

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

May 24, 2026

Day of Pentecost

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 2:1-21	Genesis 1:1—2:4a
Psalm 104:24-34,35b	Psalm 8
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	2 Corinthians 13:11-13
John 7:37-39; 20:19-23	Matthew 28:16-20

*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)*

We gather here in this house, and we wait in our homes;
we wait for the Spirit.

We wait remembering the promise of Jesus,
we wait as all people wait, praying for new life and new hope.

With hope we wait as Easter people,
we trust in God.

As we gather and as we wait,
we worship the One who breathes life into creation.

We worship the One who sings "Let there be light!"
And the Spirit swoops, the light shines, and God sings with joy, "It is good!"

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "Wind is Moving"

Season of the Spirit Volume 1

***Wind is moving over water,
patterns shifting out across the bay.
Grass is bending on the hillside;
clouds are drifting right across the sky.
O Holy Spirit, move over all our lives.
O Holy Spirit, move over all our lives.
O Holy Spirit, move over all our lives.***

GATHERING PRAYER:

Here where we are, in Love's eternal light, may the Spirit descend upon us anew, as it did upon the font and God's gathered people at our baptism, as it always does in God's new creation. In this new time, in the new place in which we find ourselves, may we be lifted by the Spirit as we worship. May the embers of hope be stoked and the spark of faithful action be lit for the spreading of the wildfire of love and the winds of justice. **Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN:** "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" VU #375
Verses 1, 3 & 4

*Refrain
Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, Wind, Wind on the sea.*

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.

Refrain

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, Wind, Wind on the sea.*

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

Refrain

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
with bold new decisions your people arise.

Refrain

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

To a people gathered long ago, there appeared to be tongues of
fire alighting upon them as the Spirit swept in.
A people who followed Jesus, the light of the world, who were told
that they too were people of light, who were promised the gift of
the Spirit. We light this flame as a reminder of the Lovelight that
shines bright within and among us all. The world waits with us,
the world waits for us, together illumined by Love.

CHORAL RESPONSE: "Know That God Is Good" MV #104

***Know that God is good,
know that God is good,
know that God is good,
God is good, God is good.***

***C'est vrai: Dieu est bon!
C'est vrai: Dieu est bon!
C'est vrai: Dieu est bon!
Dieu est bon! Dieu est bon!***

***Know that God is good,
know that God is good,
know that God is good,
God is good, God is good.***

WE OPEN OUR HEARTS:

We pray for the Spirit's power knowing we're not sure that we
always want it. We can declare that change is good, but find
ourselves not wanting too much of it, at least, not all at once. We
can yearn for more love in the world, but find ourselves not too
sure about those people over there. When things are so different
and unsettling that we wonder if there must be something
nefarious behind it all, we can fail to envision the possibilities for
imagination and creativity and unexpected grace. So, in faith we
turn to the Creator of all things, and together say an ancient song
of God's people...

***PSALM 104**

Refrain:

***Bless, O my soul, the Almighty,
who rules all creation.***

Bless the Radiant One, O my soul!

O Heart of my heart, You are so very great!

You are clothed with justice and mercy, arrayed in Light as your
fine attire.

**You stretch over the heavens like a tent,
your Radiance covering the waters;**

You shine through the clouds, and ride on the wings of the wind;
the wind, like the Breath of Life, carries your Voice,
Fire refines the dross of our souls.

Refrain:

***Bless, O my soul, the Almighty,
who rules all creation.***

All of creation looks to You, to give them food in due season.

**When we are in harmony with You, the earth provides;
yes, a bountiful harvest to be shared with all.**

When we misuse what You have created for us,

**we blame You for the famine and destruction that
ensues, and feel alienated from You.**

Even so, You continue to send forth your Spirit,
and the earth, though not without turmoil, is renewed.

Refrain:

**Bless, O my soul, the Almighty,
who rules all creation.**

The glory of the Radiant One endures forever, for the works of
Love are sure.

**I will abandon myself into your hands as long as I live;
I will sing praise to You while I have breath.**

May my meditations be pleasing to You, for I rejoice and am glad
in You.

**May all who feel separated from You open their hearts
to new Life!**

Praise the Creator of the Universe!

Bless the Heart of my heart, O my soul!

Refrain:

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

Acknowledgement:

*drawn from Psalm 104 in Psalms for Praying: an invitation to wholeness,
by Nan C. Merrill. (Bloomsbury: New York, 2007), pp. 203-204, 206-207.*

Refrains: Psalm 104, VU 826

OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED:

Hallelujah! The glory of God is seen in creation and so it is seen in
you. It is known when you feel the urgent potency of love, it is
seen when you share such gifts of the Spirit - words of
encouragement and consolation, actions that include and affirm
humanity's blessing and promise, gestures of hope, healing and of
peace...

***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:** "Spirit Come"

Seasons of the Spirit vol. 8

(Refrain)

*Spirit come, Spirit come,
open our eyes, open our hearts,
come Spirit come.*

Chosen to bring good news
to everyone poor, abused.

We are your hands, we are your voice.

Spirit Come.

To captives we shout,
proclaim freedom in Jesus' name.

Fill us with love. Fill us with power.

Spirit Come.

(Refrain)

*Spirit come, Spirit come,
open our eyes, open our hearts,
come Spirit come.*

Good news that blind can see.

Oppressed ones can now be free.

We are your hands, we are your voice.

Spirit Come.

Announcing the time's arrived
when God will save people's lives.

Fill us with love. Fill us with power.

Spirit Come.

