

The United Church of Canada
Bathurst Pastoral Charge

First United Church, Bathurst

www.firstunited-bathurst.ca

September 20, 2026

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Creation Time

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

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

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Audio & Visual Technician Ralph Jamieson & Lester Scott

Minister Emeritus Rev. Blair Lewis

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Exodus 16:2-15	Exodus 17:1-17
Psalms 145	Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 1:21-30	Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 20:1-16	Matthew 21:23-32
Today's bulletins are placed by Margaret in loving memory of Arthur & Eileen Jagoe , who would have celebrated their 71 st wedding anniversary today.	

*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 among its waters, and live in peace and in friendship with its people.

***GATHERING HYMN:**

MV #10

"Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom"

Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,
she who danced, when earth was new.
Follow closely what she teaches,
for her words are right and true.
Wisdom clears the path to justice,
showing us what love must do.

Listen to the voice of Wisdom,
crying in the market-place.
Hear the Word made flesh among us,
full of glory, truth and grace.
When the word takes root and ripens,
peace and righteousness embrace.

Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;
nurture all who seek rebirth.
Spirit-guide and close companion,
bring to light our sacred worth.
Free us to become your people,
holy friends of God and earth.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

We are given the light so that we may be people of memory and of vision. We are given the light so that we may better understand the divine desire. We are given the light too so that our paths may be consequential, creative and clear. And so, we light this candle as a reminder of these things and the presence of Christ shining within and among us all, 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 us, in all of God's beloved and good Creation. Here, and always, we affirm that all are equally created in the image of God; here, all are welcome. You are welcome no matter how old you are or how much you know or who you know. You are welcome no matter how many questions you have, how much is in your pocket or how often you go to church. You are welcome no matter who has your heart, with whom you share the intimacy of your life; you matter to God and you matter to God's Creation. Here, we seek to let our love shine as on the first day. We are all, together through Christ and the affirmation of Jesus, the light of the world. God affirms your life and immerses you in love. We shine with the light, the light that changes the world.

(The Affirming Candle is lit...)

CHORAL RESPONSE – "And When You Call for Me" MV #96

***And when you call for me,
I have already answered.
And when you call for me,
I am already there.***

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(responsively)*

Come into the light, for God is doing a new thing!

We come, one and all, to worship.

Come to be fed, all who hunger for God!

We come, together, to worship our God.

Come to the sanctuary, seeking healing and peace!

**We come together in community, to worship our God,
source of justice and peace, fount of hope and infinite
love.**

Come; let us worship the One in whom all are made one. On this Sabbath day, this day that God has made, let us worship and offer our thanks and praise.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "This Is the Day"

MV #122

This is the day that God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad!
This is the day that God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad!
Singing hal-le-lu, singing hal-le-lu,
singing hal-le-lu!
We will rejoice and be glad!
Singing hal-le-lu, singing hal-le-lu,
singing hal-le-lu!
We will rejoice and be glad!

OPENING PRAYER: *We begin with a time of silent reflection...*

God of Sabbath silences and the sacred searching of our souls, you come and move among us, you dwell within us and seek to make us whole. As we worship, lift our hearts that we might recognise you, lift our spirits that we might feel you, lift up our lives together that we might know you and better be your people. You are with us from first to last, from "Let there be" to everlasting, you are, O God, our forever Love. **Amen**

***PSALM 145**

VU page 866

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

Refrain:

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

Every day we will bless you
and praise your name forever.

**O God, you are great and highly to be praised;
your greatness is beyond all measure.**

One generation shall praise your works to another,
and declare your marvellous deeds.

**I will speak of your splendour and glory,
and all your wonderful works.**

Refrain

You, God, are righteous in all your ways,
and loving in all your deeds.

**You are near to all who call to you,
to all who call on you in truth.**

You fulfil the desire of those who revere you;
you hear their cry and you save them.

**You watch over all who love you,
but the wicked you will destroy.**

My mouth will speak your praise, O God.

Let every creature bless your holy name forever.

Refrain:

We praise you, O God:

we bless your holy name.

REFLECTION

***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:** "Creator and Poet" *(Seasons of the Spirit Volume 3)*

Father and Mother, creator and poet,
speaking your wisdom in forest and glade:
telling your glory in ocean and river
pouring your pleasure on all you have made.

Christ of the cosmos, you sang into being,
galaxies spinning through measureless space;
coming among us and sharing our weakness;
singing your songs of redemption and grace.

Spirit, you danced at the dawn of creation,
rising, rejoicing on jubilant wings.
Yours is the rhythm of cycle and season,
yours is the heartbeat of all living things.

God, you have made us of stardust and spirit,
etching your image on ev'ry cell.
We are your love-song, your poem and rhythm.
All co-creators, your story to tell.

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

**Into the chaos, into our hunger, into our seeking and
questioning, you speak, O God, you speak your new
creation into being. Speak to us now as we listen and
reflect. Speak to us that we might understand your word,
and so seek together under Love's bright banner,
calling all to follow. Amen**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Judy Losier

Exodus 16:2-15

God provides for the people's hunger

Matthew 20:1-16

What is fair for those who labour?

SERMON STORY:

Grumbling, generosity and grace

GIFT OF MUSIC: "Love Over Hate"

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Judy Losier

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

Though the world may grumble and mumble,
though you and I may stumble and fumble,
we are called, my friends, by God to be humble,
so that the walls that divide may crumble and tumble.
Our humble offerings will now be gathered!

