

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

May 17, 2026
7th Sunday of Easter

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

Audio & Visual Technician Ralph Jamieson & Lester Scott

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Acts 1:6-14	Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35	Psalm 104:24-34,35 ^b
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11	1 Corinthians 12:3 ^b -13
John 17:1-17	John 7:37-39; 20:19-23

*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)*

Here or in our homes, we now pause to take time for worship:
**holy time, time for inward searching
and outward hope.**

We now make space to more deeply connect with our indwelling God:

**sacred space, space for our bodies, our spirits,
for communion with the One Love.**

God is here, in the sanctuary of our hearts, Love's own hearth,
**and so, we pause to worship our God
of time and space, we pause with Spirit's fire,
filled with the light that beckons us
all into unity in Christ...**

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:

Loving God, in whom we live, move and have our being, we make our home in you as you abide in and among us all. May our prayers be heard as we hear your word, may our songs be heard as we hear your heart, and may our hearts be opened and heard as you pour your love into the world. May this be a time of blessing and the flowing of grace. **Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN:** "We Praise You, O God"

VU #218

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.

With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever we praise!

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:

We can find ourselves hungry for connection, thirsty for intimacy; we can ache for the healing power of loving relationship and human touch. Forgotten, lonely, feeling separated, flooded by anxiety, we can all experience these things. Today in this shaken, broken world, we lament that there are so many that do. We all want to feel needed and known, safe and at home, and we love and ache for one another. Together in faith and in hope we recite an ancient song of God's people...

***PSALM 68**

God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

Impregnate us with Love, O Comforter!

**Let our fears be transformed; let all that keeps us
separated and confused flee!**

As smoke is blown away, so let our fears rise up before You;

**as wax melts before fire,
let our fears be melted by Love!**

Then will we be released from bondage;

**we will exult before the Beloved; we will be jubilant
with joy!**

Refrain:

*God, in your goodness
you have made a home for the poor.*

Merciful to the poor and kind to the lowly is the Comforter, who dwells within.

**With compassion are the desolate given a home,
the prisoners set free;**

but those who run from Love live in a parched land.

O Beloved, reach into the hearts of your people,

enter into the darkness of their fears;

**as the earth quakes,
as floods strike without warning,
your Presence is within us.**

As the mountains tremble and volcanoes spew forth ash,

your Presence is within us.

As rain falls in abundance on desert floors,

**restore the lands that they might flourish,
that the flocks may roam and graze on fertile fields.**

In your Mercy, O Beloved,

**You provide for the needy,
for those in peril,
You are with us always.**

Refrain:

*God, in your goodness
you have made a home for the poor.*

Sing to the Beloved, O nations of the earth;
sing praises to the one who is Love,
to the One who gathers the nations together,
to the Beloved, whose voice is heard in the Silence.
Ascribe wisdom to the Indwelling Presence,
**who invites us to understanding, and calls us to live in
peace.**

Majestic is Love in our hearts,
**the Beloved, Heart of our heart, who gives strength
and wisdom to the people.**
Blessed be the Beloved!

Refrain:
*God, in your goodness
you have made a home for the poor.*

Acknowledgement:

Excerpted from Psalm 68 in Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness,
10th Anniversary Edition, by Nan C. Merrill, Bloomsbury: New York,
2007, pp 123, 124 & 127.

OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED:

We are not alone; we live in God's world. We live, we truly live, in God, the God who makes a home for you. As the medieval English mystic Julian of Norwich wrote in the midst of plagues and poverty and oppressive violence, "All will be well." Despite the suffering all around her, she still saw the presence of Love. She lived in hope and in trust. Here and still today, in our lives together, God is revealed to us, Love is experienced through the eternal presence of Christ and the life-giving breath of the Spirit. Trust, my friends, that Love is in you.

***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:** "Draw the Circle Wide"

MV #145

Refrain:
Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

God the still-point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms.

Refrain:

Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call.

Refrain:

Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door.

Refrain:

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

**Robins return, tree branches begin to bud, soon spring
flowers will emerge from the fertile earth. And we, who
seek new life, now take the time to again plant our lives in
the rich soil of the Gospel, to be deeply rooted in the
Oneness of Love. God of the greening, may we so grow in
wisdom and blossom in understanding, and may our lives
attract with the beauty of love and the fragrance of faith.
Amen**

SCRIPTURES:

Anne Brooks

Acts 1:6-14

The ascension of Jesus.

