

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

July 26, 2026
9th Sunday after Pentecost

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

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Genesis 29:15-28	Genesis 32:22-31
Psalms 105:1-11, 45b	Psalms 17:1-7, 15
Romans 8:26-39	Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Matthew 14:13-21
We welcome Linda Knowles MacPherson and thank her for providing us with her amazing gift of music.	

*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)*

Come all with something to say from the heart,
come all who feel called to listen.
Come all with pounding and broken hearts,
come all who wear their hearts on their sleeve.
Come all from the edges and all from the heights,
come all who yearn to be truly seen.
Come one and come all to worship:
**let us open to the One who sees our spirit,
let us praise the One who hears our hearts,
let us worship our God together.**

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!***

GATHERING PRAYER:

God of the covenant, God of the promise, we have gathered to
remember who we are. In this holy time, may we hear your word
and desire, and so know more deeply of your love and affirmation,
the blessings of our inheritance, and the gifts we have received for
the mending of creation. As disciples of the Way, we pray that this
be a Spirit-graced and a Spirit-breathed time of learning, of
healing, and of peace. **Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN:** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" VU #220

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation!
O my soul, praise Him, all times your health and salvation.
Come, all who hear: brothers and sisters draw near,
joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning,
keeping us safe at his side, and so gently sustaining.
Have you not seen how all you needed has been
met by God's gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy will daily attend us.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
Who out of love will befriend us.

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen sound from God's people again;
Gladly with praise we adore Him.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

This candle that we light, reminds us of the shining presence of Christ, the luminous stream of divine love that flows through and among us all. It brightens our path; it shows us, and indeed is, our way. It is the Lovelight, the light of justice and peace, the light of hope and of faith. It is the light of the world.

(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 colourful, beloved and good Creation. The rainbow is a sign of God's eternal and loving covenant with all that God sings into being, and brings into belonging. We are all created in the image of God, we all grow ever more into the likeness of Love, and we too are all, through Christ and the affirmation of Jesus, the light of the world.

(The Affirming Candle is lit...)

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.***

MOMENT FOR AFFIRMING

Phyllis Davidson Allan

ASSURANCE:

We are called to be disciples, learners and followers of Jesus, which means that together we seek lives of spiritual growth, of humbly gaining in wisdom, of discovering the breadth and power of love and living out our salvation, that is, our collective belonging and wholeness in God. And so, God does take us, receives us and loves us just as we are, encouraging and inviting us into more, blessing and shaping us ever more into the beauty that is God's image. God is doing a new thing with your potent life, doing a new thing with your capacity to love – do you perceive it?

***Psalm 105:1-11**

VU Page 828 Part 1

Refrain:

Bless God, my soul. Hallelujah!

Give thanks and call on God's name.

Make known to the nations what God has done.

**Sing, O sing the songs of praise;
tell of all God's wonderful deeds.**

Exult in God's holy name;

let those who seek God be joyful in heart

Refrain:

Bless God, my soul. Hallelujah!

Turn for help to the One who is your strength;
seek God's presence continually.

**Remember the marvels the Most High has done,
the wonders and judgements God has given,**

O children of Abraham and Sarah, God's servants,

O offspring of Israel, chosen of God.

Refrain:

Bless God, my soul. Hallelujah!

You are the eternal God,

your justice reaches every corner of the earth.

You are ever mindful of your covenant,

the promise you gave to a thousand generations,

**the covenant you made with Sarah and Abraham,
the oath you gave to Isaac.**

You confirmed it for Jacob as binding.

To Israel your everlasting covenant you declared,

**"To you I give the land of Canaan,
as your appointed inheritance."**

Refrain:

Bless God, my soul. Hallelujah!

***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:** "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

VU #382

Breathe on me, breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou would do.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with thine,
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
for thine eternity.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

**God of the story, as we listen for your word, may it be
inscribed upon our hearts, and may it comfort, challenge
and encourage us this day. Through your word, may we be
changed each and every new day, that all may know your
love and sing your song. Amen**

SCRIPTURE READING:

Cheryl Brewster

Genesis 29:15-28 Leah and Rachel are given to Jacob in marriage

SERMON: For the word of God in scripture

GIFT OF MUSIC: "Come to My Heart"

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

Our wealth is in God; indeed, it is in how we share generously of
all that we have been given by God and our gifts of the Spirit. In
God we lack for nothing, our cups overflow, and goodness and
mercy follow when we share this abundant love. In our hearts we
acknowledge our blessing, our gratitude, this grace. Our offerings
will now be gathered.

***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:** *(in unison)*

Generous God, we give of ourselves because we are a people that love. The currency of the kingdom of heaven is love and its economy is grace, and so we pray that what we have given here and what we commit to sharing with the world may serve your loving, creative and redeeming purpose. May we be a blessing, may we be an offering. Amen

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF JESUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN:** "I See a New Heaven"

VU #713

Refrain:

I see a new heaven.

I see a new earth

as the old one will pass away,

where the fountain of life flows

and without price goes

to all people who abide in the land.

There, there on the banks of a river
bright and free,
yielding her fruit, firm in her root,
the Tree of Life will be.

Refrain

There, there where death dies
and our lives are born again,
body and soul, struggling but whole
like flowers after the rain.

Refrain

There, there where the darkness
brings visions from above.
There where the night, bearing new light,
reveals the promise of love.

Refrain:

I see a new heaven.

I see a new earth

as the old one will pass away,

where the fountain of life flows

and without price goes

to all people who abide in the land.

There, there where we work
with the love of healing hands.
Labour we must, true to our trust
to build a promised new land.

Refrain

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

***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

The family of Osborne Gildart has requested we announce that a **graveside service for Ossie** will be held at the Spruce Grove Union Cemetery in Sand Hill on August 7, 2026 at 11 AM. All are welcome to attend.

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 23rd we have received 501 jars with funds on hand to purchase another 120.

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.

How we spend our money reflects our spiritual priorities.



GENESIS 29:15-28

15 Laban said to [Jacob], "Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be."

16 Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. **17** Leah had weak, delicate eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful. **18** Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel."

19 Laban said, "It's better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me." **20** So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.

21 Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to make love to her."

22 So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. **23** But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her. **24** And Laban gave his servant Zilpah to his daughter as her attendant.

25 When morning came, there was Leah! So, Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?"

26 Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. **27** Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work."

28 And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.