

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

May 31, 2026
Trinity Sunday

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

Audio & Visual Technician Brenda Parrott & Lester Scott

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Genesis 1:1—2:4a	Genesis 12:1-9
Psalm 8	Psalm 33:1-12
2 Corinthians 13:11-14	Romans 4:13-25
Matthew 28:16-20	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Today's bulletins are placed by Rev. David Allan in honour of
Rev. Blair Lewis
*on the occasion of the **50th anniversary** of his ordination.*

*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)*

The Holy One in whom we are one, our God who is Holy Mystery, calls our name.

And so, named and called, we come.

Our Creator God, Outpourer of Light, the Prodigal One of Providence speaks!

Created anew, blessed and seen to be good, on this new day we come.

The God of Desire who is Wholly Love, our God of Eternal Life, sings out!

Embraced and drawn in, hearts beating to God's new song, yes, we come!

We come together to worship, to pray and to praise,
to sing of our salvation, our healing and oneness in all,
to rest in our oneness in God, the Source, Sustainer and Spirit of our being.

We come on the winds of the Spirit; we worship, as lifted and gathered children of light.

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:

God of many names, beyond all human imagining while abiding in the human heart, we come to you this Sabbath day. Rest in us and restore us; as day follows night, continue in us your recreation. God of love, in this time of worship may we grow more fully in your image, and be gardeners of grace. **Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN:** "God the Creator, Heavenly Parent"
tune "Morning Has Broken" (Bunessan, VU 409)

God the Creator, heavenly parent,
bringing existence to all that is;
you are the blessed ground of our being,
deeply connected with everything.

God, Jesus Christ, our beloved sibling,
love made incarnate, traveling the earth;
yours are the hands that stretch out in blessing,
reminding people of their true worth.

God, Holy Spirit, breath of Creator,
blowing upon creation's deep void;
small voice in stillness, shakes our foundations,
Advocate, Guide, Baptizer enjoyed!"

"Creator, Christ, and Spirit most Holy,
Three-Who-Are-One, and One-Who-is-Three;"
"Trinity always, in Unity blessing,
creation transforming Great Mystery!

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

Last Sunday we heard the Pentecost story of the Spirit's arrival in wind and flame. Today we light this candle, a flame that reminds us of the love of Christ, the breath that he breathed upon his friends and the world, bringing peace and new life, bringing the Spirit. The flame flickers as the sacred moves among us, inviting, beckoning and welcoming us into the dance of life, to the rhythm, the heartbeat, of God's unending love-song.

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:

In the light of Christ, in the first and eternal light of creation and out of the intimacy of prayer, we open our hearts to God and to one another. In a world marked by worry and wonder, in a world desirous of healing and hope, we open ourselves in faith and to the revelation of God's love. In a world of great change and times of chaos, when questions of who we are anymore and of God's purposes arise, we remember our place in the goodness and openness of the heart of God, in the glory that is love...

***PSALM 8:** Who are we that God cares for us?

VU Page 732

***Refrain:
O God, our God,
how glorious is your name in all the earth***

O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!
From the lips of infants and children your praises reach up to the heavens.

**You have set up a stronghold against your foes,
to quell the enemy and the avenger**

Refrain:

When I look to the heavens, at the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their places,
**what are we mortals that you should be mindful of us,
mere human beings that you should care for us?**

Refrain:
O God, our God,
how glorious is your name in all the earth

You have made us little less than divine,
and crowned us with glory and honour.

You have made us rulers over all your creation,
And put all things under our feet,
all sheep and cattle, all creatures of the wild,,
the birds of the air and the fish in the sea,
and all that make their way through the waters.

Refrain:

OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED:

The glory of God is the love of God, and the love of God is present here, in creation's unfolding and in creation's rest. The love of God is forever poured out upon you, within you and among us all, and in it we have our being. In it is found your light, our 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:** "Sacred Stories"

Beach Spring 8787D

VU # 374 Come and Find the Quiet Centre

Sacred stories, shared with others,
Form a faith that's strong and true.
Sacred places, etched with meaning,
Bringing hope and joy anew.

Sacred memories, sacred future,
Sacred present, here and now.
Sacred knowing, sacred being,
Sacred living be our vow.

Sacred stories, shared with strangers.
Sacred stories, shared with friends.
Sacred stories, bind us closely,
Shaped by ties that will not end.

Sacred waters of baptism.
Sacred bread and sacred wine.
Sacred humans, sacred living,
With God's purpose we still shine.

*Words: Rev. Catherine MacDonald.
Introduced at Maritime Conference May 25, 2018.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

May the Spirit that broods over creation's unveiling now move through us, that we be made new as we hear again our sacred story. May Love's light reveal new understanding as we hear these words, readying us for the work of each new day. Through us, may Love begin again. Amen

SCRIPTURES:

Wayne Lord

Genesis 1:1 — 2:4a In the beginning

2 Corinthians 13:11-13 A holy kiss

Matthew 28:16-20 Go into the world; I am with you always

REFLECTION: A creative congregation

GIFT OF MUSIC: I Have Called You by Your Name

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

We trust in God's vision and promise that all may have abundant life. We rejoice in the faith God has in us, in humanity's promise. And so, we make our promise, we keep our promise, to give for the nourishment and healing of creation. Our offerings will now be gathered.

***OFFERING RESPONSE:** What Can I Do?

MV #191

God, you have made us of stardust and spirit,
etching your image on ev'ry cell.
We are your love-song, your poem and rhythm.
All co-creators, your story to tell.

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***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

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

***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.*

God of relationship, God of self-giving, creative love, bless all that we offer here today. May our gifts speak of your love, and may they help to bring into being a world that rejoices in its restoration. May the gift of your grace be with us all forever. Amen

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF JESUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN:** "Creator and Poet"

(Seasons of the Spirit Volume 3)

***SHARING THE LIGHT**

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

Father and Mother, creator and poet,
speaking your wisdom in forest and glade:
telling your glory in ocean and river
pouring your pleasure on all you have made.

Christ of the cosmos, you sang into being,
galaxies spinning through measureless space;
coming among us and sharing our weakness;
singing your songs of redemption and grace.

Spirit, you danced at the dawn of creation,
rising, rejoicing on jubilant wings.
Yours is the rhythm of cycle and season,
yours is the heartbeat of all living things.

Church News

Summer hours begin June 5th – The office will be closed on Fridays until the Labour Day Weekend.

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 28th we have received 304 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.

Loving God and neighbour means giving of our entire selves: our time, our energy, and our money.

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

Today 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.

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** this afternoon 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.

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.

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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS - New International Version

Genesis 1:1 - 2:4a NIV

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning - the first day.

6 And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water."

7 So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so.

8 God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning - the second day.

9 And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so.

10 God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

11 Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so.

12 The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

13 And there was evening, and there was morning - the third day.

14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years,

15 and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so.

16 God made two great lights - the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars.

17 God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth,

18 to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good.

19 And there was evening, and there was morning - the fourth day.

20 And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky."

21 So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

22 God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth."

23 And there was evening, and there was morning - the fifth day.

24 And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so.

25 God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, "Let us make [humanity] in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created [humanity] in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.

30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground - everything that has the breath of life in it - I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning - the sixth day.

Chapter 2

1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

2 By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

3 Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created...

2 Corinthians 13:11-14 NIV

11 Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

12 Greet one another with a holy kiss.

13 All God's people here send their greetings.

14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Matthew 28:16-20 NIV

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.

17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

*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.*