

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

May 10, 2026
6th Sunday of Easter
Christian Family Sunday

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

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Acts 17:22-31	Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 66:8-20	Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 3:13-22	1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11
John 14:15-21	John 17:1-17

*The bulletins today have been placed in loving memory of
Alice Jagoe by the family*

*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)*

Let us bless the Beloved, Heart of our hearts,
let the sound of our praises be heard!
God keeps us attuned to life
and guides our feet on solid ground.
God has brought us through our pain
and into Love's dwelling place.

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:

Mothering God, you birth your new creation into being in light and outpouring love. We pray that in this time of worship heaven and earth be joined, that through the Spirit's accompaniment and as siblings we come to better know you, our indwelling God. May the Spirit breathe into us peace, may the Spirit's wind lift our hearts and may the Spirit's fire refine our lives again, helping us to grow ever more in your image. May the human family and the family of all Creation, one in your heart, be one in love. **Amen**

*GATHERING HYMN: "Come In, Come In and Sit Down" VU #395

(Refrain)

*Come in come in and sit down,
you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found,
and we are a part of the family.*

You know the reason why you came,
yet no reason can explain,
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,
for we are a part of the family.

(Refrain)

God is with us in this place,
like a Mother's warm embrace.
We're all forgiven by God's grace,
for we are a part of the family.

(Refrain)

There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;
we are the branches, Christ is the vine.
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine,
but we are a part of the family.

(Refrain)

There's rest for the weary and health for us all;
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.
So come in and worship and answer the call,
for we are a part of the family.

(Refrain)

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.***

WE OPEN OUR HEARTS: *(in unison)*

We enter Creation's Heart surrendered to Love, and we commend our spirits into Love's keeping. All that our lips have uttered, all that our mouths have promised when we have been in trouble or pain, we now offer up to God. We abandon ourselves into Love's gentle hands, hands that shape, hands that hold, hands that lift up. And we say together a song of God's people...

***PSALM 66:8-20** God has preserved us among the living
(Pts 2 & 3; R 2) VU Page 784

Refrain 2

***God of all, to you we raise
this our song of joyful praise.***

Part Two (8-12)

Bless our God, all peoples,
and let the sound of praise be heard.

**God has preserved us among the living,
and kept our feet from stumbling.**

For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.

**You led us into the desert,
you laid a burden upon our back,**

you let sickness furrow our brow,
we passed through fire and water;

but you brought us out to a land of plenty. R

Part Three (13-20)

I will come to your house with burnt-offerings;

I will pay you my vows,

**the vows which I made with my lips,
and swore with my mouth when I was in trouble.**

I will offer fat beasts in sacrifice, a savoury offering of rams;

I will prepare you an offering of bulls and goats. R

Come then and listen, all you that fear God,

while I tell what God has done for me.

**I cried aloud to God; high praise was ready on my
tongue.**

If I had cherished evil in my heart,

God would not have heard me.

**But truly God has heard me,
has given heed to the voice of my prayer.**

Blessed are you, O God,

for you have not rejected my prayer,

nor withdrawn from me your steadfast love. R

OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED:

We sing of our thanks because we know our loving God has embraced us and renewed our life. We have been blessed with new life, and so we bless our God, our Loving Companion Presence; the holy Name of the Beloved is written on our hearts forever. It is written in the colours of Easter grace.

***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

***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)*

**May the Spirit who hovers over our creation so be with us
in our reading, listening, reflecting and understanding,
that we may all be challenged, changed and chosen by
love. Amen**

SCRIPTURES:

Cheryl Brewster

Acts 17:22-31

Paul points the Athenians to "the unknown god."

1 Peter 3:13-22

Do not repay evil for evil.

John 14:15-21

The Advocate, the Spirit, will be with you.

SERMON: Sitting with the Spirit

GIFT OF MUSIC: "Three Things I Promise"

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Ronalds Family

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

One of the ways we accompany the world and one another in our quest for peace, justice, love and the flourishing of the human spirit is to offer freely of ourselves. Just as Jesus walked with his companions, with all whom he named as his family, and as the Spirit wings its way through our lives together, we commend ourselves to God. We commit as Easter people our entire being to the need and the hope of the beloved community that is creation. 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)*

**Our prayers are joined with purpose, our contemplation
with action. And so, we pray, gracious and giving God,
that these gifts are but the beginning of new life, that they
help birth new hope, here and out in your world. Bless
these gifts as you have blessed us in your creative image.
We pray in the name of Jesus, who gave his all. Amen**

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF JESUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN:**

VU #556

"Would You Bless Our Homes and Families"

Would you bless our homes and families,
Source of life who calls us here;
in our world of stress and tension
teach us love that conquers fear.
Help us learn to love each other
with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles,
love's expressed in many ways.

When our way is undemanding,
let us use the time that's ours
to delight in simple pleasures,
sharing joys in gentle hours.

When our way is anxious walking
and a heavy path we plod,
teach us trust in one another
and in you, our gracious God.

From the homes in which we're nurtured,
with the love that shapes us there,
teach us, God, to claim as family
every one whose life we share.
And through all that life may offer,
may we in your love remain;
may the love we share in families
be alive to praise your name.

Let us reach beyond the boundaries
of our daily thought and care
till the family you have chosen
spills its love out everywhere.
Help us learn to love each other
with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles
love's expressed in many ways.

***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
Wednesday	9:00 - 11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Thursday	4:15 PM	Choir Practice
	7:00 PM	Christian Development - RMR
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 May 8th we have received 257 jars with funds on hand to purchase another 200+.

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.

Stewardship is a lifelong journey, and we all have much to contribute on the trek.

On **Sunday, May 31st** after our morning service, there will be a **luncheon to raise money for the First United Church pantry**. The lunch will consist of hot dogs, potato salad and ice cream sundaes (make your own) for dessert. A free will offering will be collected and all funds will be used for the food pantry. We hope you will be able to join us for food and fellowship.

Community News

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.

The Anglican Parish of New Bandon is once again having its take-out **lobster supper on Saturday, June 6**. Tickets are \$30 each and can be purchased from Kay Addison at 350-0960, Darlene Dempsey at 544-6997, Nancy Hodnett 545-5263, or Lesa Scott at 546-8293. You can also reach Nancy and Lesa via Facebook messenger.

Acts 17:22-31 NIV

²² Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So, you are ignorant of the very thing you worship - and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴ "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

²⁹ "Therefore, since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone - an image made by human design and skill. ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

1 Peter 3:13-22 NIV

¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer

for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹ After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits - ²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also - not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand -with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

John 14:15-21 NIV

¹⁵ "If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

*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.*