

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

August 9, 2026

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Minister Rev. David Allan **Music Director** Martha Vickers

Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott

Greeters Julie & Harvey Spence

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 37:1-4, 12-28	Genesis 45:1-15
Psalms 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b	Psalms 133
Romans 10:5-15	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 14:22-33	Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28
Our sincere thanks to Wayne Lord for leading us in worship today.	
We welcome and thank Allison & Joseph Angelo who are providing us with the postlude selection this morning.	
We also welcome Linda Knowles MacPherson and thank her for providing us with her amazing gift of music.	
Today's Gift of Music will be a piano solo of "Majesty" dedicated to the memory of Hugh Ellis	

*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: *(responsively)*

We light this candle to remind us
that God sends Christ to be a light to our path. 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 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.***

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(responsively)* (based on Psalm 105)

Let those who seek God be joyful in heart!

Turn to the Holy One, your source of strength!

We give thanks to you, O God!

We delight in your Holy Name!

Sing the wonders God has done,

Whose Word covers all the earth!

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: (inspired by Romans 10:5-15)

God of righteousness and hope, we are grateful for opportunities to gather before you in worship. We come not to see or hear, but to be seen and heard by you. We come not to help ourselves, but to seek your help and be helpful to others. We are taught that it is our faith that saves us. We pray that our faith may make us strong to help those who need it. We are taught that we have good news for the world. Let us be rejuvenated to become the good we wish to see in the world. As we gather for worship, be in our hearts as a presence that fortifies and renews. Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN: "I the Lord of Sea and Sky"**

VU # 509

I, The Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

(Refrain)

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

(Refrain)

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

(Refrain)

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

***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: *(in unison)*

(inspired by Matthew 14:22-33)

God of righteousness and hope, we are often troubled by the chaotic harm that is befalling our world. We are often worried for the future. We see oncoming storms that threaten to overturn everything. We are often burdened by a sense of responsibility and grief over what we have done and left undone as members of your blessed community. Our little boat is battered by wind and waves, and sometimes it seems you are nowhere to be found. Come to us across the storms of our lives. Comfort our fear. Send a Spirit of grace to remind us that we are only responsible for the challenges that are directly in front of us, and only called to be faithful with the gifts that we have. Lift our burdens and still our hearts, we pray. Remind us that the future is in your hands, and that our little faith is enough for the small tasks that remain to us. Amen.

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife,
when the strong tides lift and the cables strain,
will your anchor drift or firm remain?

Refrain:

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love.*

It will surely hold in the straits of fear,
when the breakers tell that reef is near;
though the tempest rave and the wild winds blow,
not an angry wave shall our bark o'er-flow.

Refrain:

It will surely hold in the floods of death
when the waters cold chill our latest breath;
on the rising tide it can never fail
while our hopes abide within the veil.

Refrain:

When our eyes behold, through the gathering night,
the city of gold, our harbour bright,
we shall anchor fast by the heavenly shore,
with the storms all past for evermore.

Refrain:

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 READING: Matthew 14:22-33 (CEB)

Helen Knowles

SERMON: "Together We Worship"

Rev. Scott Reynolds

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Printed on back page

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

Our offering is an act of worship and faith. We worship God by dedicating the first portion of our wealth as a gift, whatever that portion might be, before we are asked and before a need is expressed. We have faith that our offering will be a blessing in our lives, and will further the renewing and reconciling work to which we are called. Let us worship God with the offering.

***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:** (inspired by Genesis 37)

God of righteousness and hope, these gifts represent dreams. We offer our dreams of a world where those who have much do not have too much, and those who have little do not have too little. We dream of a world where those who are filled with bullying and resentment do not have the power to harm the vulnerable. We dream of a world transformed by your generous love. Let these gifts become transformation for those who dream. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father/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:** "Take My Life and Let It Be"

VU # 506

Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.

Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love: and I will pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

BLESSING: *(based on Romans 15:13, 33)*

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in your life of faith, so that by the virtue of the Holy Spirit you may overflow with hope, and may the God of peace be with you all, today and always. Amen.

***SENDING FORTH:** *(responsively)*

The storm is strong, but Christ is with us.

May we still our fear in the face of danger.

The waters are deep, but we have one another.

May we journey together in hope.

Our faith is small, but it is enough for today.

Let us do what we can with what we are given. Amen.

***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: "Open Thou Mine Eyes"

Performed by Allison and Joseph Angelo

Church News

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 August 6th we have received 524 jars with funds on hand to purchase another 130+.

