

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

May 3, 2026
5th Sunday of Easter
Red Dress Day Recognition

Minister Rev. David Allan **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Edie & Peter Gammon
Audio & Visual Technician Lester Scott & Margaret Payne Chénard

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Acts 7:55-60	Acts 17:22-31
Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16	Psalms 66:8-20
1 Peter 2:2-10	1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:1-14	John 14:15-21

The bulletins today have been placed in loving memory of
Andrea Clowater, Hudson Clowater and Kenneth Bernier
by Wayne and Colette Clowater

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

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

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)*

There's a story of Albert Einstein travelling by train. This brilliant man, who searched out the secrets of the universe, couldn't find his ticket when the conductor came by. He looked in his vest pocket, his pants pocket and in his briefcase, but no ticket. "Not to worry, Dr. Einstein," the conductor said, "I know who you are. We all know who you are, and I'm sure you bought a ticket." As the conductor moved down the aisle, he looked back and noticed the famous man on his hands and knees, still searching for his ticket. "Dr. Einstein, don't worry," he said. "I know who you are. You don't need to show me a ticket; I'm sure you bought one." Einstein got up and said, "Young man, I too know who I am. What I don't know is where I'm going!"

The love story of Easter reminds us of who we are, our identity: we are children of God. We are accompanied by God and we are called to accompany others. Easter also sheds light on where we are going and an invitation, with assurances, that we are cared for on the journey, even as we continue to make decisions for ourselves and reach out to others.

In this place, we gather in a God-connection and a people-of-faith connection. We gather to embrace the invitation to this journey, and to welcome the challenges and the questions, the hope and the possibility, that are part of the ride.

We gather for worship.

We gather together, open to this new day, open to new horizons. We gather together for the journey into love and mystery, knowing Christ is among us.

Drawn from words by the late David Lander while at Castleton-Grafton PC, Grafton, ON. Gathering, L/E 2023, p. 45. Used with permission.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "Open our Hearts"

MV #21

***Open our hearts, open our minds
Open our lives to you O loving God.
Open our hearts, open our minds
Open our lives to you O loving God,
Open our hearts.***

GATHERING PRAYER: *(responsively)*

We are seekers of the way, of who we are and where we're going, we yearn for the ticket to understanding and faith. Accompany us in this time of worship, God of all of our journeys, lead us in all that we are, hope for and do.

For you know who we are, you are sure of our created goodness. Your way is love and your hope is in this moment, here where we are, and in we your people, people of the One Heart. Immersed in the presence of Love, we pray. Amen

***GATHERING HYMN:**

MV #10

"Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom"

Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,
she who danced, when earth was new.
Follow closely what she teaches,
for her words are right and true.
Wisdom clears the path to justice,
showing us what love must do.

Listen to the voice of Wisdom,
crying in the market-place.
Hear the Word made flesh among us,
full of glory, truth and grace.
When the word takes root and ripens,
peace and righteousness embrace.

Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;
nurture all who seek rebirth.
Spirit-guide and close companion,
bring to light our sacred worth.
Free us to become your people,
holy friends of God and earth.

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

We again light this flame as a reminder and a sign of the light of Christ, the light that rises and which nothing can overshadow. The light that beckons and attracts and welcomes all, the light through which we see the beauty of creation and the need of the world, and the light in and through which we respond, in love and with a shining hope.

CHORAL RESPONSE: "Love Us into Fullness" MV #81

*Love us into fullness,
touch us with your grace;
Jesus, in your mercy,
draw us to your face.*

*Love us into fullness,
hold us in your care,
cheer us with your presence
here and everywhere.*

*Love us into fullness,
and we will be strong;
Jesus, walk beside us,
fill our hearts with song.*

***PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16** "I trust in you, you are my God"
(parts 1 & 3) VU Page 758

*Refrain:
I trust in you, you are my God.*

In you, O God, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

**Deliver me in your righteousness;
incline your ear; come quickly to my rescue.**

Refrain:

Be my rock of refuge, a stronghold to keep me safe.

**You are indeed my rock and fortress;
lead me and guide me for your own name's sake.**

Release me from the net that they hid for me,
for you are my protector.

**Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O God of truth.**

Refrain:

I trust in you, you are my God.

My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands
of my enemies, from those who pursue me.

**Let your face shine on your servant,
and save me, for your mercy's sake.**

Refrain:

ASSURANCE:

Even as we reflect in and with the light of Christ, we see how, as in our Psalm, the reality of humanity's troubled hearts, the concerns and cries of the heart of God's people, is often at the forefront. Trust, have faith, believe that you live in the heart of God just as God lives in you. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Fear not because the foundation of your life really is that close, that intimate, loving you.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

***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.

A TIME OF SHARING FOR ALL AGES:

Red Dress Day

***HYMN:** "Each Blade of Grass"

MV #37

Each blade of grass, ev'ry wing that soars,
the waves that sweep across a distant shore,
make full the circle of God.

Each laughing child, ev'ry gentle eye,
a forest lit beneath a moon-bright sky,
make full the circle of God.

