

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

July 19, 2026
8th Sunday after Pentecost

Minister Rev. David Allan **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Brenda Gilliss & Dawn Yao
Audio & Technician Lester Scott
Minister Emeritus Rev. Blair Lewis

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Genesis 28:10-19a	Genesis 29:15-28
Psalms 139: 1-12, 23-24	Psalms 105:1-11, 45b
Romans 8:12-25	Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
We welcome and thank Jennifer Oliver for leading us in our worship service this morning.	
Today's bulletins are in loving memory of Doug Henderson placed by Ian & Carol Lutes	

*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.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

Jesus told parables to his friends and followers, which didn't always help them see clearly. But the light of Christ, which is in each of us, helps us see the path to travel, and the ways to go. So we light this candle as a reminder of Christ's presence in our lives and in the world. Amen.

(The Christ Candle is lit...)

LIGHTING THE AFFIRMING CANDLE:

From the Christ Candle we light our Affirming Candle, as a further illumination for us all that the divine light, the Lovelight, shines in all of God's colorful, beloved and good Creation. We are all created in the image of God, we all grow ever more into the likeness of Love, and we are all, through Christ and the affirmation of Jesus, the light of the world.

(The Affirming Candle is lit...)

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "Praise to the Lord"

VU # 835
(Verse 1 only)

***Praise to the Lord, all of you, God's servants.
Blessed be the name of our God now and ever.
From the rising up of the sun
may the Lord be praised,
praise to the name of the Lord!***

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(responsively)*

Come into the presence of the One who knows us completely the God who searches our hearts and understands our thoughts from afar.

We come to worship the One who formed us, who surrounds us and guides us in every place.

The One who knows us sows good seed in the world planting truth, hope, and righteousness in every generation.

**We come to honour the One who is patient, who lets
the wheat and weeds grow together until the time is
right.**

Nothing in us is hidden from God's sight, nothing in the world is
hidden from God's justice.

**Search us and make us your wheat, your people of
light, gathered in your kin-dom.**

Let us worship the One who know us,
the Christ who teaches us,
and the Spirit who grows within us.

CHORAL RESPONSE: "Take, O Take Me as I Am" MV #85

***Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me, in me.***

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN:** VU #651
"Guide Me, O Thou Great & Holy"

Guide me, O thou Great and Holy,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

(Words from "Then Let Us Sing")

***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.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION *(inspired by Amos 8:1-12)*

A TIME OF SHARING FOR ALL AGES

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: *Rev. David Allan*

BAPTISM HYMN: "Out of Deep, Unordered Water" VU #453
(Inclusive language change, September, 2025)

Out of deep, unordered water
God created land and life;
world of bird and beast, and later,
two-some people, joined in love.

Refrain:

*There is water in the river
bringing life to tree and plant.
Let creation praise its giver:
there is water in the font.*

Water on the human forehead,
birthmark of the love of God,
is the sign of death and rising;
through the sea there runs a road.

Refrain:

*There is water in the river
bringing life to tree and plant.
Let creation praise its giver:
there is water in the font.*

Standing round the font reminds us
of the Hebrews' climb ashore.
Life is hallowed by the knowledge:
God has been this way before.

Refrain

INVITATION TO THE FAMILIES

INTRODUCTION TO THE SACRAMENT

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE: *Jennifer Oliver*

On behalf of the Christian Development Team of the Bathurst Pastoral Charge, a congregation of The United Church of Canada, it is with great joy that I present to you ***Kinsley Marie Irving-Bennett***, daughter of Cassandra Lynn Duguay and Colin Edward Irving-Bennett. We are truly blessed to be here today, together in the presence of God, to share in this celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Welcome! Kinsley has come here today to be joined into our Christian family, the Church Universal. Let us make our commitments to God and to one another together.

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND PARENTAL PROMISES

***CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT:**

As a baptised and baptising community, we commit ourselves to the Christian life of justice, mercy and kindness. On behalf of the world-wide Church, we commit ourselves to sharing these values with all of God's children as with one another, and to learning to live them out, both here and in the world. We will love you, and commit

ourselves to growing with you, showing and discovering with you and each other the wisdom, beauty and diversity of all that our faith tradition holds for you and for our world, for all that God so loves.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: *(in unison)*

God of this watered world, we give thanks for your love poured out upon us. Bless what we do here together, that all, both elder and child, seeker and witness, disciples of your desire, experience the love that makes us whole, that makes us one in you. Amen

RITE OF BAPTISM

DECLARATION

PLACEMENT OF BANNER SHEEP

PRESENTATION OF STOLE, CERTIFICATE, CANDLE, AND BOOK

Jennifer Oliver

BLESSING:

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(responsively)*

Loving God, you speak to us in so many ways.