(Refrain)

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

As we read, listen and reflect upon these words of faith, may we hear them anew in our own language, the language of our hearts. May they have meaning for us here where we live, fill us with passion and enable us to be a people of vision and care, to be the church. Amen

SCRIPTURES: *Helen Knowles*

John 20:19-23 Jesus appears behind locked doors

Acts 2:1-21 The Holy Spirit comes in wind and flame

REFLECTION: Waiting for the unexpected

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS *Judy Losier*

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

Emboldened by the Spirit of truth, empowered by the Spirit of love, we commit to a life of generosity and grace. All that we receive, we do so in gratitude; all that we do, we do in the name of kingdom hope; all that we are, we humbly give in peace. Our offerings will now be gathered.

***OFFERING RESPONSE:** What Can I Do? MV #191

***What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. (I'll sing with joy.)
I'll say a prayer. I'll bring my love.
I'll do my share.***

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

Breath of God, from whom all blessings flow, breathe through your people and upon all that we offer, that new life rises and hope lives again. Fire up our faith so that in all of our giving, lives are touched, hurts and divisions are healed, and the blessings of peace pour upon your good Creation. Amen

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION *Page 11 & 12*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN:** "I Feel the Winds of God" VU #625

I feel the winds of God today; today my sail I lift,
though heavy oft with drenching spray and torn with many a rift;
if hope but light the water's crest, and Christ my bark will use,
I'll seek the seas at his behest, and brave another cruise.

It is the wind of God that dries my vain regretful tears,
until with braver thoughts shall rise the purer, brighter years;
if cast on shores of selfish ease or pleasure I should be,
O let me feel your freshening breeze, and I'll put back to sea.

If ever I forget your love and how that love was shown,
lift high the blood-red flag above; it bears your name alone.
Great pilot of my onward way, you will not let me drift.
I feel the winds of God today; today my sail I lift.

***COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING**

***CHORAL CLOSING:** "May God's Sheltering Wings" MV #214

***May God's sheltering wings,
her gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms,
her cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love,
and hold you in her love.***

***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

Tuesday	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Knitting Group – RMR
	4:00 PM	Bathurst Pastoral Council - 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

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 21st we have received 298 jars with funds on hand to purchase another 240+.

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.

And here God does it again! Fire and wind and the gift of the Holy Spirit upon us! What radical generosity is this?

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

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.

Church News

Bathurst Pastoral Council is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, May 26th at 4 PM in the Ruth Morrison Room.

It is PAR-TY time this May!

Our community of faith depends on monthly giving to support our life and work together. One of the ways people can give is through Pre-Authorized Remittance (or PAR). The month of May is dedicated to PAR. If you wish to make your contribution by PAR please contact the church office for additional information.

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.

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, June 13th 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.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Pentecost Sunday 2026

The Peace of Christ be with you all!

And also with you!

God welcomes you and is with you always.

And so also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to God.

Let us give our thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We give thanks for the Divine presence, that flows through us and the world bringing the gifts of hope and love, that sparks creativity, imagination and understanding, that embraces with healing and new life. The Spirit, as in all beginnings, swoops and soars over God's new creation, brooding as a mother hen, blessing with possibility, breathing life into all. The Spirit enters into our stories, shaping us in the beautiful image of God. With humble hearts, we give our thanks for our new creation, and the unfolding creation of which we are an integral part. And together, we give thanks for the one who, filled with the Spirit, promises us the Spirit, and promises us peace. We give thanks for Jesus, living bread, the true vine, the word of love made flesh. And we proclaim together in song,

♪ **Singing:**

Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might;

heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name, comes in the name of our God.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name, comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest; hosanna in the highest!

Just days after he entered Jerusalem, on the night before he died, Jesus gathered with his closest friends. It was a night where again the holy was found in humility and the sacred in the service of others. Looking at them with love, knowing of shared tenderness and trepidation, he spoke of how he had shared his life, his living, the entirety of his being with them. In an upper room Jesus spoke of the intimacy that is the kingdom, and of the wide-open grace of unconditional love. He shared another parable. He picked up a simple loaf of bread, gave thanks, broke it and said, "I have given my body, like this bread, for you. Take and eat, and give and do likewise, remembering me. For this is the Bread of Life." He took a humble cup, gave thanks, and said, "With every beat of my heart, I have given my lifeblood, like this wine poured out, for you. Take and drink, and give and do likewise, remembering me. For this is the Cup of God's ever new Promise." A covenant of peace.

Remembering, together in praise we proclaim the mystery of faith:

♪ **Singing:**

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Hopeful, together we pray:

Generous God, into this house send your Spirit among us and these gifts. Breathe into our hopes and hallelujahs, enflame our dreams and desires, that we too may be a sacrament: lives that speak of the depth of your love in the language of love. May we be broken bread for a broken world, poured wine for a thirsty creation. Together we say amen, hallelujah and amen!

And now, living the sacred way of a love that transforms the world, together we sing:

Communion Hymn: Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

VU 468

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

We Sing Amen:

♪ **Amen, amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen.**

Breaking the Bread, Pouring the Wine, Sharing the Feast

Gift of Music

Post Communion Prayer:

We have tasted life; we have tasted love. We have been filled as wine fills a cup to overflowing, as our daily bread fills hungry hearts. And God, for this we are grateful. May we be sent into the world by the Spirit in hope, heralding your healing presence and your peace. May we live in remembrance of Jesus, as members of the Body of Christ. May we always be in communion with you, our Beloved, our Sustainer, our Life. Amen

Acknowledgment: Sung responses in the Communion liturgy by Lisa Waites, 2015
Then Let Us Sing! # 19, 20 & 21

SCRIPTURE READINGS - New International Version

JOHN 20:19-23

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

23 If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

ACTS 2:2-21

2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.

6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.

7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?"

8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?

9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome

11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs - we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"

12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning!

16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.

19 I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

*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.*