Each silent paw, ev'ry rounded stone,
the buzz that echoes from a honey'd comb,
make full the circle of God.
Each fire-brimmed star, ev'ry out-stretched hand,
the wind that leaps and sails across the land,
make full the circle of God.

Each icy peak, ev'ry patterned shell,
the joyous chorus that the dawn foretells,
make full the circle of God.

Each cosmic hue, ev'ry creature's way,
all form the beauty of this vast array,
making full the circle of God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

As we listen to readings from scripture and shared reflections, may we too hear your word, O God, your love woven through with beams of light. In the words of the old hymn,* here bestow on all your servants what we ask of you to gain, what we gain from you forever with the blessed to retain. Amen

**from Christ is Made the Sure Foundation, VU 325 verse 3*

SCRIPTURES:

Gary Branch

Acts 7:55-60

St. Stephen is stoned to death

1 Peter 2:2-10

Be as living stones

John 14:1-14

"I am the way and the truth and the life"

SERMON: Walking the way of one heart

GIFT OF MUSIC: "Wake O My Soul"

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Martha Vickers

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

From the One Source, all that we have and are comes, and in faithful gratitude we give out of this generous grace, as part of God's continuing, creative love. 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)*

**Bless, O God, these gifts and all the ways in which they
serve your purpose and your beloved people. Bless us all
as we walk your way. Amen**

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF JESUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN:** "In Loving Partnership We Come" VU #603

In loving partnership we come,
seeking, O God, your will to do.
Our prayers and actions now receive;
we freely offer them to you.

We are the hands and feet of Christ,
serving by grace each other's need.
We dare to risk and sacrifice
with truthful word and faithful deed.

Loving community we seek;
your hope and strength within us move.
The poor and rich, the strong and weak
are brought together in your love.

In loving partnership, O God,
help us your future to proclaim.
Justice and peace be our desire,
we humbly pray in Jesus' name.

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL CLOSING:** "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 -11:30 AM	Quilters – DEMH Downstairs Office
	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Knitting Group – RMR
	3:00 PM	Bible Study
	9:00 - 11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Wednesday	7:00 PM	West Bathurst Cemetery - RMR
	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Rug Hooking Group - RMR
Thursday	4:15 PM	Choir Practice
	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 April 30th we have received 246 jars with funds on hand to purchase another 48.

Thank you to all who assist with this meaningful project!

As part of our **Stewardship Program** here at First United, information on Planned Giving through Wills and Bequests is available to our congregational membership. All members are encouraged to review this information and take the appropriate steps pertaining to your wishes. The information is available from the church office. Below you will find a stewardship quote relating to the same.

Amid the struggles of our lives, we can give thanks for God's abundant love.

Thank You: The Ways and Means team would like to express a sincere thank you to all who helped in anyway with our Ham & Scallop Potato Supper from the planners, to the food preparers, cooks, bakers, servers, set it uppers and take it downers, dishwashers, ticket sellers and to all who purchased a ticket to support us.

Sponsored by Bayside Auto Group

Church News

Thank you to our volunteers in April - Counters – Margaret Payne Chénard and Mike Kierstead; **Greeters** – Julie & Harvey Spence; **Your Generosity Matters** – Martha Vickers, Ronalds family, Cindy Doucet and Judy Losier; **Scripture Readers** – Margaret Payne Chénard & Mike Kierstead, Isabel MacLaggan, Wayne Lord, Hugh Ellis and Judy Losier; **Hospitality & Friendship** – Gayle Ferron, Judy Smith, Shirley Sealy, Charlene Roy and Bev Branch; **Sound System** – Shirley Allain, Brenda Parrott and Ralph Jamieson; **Audio Specialist** – Don Eddy for preparing audio for CDs; **Videographer** – Lester Scott and Margaret Payne Chénard; and to Josh Gammon and his staff at WebSolutions.ca for uploading the YouTube link to the website and Facebook.

Community News

A TAKE-OUT LOBSTER SUPPER fundraiser is being held at **Central United Church in Clifton** on Saturday, May 9th. For tickets, please contact: Nisha Ellis-Silver (506-544-1577), Brenda Peters (506-545-7983), Cathy Chapman (506-546-5837) or Debbie Henry (506-543-8420). The cost is \$30 per person.

Mother's Day Tea will be held at Holy Family Church on May 9, 2026 at 12:00 noon. Door prizes and bake sale. The entrance price is \$15.00. Tickets are available from Carmel (506-546-6279) and Joan (506-548-2742).

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, May 16th 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.

Please note the change to the 3rd Saturday for this month.

SCRIPTURE READINGS – New International Version

ACTS 7:55-60

After being falsely accused, and after testifying to the high priest and the council, Stephen's questioners are enraged.

55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

56 "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

57 At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him,

58 dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

60 Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

1 PETER 2:2-10

2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,

3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 As you come to him, the living Stone - rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him -

5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

6 For in Scripture it says:

"See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

"The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,"

8 and, "A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message - which is also what they were destined for.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

JOHN 14:1-14

1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

4 You know the way to the place where I am going."

5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.

12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.