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.

Caring for the financial health of your community of faith is not a sprint to be accomplished with one time of worship or one campaign. It is a marathon which is accomplished by developing relationships, expressing gratitude, and teaching generosity as a spiritual practice.

***About our guests performing the postlude
"Open Thou Mine Eyes"***

Joseph Angelo is the organist and music director at St Paul's Basilica in Toronto. He is in demand as a singer, pianist, vocal coach and organist across the Greater Toronto Area. He also teaches voice and music theory at the Randolph College, a post-secondary musical theatre school.

Allison Angelo sang professionally across Canada and beyond for twenty years, including appearances with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Pops, and L'Opera de Montreal. She is a professional church musician, singing with Joseph at St Paul's Basilica, and as a soprano with the St Andrew's Presbyterian professional chamber choir. She also teaches high school music at the Toronto District School Board.

Allison & Joseph are the proud parents of Jevy, Roan, and Leander, who played the organ postlude last week. They all love spending summers on Youghall Beach and are so happy to share music worship with this beautiful church community.

Community News

Classikfest Chaleur

Classical Musical Festival August 14 to 16, 2026

Friday, August 14 at 7 PM – "Living Room Songs"

being held at the Doucet-Hennessy House

Saturday, August 15, at 2 PM – "Scottish & Acadian Crossings"

being held at First United Church

Sunday, August 16 at 2 PM – "I'll Be Bach!"

being held at First United Church

Sunday, August 16 at 7 PM – "Postcards from France"

being held at First United Church

Please note - admission to all concerts is by donation, reflecting ClassikFest Chaleur's commitment to making professional classical music accessible to everyone in the community.

There will be an **afternoon of music** at the ***Stonehaven Chapel*** on Sunday, **August 16th at 2 PM**. Come and enjoy a variety of old and new music.

Your Generosity Matters – “A Girls School That Grows”

In Zambia, People’s Action Forum (PAF) has been supporting girls’ education through its Girls’ Action Forum program. Through our ongoing support of Mission and Service, we are part of a partnership that helps girls stay in school, access mentorship, and build pathways toward a brighter future. This work is now growing through the development of a new girls’ school in Shimabala, Zambia.

For many girls in the area, completing their education can be a challenge. When girls begin menstruating, become pregnant, marry, or are needed at home to support their families, they may be forced to leave school. Without access to continued education, these girls will face fewer opportunities and a heightened risk of lifelong poverty.

Since 2014, PAF’s Girls’ Action Forum has worked to support girls, particularly those from rural communities, by helping them remain in school or return to continue their education. Through mentorship and encouragement, the program has helped girls recognize their potential and continue pursuing their goals.

Building on this important work, PAF is developing a girls’ school that will provide education and scholarships for students from rural communities. The school is being developed on two hectares of land in Shimabala. The long-term vision is for a comprehensive girls’ school that will eventually grow to include secondary education and boarding facilities.

As part of creating a sustainable future for this project, PAF has started agricultural activities on the land to help generate income that supports the organization’s ongoing work. The project has established a water system, built caretaker lodging, and joined a local farming cooperative to increase opportunities for sustainable income.

The school’s growth will happen in stages. It began by serving younger children through nursery and kindergarten programs, with plans to expand to include preschool and eventually secondary education. Each step brings PAF closer to creating a learning environment where girls can access education regardless of their circumstances.

Through our gifts to Mission and Service, we support long-term partnerships that create lasting opportunities for communities around the world. Together with organizations like PAF, we help nurture education, leadership, and hope for the next generation.

Our gifts help sustain partnerships that support education and create opportunities for girls and young people around the world. Together, we can help ensure that more girls have the chance to learn, grow, and shape their own futures. Let’s give generously.

SCRIPTURE READING

Common English Bible

MATTHEW 14:22-33

Walking on the water

22 Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds.

23 When he sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening came and he was alone.

24 Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land.

25 Very early in the morning he came to his disciples, walking on the lake.

26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, “It’s a ghost!” They were so frightened they screamed.

27 Just then Jesus spoke to them, “Be encouraged! It’s me. Don’t be afraid.”

28 Peter replied, “Lord, if it’s you, order me to come to you on the water.”

29 And Jesus said, “Come.”

Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus.

30 But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened. As he began to sink, he shouted, “Lord, rescue me!”

31 Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, “You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?”

32 When they got into the boat, the wind settled down.

33 Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, “You must be God’s Son!”

*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.*