John 17:1-11

Jesus prays that his disciples "all may be one".

SERMON: One

GIFT OF MUSIC: "As the Windsong Through the Trees"

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Anne Wilson

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

Just as we are all one in God, we are made and called to be one in love, in attentiveness, and in hope. As Easter people we are people of vision, of the light. And so, we give from the heart. 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)*

Gracious God, may all that we offer touch the hearts of your people. Generous God, may all that we offer bring hope. Giving God, may all that we offer help to shape the world more fully in your image, molded by your endless and outpouring love. Amen

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF JESUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

***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

*Next Sunday, May 24th is Pentecost,
the birthday of the Church, and we will be
celebrating the sacrament of Holy Communion.*



Church News

This Week at First United Church		
Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday to Friday		
Monday	<i>Office Closed for Victoria Day</i>	
Tuesday	9:30 -11:30 AM	Quilters – DEMH Downstairs Office
	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Knitting Group – RMR
Thursday	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Rug Hooking Group – RMR
	4:15 PM	Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market – GYM

Please note the church office will be **closed on Monday, May 20th** in honour of Victoria Day.

Bible Study Class has stopped for the season. We will resume again in the fall.

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 14th we have received 258 jars with funds on hand to purchase another 250+.

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.

Stewards care passionately, humbly,
and graciously about God's vision for the world.

Calling all graduates – from high school, university and/or college. If you are aware of anyone graduating this year, please let either Rev. David or the church office know by Monday, June 1st. The annual celebration for the graduates will be held during our worship service on Sunday, June 14th

Church News

The Christian Development Team was pleased to provide a display of flowers in our sanctuary honouring Christian Family Sunday. The team is grateful to report \$1,771.00 has been raised through this Christian Family Sunday church fundraiser event. The funds will be used for flowers in our sanctuary as well as in the life and work of our church. *We thank all who have generously donated.*

A member of our congregation has generously donated several large bags of potatoes for the **Community Outreach** program. The church in turn, has donated one of the bags to Shawn's Mustard Seed. Next week we are going to bag the potatoes into 5-pound bags to be given out with our pantry items.

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

St. Lukes Presbyterian Church, 395 Murray Ave., will be celebrating the **80th Anniversary of their building** on Sunday May 31st with a Lemonade Social from 1:30-3:00 PM. All are welcome to join us for a time of fellowship, music, and sweet treats.

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.

Please join us at **Central United Church in Clifton** on Saturday June 13th at 7:00 PM for **an evening of music**. If there are any individuals or groups interested in performing, please contact Pat Scott (506-546-3819) by June 1st. As it is a fundraiser for Central United, a Free-will offering is appreciated.

International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia

(Also sometimes known as the International Day against 2SLGBTQIA+ discrimination.)

The day was first celebrated in 2005, and is now marked in over 130 countries around the world, as well as by other entities. May 17th was chosen to commemorate the date in 1990 when the World Health Organization (WHO) decided to remove homosexuality from its International Classification of Diseases and as a mental disorder.

The purpose of the day is to raise awareness of the violence, discrimination and repression that our siblings in these communities face, to an extent that is out of proportion to that experienced by many and perhaps any other groups. We do know that Indigenous peoples around the world face similar violence at a higher rate than most people, and those Indigenous people who also identify as Two-Spirit (2S) or with any of the LGBTQIA+ communities are particularly vulnerable. See the link below for more information.

The day invites us to advocate and take action, to speak up and to listen, so that legislators, media, social and community institutions, faith organizations and society in general can become better informed, and help to further the advancement and observance of basic and fundamental human rights for all. It's all a part of what we in the church call and humbly and lovingly seek: justice and peace, and the kingdom of God.

If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with Rev. David or a member of our Affirming Team. They are:
Randy Breckenridge, Cindy Doucet, Hugh Ellis and Bev Murphy.

[Experiences of violent victimization and unwanted sexual behaviours among gay, lesbian, bisexual and other sexual minority people, and the transgender population, in Canada, 2018](#)



SCRIPTURE READINGS - New International Version

ACTS 1:6-14

6 Then they gathered around [Jesus] and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

12 Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city.

13 When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

JOHN 17:1-11

Jesus has been speaking to his disciples, giving them hope and reassurance, saying, "take courage!"

1 After Jesus said [these things], he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.

3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

4 I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.

5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

6 "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.

7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.

8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.

10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them.

11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

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.