

*The United Church of Canada*  
*Bathurst Pastoral Charge*  
**First United Church, Bathurst**  
[www.firstunited-bathurst.ca](http://www.firstunited-bathurst.ca)

**June 21, 2026**

**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost / Indigenous Day of Prayer**

**Minister** Rev. David Allan      **Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Margaret Daniels      **Custodian** Lester Scott  
**Greeters** Lola Nelson & Gary Branch  
**Audio & Visual Technician** Ralph Jamieson & Lester Scott  
**Minister Emeritus** Rev. Blair Lewis

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<b><u>Lectionary for today</u></b>	<b><u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u></b>
Genesis 21:8-21	Genesis 22:1-14
Psalms 86:1-10, 16-17	Psalms 13
Romans 6:1b-11	Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:24-39	Matthew 10:40-42
We welcome and thank <b>Rev. Neal Palmer</b> for leading us in our worship service this morning.	

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

*Today's bulletins are placed in honour of **Isabel MacLaggan**, who will celebrate her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> placed by "The Ladies Badminton Group".*

Happy Father's Day to all fathers and father figures joining us today either in person or virtually.



**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.**

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:** *(responsively)*

*(The Christ Candle is lit...)*

We light the Christ Candle as a visible reminder that we're committed to working towards creative change in the world.

**We turn to the Christ Candle as we worship in a spirit of love.**

**LIGHTING THE AFFIRMING CANDLE:**

*(The Affirming Candle is lit...)*

And, from the Christ Candle, we light the Affirming Candle, symbolizing our commitment towards inclusion for all creation. Emphasizing our desire to continually grow and adapt, where necessary, as we seek to live more fully into the Spirit's way of welcome, justice and love.

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "Wind is Moving" (X2)**

*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.***

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

## GATHERING PRAYER

**\*GATHERING HYMN:** "Morning Has Broken"

VU #409

Morning has broken like the first morning,  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

## PRAYER OF HUMILITY

**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.***

**\*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.*

**SHARING A STORY** *(or two)* *(with those of all ages)*

**\*SINGING A SONG:** "Sweetgrass and Candle"

*(Words by John Oldham/Music by Ron Klusmeier)*

Sweetgrass and candle, the peace pipe and bible,  
the stories of elders and beat of the drum;  
these are the symbols of hope, faith and justice.  
We gather in circle affirming we're one.

Welcome the stranger for he is our brother  
and she is our sister of mother earth.  
Care for creation for all life is sacred  
and we are united by vision's rebirth.

Join in the circle that will have no ending,  
for we are all equal and loved in God's sight.  
Praise the Great Spirit! We gather as family  
to sing of Love's freedom and dance with delight!

Welcome the stranger for he is our brother  
and she is our sister of mother earth.  
Care for creation for all life is sacred  
and we are united by vision's rebirth.

Sweetgrass and candle, the peace pipe and bible,  
the stories of elders and beat of the drum;  
these are the symbols of hope, faith and justice.  
We gather in circle affirming we're one.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:** *(in unison)*

**Life-giving One,  
Feed us with words of transformation.  
Enable us to experience them with clarity and excitement.  
May we, in good time, become increasingly enlightened.  
Amen**

**SCRIPTURES:**

*Isabel MacLaggan*

Genesis 21:8-21

Matthew 10:24-39

**REFLECTION**

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**GIFT OF MUSIC:** "Take Time to Be Holy"

**YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS**

*Martha Vickers*

**INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING**

**OUR OFFERING IS 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)*

**Great and Loving One,  
who hears the cries of all people,  
who proclaims each of us to be of great worth:  
take these gifts we offer, we pray.  
May our giving help, in some small way,  
proclaim the gospel of justice and truth worldwide.  
Amen**

**SHARING OUR CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** – VU #916 (A Paraphrase) *(in unison)*

**Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be.  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name  
echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed  
by peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done  
by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and for ever. Amen**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN:**

VU #641

"Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song"

**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.*

*(The Christ Candle and Affirming Candle are extinguished.)*

**POSTLUDE**

# Church News

**Summer hours are now in effect** – 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 June 17<sup>th</sup> we have received 425 jars with funds on hand to purchase another 125+.

**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.

Our gifts are part of God's answer to those who cry out in distress.

**Hospitality & Friendship Time** – A heartfelt thank you to all of the dedicated members of The Hospitality & Friendship team and other volunteers who assist with the **"Coffee & Treats Time"** after each worship service. Today will be the final Sunday for coffee time until September. They all deserve a well-earned break for the summer.

## Community News

Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM the Pokeshaw & Black Rock Community Center will hold a ribbon-cutting and plaque unveiling ceremony to celebrate their recent kitchen and hall renovations. The ceremony will be followed by a complimentary picnic at Pokeshaw Park. All are welcome!

**Congratulations to Edna Jennings who celebrated her 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>!**



## SCRIPTURE READINGS –

*New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

### GENESIS 21:8-21

#### Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away

<sup>8</sup> The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.

<sup>9</sup> But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac.

<sup>10</sup> So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac."

<sup>11</sup> The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son.

<sup>12</sup> But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you.

<sup>13</sup> As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring."

<sup>14</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

<sup>15</sup> When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes.

<sup>16</sup> Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept.

<sup>17</sup> And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is.

<sup>18</sup> Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him."

<sup>19</sup> Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

<sup>20</sup> God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow.

<sup>21</sup> He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

### **MATTHEW 10:24-39**

24 "A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master;

25 it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

#### **Whom to Fear**

26 "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known.

27 What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.

28 Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

30 And even the hairs of your head are all counted.

31 So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

32 "Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven,

33 but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

#### **Not Peace, but a Sword**

34 "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

36 and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

37 "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me,

38 and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

39 Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

*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.*