – "Take Up His Song" – MV #213

*Take up his song of peace and go into the world.
Take up his song of peace in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey,
we're laying down our lives;
lay them down, in peace, lay them down,
and take up his song.*

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	Office Closed – Family Day	
	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 – RMR
	Bible Study Cancelled this week	
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
	4:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service
Thursday	4:15 PM	Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market – GYM

Peanut Butter – Once again this year our goal is to collect 1,000 jars of peanut butter to donate to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. Up to February 11th we have delivered 102 jars.

February is Black History Month, and to honour this, we are including African-American spirituals in our worship music this month. You are also invited to check out the link below to a Broadview article about an exhibit showcasing Black history in Canada and in the United Church, produced as part of our denomination's 100th Anniversary. The exhibit is called Here All Along, and the article includes a link to a YouTube video of the exhibit.

<https://broadview.org/black-history-exhibit-united-church/>

Ash Wednesday Service: We are currently in the season of Epiphany, a season of light, of revelation and promise. In a few days, we will enter the season of Lent, a time of introspection as we remember Jesus' meandering journey to Jerusalem. **Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th, and we will be marking this with a special worship service at 4:00.** We will be marked with ashes prepared from last year's palm branches, a sign of grief and our mortality, and a sign too of transformation, of healing and the promised new life that arises, and given a blessing. This may be an entirely new experience for you. The service will be contemplative and meaningful, and all are invited to come and join as we continue our faith journey together.

Church News

Lenten scripture readings: As we remember Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, we will undertake a spiritual journey. We'll be looking at our spirituality, that is, not so much our spiritual practices, but our experiences, assumptions, questions, outlook and inherited beliefs that shape our self-understanding, way of being and relationship with one another, Creation and with God. Such reflection and exploration are intended to help us approach Holy Week and the cross with a new and deepened understanding. Our approach is hoped to be life-giving, to help us reexamine the character of God as presented in sacred story, and what love looks like. We will gain a new perspective on what it is and means to be human, and so, what it means to be the church. The Ash Wednesday service will follow the lectionary, but beginning with Lent 1, we'll start at the beginning, with a look at the two creation stories in Genesis, chapters 1 to 3. We'll discuss the concepts of "The Fall" and "Original Sin," moving to an alternate understanding of "Original Blessing." The congregation is invited to read these stories carefully, as though for the first time, and to take note of anything that surprises or prompts questions. We'll have the scripture stories printed on a bulletin insert for reference during the first three services. All of history and our lives together is a creation story; we participate with God in its unfolding, and so in a journey of the spirit. This Lent, we will undertake the journey together.

Eat in or Take out Roast Pork Supper will be held **Thursday, February 26th**. Tickets available - \$18 for adults and \$6 for children under 12. Please contact a member of the *Ways & Means Committee*, drop by the church office or call 506-546-3532.

*Sponsored by
McDonald's - Bathurst*



Community News

HEARTY SOUP & SANDWICH SUPPER at Central United Church Hall in Clifton on this afternoon at 4 PM. **Entertainment starting at 2 PM.** Come and join us for music and fellowship.

FREE WILL donation at the door. 🍞🍰🍪🍩🍫🍷🎤🎸
Local and out of town "locals" to entertain.

St. George's Anglican Church will be holding a **SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER on Tuesday, February 17th from 4:30 – 6:00 pm.** Tickets are \$ 10.00 each and can be purchased in advance from the Church Office or they are available at the door. Take-outs will also be available.

Team Members Needed

In order to fulfill our Terms of Reference many of our teams need additional members/volunteers. Some individuals have stepped back from the team for personal, family or medical reasons, while we have lost other members to death.

There have been many who have served for a number of years and continue to support our community of faith. ***We cannot express enough our immense thanks to each and every volunteer.***

COMMUNICATIONS SUB-TEAM - 2 persons required

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT - 4 persons required

PASTORAL CARE TEAM - 1 person required

WAYS & MEANS SUB-TEAM - 4 persons required

HOSPITALITY & FRIENDSHIP –

Individuals needed to prepare for fellowship after each Sunday morning worship – no need to cover a full month – just a week or two at a time.

For more information, or if you're curious about the work of any of our teams, please contact Rick Watling - 506-543-0053



SCRIPTURE READINGS – New International Version

EXODUS 24:12-18

12 The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and commandments I have written for their instruction."

13 Then Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God.

14 He said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you, and anyone involved in a dispute can go to them."

15 When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it,

16 and the glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from within the cloud.

17 To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain.

18 Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

2 PETER 1:16-21

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

17 He received honour and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

19 We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things.

21 For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

MATTHEW 17:1-9

1 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.

3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters - one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

6 When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified.

7 But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid."

8 When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."