Speak to us now through the reading of the scriptures.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Gary Branch

Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

REFLECTION: "Together We Worship"

Thea Sheridan-Jonah

GIFT OF MUSIC: "Where the Green will Rise Again"

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Judy Losier

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

We are called to look not to our own interests, but to the interests of others. One of the ways we do so is through our tithes and our offerings. Let us now offer some of what we have to God.

Our tithes and offerings will now be received.

*OFFERING RESPONSE:

VU #541

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.***

*OFFERING PRAYER:

May these gifts, given here and through PAR and other means, and through the lives and actions of our hearts, be used for the work that is ours, because it is yours. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORDS PRAYER

**/Mother/Creator
who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CLOSING HYMN:

VU #644

"I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"

I was there to hear your borne cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word,
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young.
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borne cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

SENDING FORTH

*CHORAL SENDING FORTH—

MV #221

"I Am Walking a Path of Peace"

***I am walking a path of peace,
I am walking a path of peace,
I am walking a path of peace,
lead me home, I am home.***

SHARING THE LIGHT

(The Christ Candle and Affirming Candle are extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

Church News

Please note the summer office hours are now in effect. The office is open Monday to Thursday 9 AM to 3 PM and closed on Friday.

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 July 15th we have received 500 jars with funds on hand to purchase another 110.

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.

As children of God, we are reminded of kindergarten teachings—share everything, play fair, clean up your own mess, hold hands, and stick together.

A **graveside service for Archie Fowlie** will be held at the Pine Grove Cemetery, Loggieville, NB on July 25, 2026 at 11:00 AM. All are welcome to attend.

Thank you to our volunteers in June – **Counters** – Bev Murphy and Wayne Cormier; **Greeters** – Lola Nelson and Gary Branch, and Julie & Harvey Spence; **Your Generosity Matters** – Anne Wilson, Martha Vickers, and Judy Losier; **Minute for Affirming** – Amanda Godin; **Scripture Readers** – Stephen Maisey, Jennifer Oliver, Isabel MacLaggan and Wayne Lord; **Reflection Participants on June 7th** - Wayne Lord, Brooke Knowles, Margaret Payne Chenard and Joan MacMillan; **Hospitality & Friendship** – Sharon McKinnon, Cathy McLaughlin, Shirley Sealy and Wilma Dempsey; **Sound System** – Brenda Parrott, Shirley Allain, and Ralph Jamieson; **Audio Specialist** – Don Eddy for preparing audio for CDs; **Videographer** – Lester Scott and Margaret Payne Chénard and to Josh Gammon and his staff at WebSolutions.ca for uploading the YouTube link to the website and Facebook.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Common English Bible

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

- 1 LORD, you have examined me.
You know me.
- 2 You know when I sit down and when I stand up.
Even from far away, you comprehend my plans.
- 3 You study my traveling and resting.
You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways.
- 4 There isn't a word on my tongue, LORD,
that you don't already know completely.
- 5 You surround me—front and back.
You put your hand on me.
- 6 That kind of knowledge is too much for me;
it's so high above me that I can't reach it.
- 7 Where could I go to get away from your spirit?
Where could I go to escape your presence?
- 8 If I went up to heaven, you would be there.
If I went down to the grave,[a] you would be there too!
- 9 If I could fly on the wings of dawn,
stopping to rest only on the far side of the ocean—
- 10 even there your hand would guide me;
even there your strong hand would hold me tight!
- 11 If I said, "The darkness will definitely hide me;
the light will become night around me,"
- 12 even then the darkness isn't too dark for you!
Nighttime would shine bright as day,
because darkness is the same as light to you!
- 23 Examine me, God! Look at my heart!
Put me to the test! Know my anxious thoughts!
- 24 Look to see if there is any idolatrous way in me,
then lead me on the eternal path!

MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43

Parable of the weeds

24 Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like someone who planted good seed in his field.

25 While people were sleeping, an enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat and went away.

26 When the stalks sprouted and bore grain, then the weeds also appeared.

27 "The servants of the landowner came and said to him, 'Master, didn't you plant good seed in your field? Then how is it that it has weeds?'

28 "'An enemy has done this,' he answered.

"The servants said to him, 'Do you want us to go and gather them?'

29 "But the landowner said, 'No, because if you gather the weeds, you'll pull up the wheat along with them.

30 Let both grow side by side until the harvest. And at harvesttime I'll say to the harvesters, "First gather the weeds and tie them together in bundles to be burned. But bring the wheat into my barn.'""

Explanation of the parable of the weeds

36 Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

37 Jesus replied, "The one who plants the good seed is the Human One.

38 The field is the world. And the good seeds are the followers of the kingdom. But the weeds are the followers of the evil one.

39 The enemy who planted them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the present age. The harvesters are the angels.

40 Just as people gather weeds and burn them in the fire, so it will be at the end of the present age.

41 The Human One will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that cause people to fall away and all people who sin.

42 He will throw them into a burning furnace. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.

43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's kingdom. Those who have ears should hear."