***OFFERING RESPONSE:** "These Gifts We Bring"

***These gifts we bring with grateful hearts,
to reconcile, make new.
Gather us in grace, show us the way,
to live our lives in Truth
to share Your love in all we do.***

*Words & Music: Pat Mayberry ©2016
Arrangement: David Kai ©2016*

***OFFERING PRAYER:** *(responsively)*

Our new making this day, your surprising gift of manna...
God, your grace, our daily bread... how should we respond?

**With thanksgiving and awe and with joy! We respond
with prayer and song and in giving everything that we
can. Bless what we do, bless our commitment to
loving you, and to loving your world and one another
as ourselves. May your abundant grace be our guide,
and your love our light. Amen**

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF JESUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN:** "Would You Bless Our Homes and Families"

VU #556

Would you bless our homes and families,
Source of life who calls us here;
in our world of stress and tension
teach us love that conquers fear.
Help us learn to love each other
with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles,
love's expressed in many ways.

When our way is undemanding,
let us use the time that's ours
to delight in simple pleasures,
sharing joys in gentle hours.
When our way is anxious walking
and a heavy path we plod,
teach us trust in one another
and in you, our gracious God.

From the homes in which we're nurtured,
with the love that shapes us there,
teach us, God, to claim as family
every one whose life we share.

And through all that life may offer,
may we in your love remain;
may the love we share in families
be alive to praise your name.

Let us reach beyond the boundaries
of our daily thought and care
till the family you have chosen
spills its love out everywhere.
Help us learn to love each other
with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles
love's expressed in many ways.

COMMISSIONING and BENEDICTION

***CHORAL SENDING FORTH:** "We Wish You the Blessing"

***We wish you the blessing of faith to sustain you,
friends to support you, challenge to stir you,
song to empower you, peace to refresh you,
tears to release you, laughter to heal you,
love to nurture your soul.***

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SHARING THE LIGHT

(The Christ Candle and Affirming Candle are extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

Church News

This Week at First United Church		
Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday to Friday		
Tuesday	1:00 PM	Knitters & Rug Hookers - RMR
Wednesday	<i>No choir practice this week</i>	
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market – GYM

Congregational Meeting will be held after worship today, September 20th. The meeting is to receive approval for upgrades to the back doors, the ramp and steps as well as replacement of lights that are no longer available.

Choir Practice – Please note there will no choir practice this week. Practice will be held prior to the worship service on September 27th.

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 September 17th we have received 656 jars with funds on hand to purchase another 105 + jars

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.

Those who have been blessed with riches have many opportunities to bless others through generosity.
From each according to their ability,
to each according to their need.

Thanksgiving – October 11th, 2026 – Anyone wishing to contribute items to decorate the church is encouraged to bring them in by **3 PM Thursday October 8th**. Thank you in advance.

Community News

"Help Lesotho" Calendars – The Anglophone School District – North has been sponsoring "Help Lesotho" since 2006 as part of its global awareness initiative. As a fundraiser where all of the money raised goes to help finance its work with orphans, vulnerable children, and grandmothers in Lesotho, Africa; "Help Lesotho" has 2027 calendars for sale at a cost of \$15.00. You are invited to support this initiative with your donation. Gary Branch (546-9208) (egbranch@rogers.com) will be taking orders for these calendars until October 13, 2026. Payment can be made in advance by cash, cheque, or e-transfer, or when the calendars are delivered in November. Cheques are to be made payable to "Help Lesotho". Thank you to the congregation of First United Church for your continued support of this initiative.

Royal Canadian Legion – Ladies Auxiliary supper of the month is scheduled for **Sunday, September 27th at 5 PM**. Classic Roast Beef complete with savoury sides, dessert, tea or coffee. Tickets are \$20/person and should be picked up at the Legion by Sept. 22. The office is open on Tues., Wed., and Thurs. From 8:30 to 12:00 and on Mon., and Fri. from 8:30 to 3:00. Tickets are also available at the bar during events.

Nursing Home Without Walls: Community Information Meeting will be held on **October 1st at 2 PM at The Point Church, 780 O'Neil Ave.**, Bathurst. The service provides senior support and assistance, in-home evaluations, how to live in your home longer and it provides family peace of mind.

Games afternoon will be held at Central United Church Hall in Clifton on **Thursday, October 1st** between 1 PM and 3 PM. There will be a variety of cards and games available and you are invited to bring a favourite from home. Join us for a time of fun and fellowship. Any questions can be directed to Pat Scott (506-546-3819)

Ham & Scallop Potato supper will be held on **Sunday, October 4th** from 4:00 to 5:30 PM at Holy Family Church, 430 St. Peter Avenue. Take outs will be \$18 per ticket; dine in will be \$18 for adults and teens, children 5 – 12 years old \$10 per ticket – sold only at the door and children under 5 will be free. Tickets are available from Cletus Boucher (506-544-1368) or from Fred Best (506-543-1384). All proceeds go towards heating of the church this winter.

SCRIPTURE READINGS - New International Version

Exodus 16:2-15 New International Version

2 In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron.

3 The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death."

4 Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.

5 On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days."

6 So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt,

7 and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?"

8 Moses also said, "You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD."

9 Then Moses told Aaron, "Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.'"

10 While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud.

11 The LORD said to Moses,

12 "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.'"

13 That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.

14 When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor.

15 When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.

Leading up to today's Gospel reading, Jesus has just spoken of inheriting eternal life, and how many who are first shall be last, and the last shall be first.

Matthew 20:1-16 NIV

1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard.

2 He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

3 "About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing.

4 He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.'

5 So they went.

"He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing.

6 About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?'

7 "'Because no one has hired us,' they answered.

"He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'

8 "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.'

9 "The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius.

10 So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius.

11 When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner.

12 'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.'

13 "But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius?

14 Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you.

15 Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

16 "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

*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.*