

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

August 2, 2026
10th Sunday after Pentecost

Minister Rev. David Allan **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Julie & Harvey Spence

Audio & Visual Technician Brenda Parrott & Margaret Payne-Chénard

Minister Emeritus Rev. Blair Lewis

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Genesis 32:22-31	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalms 17:1-7, 15	Psalms 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 9:1-5	Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:13-21	Matthew 14:22-33
We welcome Linda Knowles MacPherson and thank her for providing us with her amazing gift of music.	
We welcome Leander Angelo and thank him for gifting us with the postlude music this morning.	

*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)*

Love calls our name, and beckons our hearts to wonder.

We respond with the pulse of hope, the praise of heaven here.

God reveals the wonders of steadfast love,

and here, together, we find refuge and restoration.

Here, in the embrace of Love's wings we are held, fed and freed;

here we awaken, to the light of peace.

We are the apple of God's eye, the delight of the Divine gaze,

and in worship we are opened to the face of Love.

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:

As you have called our name, as you make your presence known to our hearts and spirits, God, we now call to you. Incline your ear to our thoughts and words. Listen to our prayer from lips that do not lie. Listen to our hearts, and find there hope and the desire for peace. Guide our steps, as we journey in this time, and in you.

Amen

***GATHERING HYMN:** "We Praise You, O God"

VU #218

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;

in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;

we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers, through trial and tempest, companion and guide. When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us, but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.

With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever we praise!

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.***

ASSURANCE:

Be assured that you are accepted, that in God you are enough,
even as you are invited to grow in love. Be assured that your soul

is a sanctuary, that in your heart is the Holy of Holies, that your God lives and loves in and through you. Be assured that all of you, together, shine with Love's light.

*Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

Refrain:

We praise you, O God: we bless your holy name.

The Beloved is gracious and merciful,
allowing every soul free will to follow the ego's illusions or to choose Life.

**Gratitude and quiet joy overflow as I recall the
abundant blessings of your grace!**

Refrain:

"Divine Light shines in those who live in Love.

**I shall uphold all who are burdened with fear, and
raise up all who call to Me.**

The time is nigh for you to choose, for great is the new dawn that fast approaches;

**I call each of you to open your inner ears, to see with
spiritual eyes,**

and to trust that even amidst the outward chaos,

all is working toward the wholeness of humanity.

Refrain:

O, Heart of my heart, envelop me!

I know You are near to all who call on You.

Bring to my recollection all that I have denied,

**that I might be accepting and free to help rebuild the
soul of the world with radical trust, love, and wonder!**

When I speak, let it be of blessing and gratitude;

let your glory within me shine out to the world!

Refrain:

Acknowledgement:

*Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 paraphrase from Psalms for Praying by Nan C. Merrill
(Bloomsbury: New York, 2007) pp. 288-290.*

Refrain by Hal H. Hopson, 1989. VU 866

***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:** "It Only Takes a Spark"

VU #289

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;
that's how it is with God's love,
and once you've experienced it:
you spread God's love to everyone,
you want to pass it on.

What wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding,
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring,
you want to pass it on.

I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found---
on God you can depend, it matters not where you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top;
I want my world to know:
The Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

In these few words of scripture, feed us, O God, with your word that we may be filled and that our love and hope may flourish. Through thought and word may the glory of your kingdom come to this place, today and every day. Amen

SCRIPTURE READING:

Amanda Godin

Isaiah 55:1 - Eat what is good and plentiful and free
Matthew 14:13-21 - The feeding of 5,000 and more

SERMON: The kingdom of heaven is like a fish and bread supper

GIFT OF MUSIC: "Fairest Lord Jesus"

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Anne Wilson

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

From this small community we reach out to the community of God.
We give as the gifts of the Spirit and the gift that is the kingdom of
heaven are shared with us here. 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)*

**Bless these gifts, Giver of Life, as you have gifted us with
blessings. Bless our giving, Giver of Love, so that cups
runneth over, so that baskets spill over with gathered
goodness, and hearts pour out more than enough for
everyone, love without end. Amen**

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF JESUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN:** "We Are Pilgrims"

VU #595

We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

I will hold the Christ light for you
in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL SENDING FORTH—

"I Am Walking a Path of Peace"

MV #221

*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: Acht kleine Präludien und Fugen BWV 553-560,
performed by Leander Angelo

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 29th we have received 516 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.

Generosity is what transforms five loaves and two fish
into a feast for five thousand.

Community News

Classikfest Chaleur – Classical Musical Festival August 14 to 16, 2026

Friday, August 14 at 7:00PM – “Living Room Songs” being held at the Doucet-Hennessy House

Saturday, August 15, at 2:00 PM – “Scottish & Acadian Crossings” being held at First United Church

Sunday, August 16 at 2:00 PM – “I’ll Be Bach!” being held at First United Church

Sunday, August 16 at 7:00 PM – “Postcards from France” being held at First United Church

About our quest organist this morning

Leander Angelo is 15-years old. He has been playing the piano since the age of 4, and began studying organ in September.

Leander is a student at the St. Michael's Choir School in Toronto, where he has daily choral rehearsal as well as weekly piano, voice, and organ lessons. He also sings with the choir each weekend at St. Michael's Cathedral.

With the choir school he has toured England, Alberta, Quebec, and Michigan. This coming school year, he and his brother, Roan, will take part in the choir tour to Italy!

In addition to music, Leander is interested in basketball, soccer, writing, and hanging out with his friends.

Leander is grateful to the staff at First United Church for generously allowing him to practice on their beautiful organ over the summer. He is currently visiting his grandparents, Larry and Evelyn Bent, at Youghall beach.

SCRIPTURE READING

New International Version

Isaiah 55:1-5

NIV

55 “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;

and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

² Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare.

³ Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David.

⁴ See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples.

⁵ Surely you will summon nations you know not,

and nations you do not know will come running to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has endowed you with splendour.”

Matthew 14:13-21

NIV

Our Gospel reading begins just as word has come to Jesus that Herod has had John the Baptist beheaded in prison.

¹³ When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

¹⁵ As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.”

¹⁶ Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

¹⁷“We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered.

¹⁸“Bring them here to me,” he said. ¹⁹And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ²¹The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

*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*

ClassikFest Chaleur Celebrates Bathurst's Bicentennial with Music, Heritage, and Community

BATHURST, N.B., July 26, 2026 — As Bathurst celebrates its 200th anniversary, ClassikFest Chaleur invites audiences to reflect on the stories, traditions, and artistic voices that have shaped the region through a weekend of chamber music from August 14–16, 2026. Now in its 14th season, the festival brings together 15 professional musicians from New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario, joined by outstanding artists with deep roots in the Chaleur region, for four concerts celebrating both the great masterpieces of classical music and the people who have enriched the cultural life of northern New Brunswick.

The 2026 festival explores the connections between heritage and artistic expression, placing some of classical music's most enduring works alongside music by artists whose contributions have helped shape the cultural identity of the region. Audiences will hear music by Ludmila Knezkova-Hussey, whose extraordinary vision transformed the classical music landscape of northern New Brunswick through the creation of the International Ludmila Knezkova-Hussey Piano Competition and by bringing renowned ensembles, including the Vienna Chamber Orchestra and the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, to Bathurst. The festival also celebrates Carl Philippe Gionet, the multidisciplinary Acadian artist whose work reflects the rich cultural heritage of the Acadian Peninsula.

"Every year, we try to build programs that invite people into classical music, whether they're lifelong concertgoers or attending for the first time," says Artistic Director David Scott. "This season celebrates the stories and traditions that have shaped our region while introducing audiences to music they may never have heard before. We often talk about the things that make our communities different, but music reminds us of what we share. For a little while, people from every background can sit in the same room, experience something beautiful, and leave feeling just a little more connected than when they arrived. That's the kind of community ClassikFest hopes to build."

The festival opens on **Friday, August 14 at 7:00 p.m.** with **Living Room Songs** at **Maison Doucet-Hennessy**, an intimate concert experience pairing the atmospheric music of Icelandic composer

Ólafur Arnalds with Terry Riley's groundbreaking minimalist masterpiece *In C*.

On **Saturday, August 15 at 2:00 p.m., Acadian and Scottish Crossings** at **First United Church** celebrates National Acadian Day and Bathurst's bicentennial through music inspired by the region's cultural heritage. The program features music by Ludmila Knezkova-Hussey and

ways music preserves and shares the stories of communities.

On **Sunday, August 16 at 2:00 p.m., I'll Be Bach!** at First United Church explores how composers across generations have drawn inspiration from the past while creating new musical voices. The program features works by J.S. Bach, Sergei Prokofiev, and Manuel de Falla.

The festival concludes later that evening **at 7:00 p.m. with Postcards from France** at First United Church, exploring more than three centuries of French musical tradition. Featuring the ClassikFest Festival Orchestra, the program includes works by composers such as Jean-Philippe Rameau, Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, Louise Farrenc, Paul de Wailly, and Jean Françaix. Admission to all concerts is by donation, reflecting ClassikFest Chaleur's commitment to making professional classical music accessible to everyone in the community.

Founded in 2013, ClassikFest Chaleur is Bathurst's annual classical music festival. Through performances and community partnerships, the festival brings together professional musicians from across Canada and local artists to create meaningful musical experiences throughout the Chaleur region.

As Bathurst celebrates its bicentennial, ClassikFest Chaleur invites audiences not only to hear extraordinary music, but to celebrate the stories, traditions, and shared experiences that continue to shape the cultural life of the Chaleur region.

Media Contact

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