

*The United Church of Canada
Bathurst Pastoral Charge*

First United Church, Bathurst

www.firstunited-bathurst.ca

September 27, 2026 – Orange Shirt Sunday

Season of Creation

18th Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

Greeters Cheryl & Dave Brewster

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>
Exodus 17:1-17	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalms 78:1-7, 12-16	Psalms 19
Philippians 2:1-13	Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:23-32	Matthew 21:33-46

*The asterisk * identifies those times in the service where you are invited to stand as you are able.*

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

WELCOME:

Pjila'si! Welcome! Bienvenue! ברוכים הבאים! Καλώς ήρθες!

("Welcome" in the languages of some of God's many people:

Mi'kmaq, English, French, Hebrew and Greek.)

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:** "For the Beauty of the Earth"

VU #226

tune Dix VU 81

For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,

(Refrain)

God of all, to thee we raise

This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,

(Refrain)

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,

(Refrain)

For each perfect gift sublime
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,

(Refrain)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

We light this flame, not only as a reminder of the light that leads the way, which we seek and follow, but of the heart-light that is here among and within us all. This humble flame reminds us of the mind of Christ, which the Apostle Paul encourages his readers to share: the light of service and sharing in the Spirit, the light of love and looking to the interests of others, the light of humility and our shared humanity.

Let there be light! (use your outside voice!)

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. All of God's children matter, always. 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...)

MINUTE FOR AFFIRMING

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)*

Is God among us?

**Yes! God is creating and blessing and sharing
a vision of hope.**

Is God within us?

**Of course! God is guiding and affirming,
outpouring a healing love.**

Is God with us now?

**Absolutely! God is comforting and forgiving
and reconciling.**

Yes, our God is here!

And so, we are grateful.

**On this new day, this Sabbath day, this day tinted with
orange and all the colours of Creation, we come to
worship together.**

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: *(responsively)*

Spirit of life and all of creation, move through we your beloved children and this time of worship, move with your liberating, healing and creative power.

**Move us to reconcile with one another, to love one
another and the world ever more, with all that we are,
with all that we have been created to be, growing in
the likeness of God.**

This we pray as the body of Christ,

**who reconciles and makes new, the Light of Love.
Amen**

***PSALM 78:1-7, 12-16**

VU Page 792

Tell the children the truth, and trust in God.

Refrain:

*We will tell new generations
of the wonders God has done.*

Part One (1-7)

Give heed to my teaching, O my people,
turn your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;

**I will reveal the hidden meaning
of things in the past.**

What we have heard and known,

what our parents have told us,

we will not hide from their grandchildren,

but declare to the next generation

the testimony that you gave to Jacob

and the law you appointed in Israel,

which you commanded them to teach their children,

that the next generation might know them,

children yet unborn,

and these in turn should arise, and tell their children,

that they should put their trust in you,

and not forget your great deeds,

but keep all your commandments.

Refrain:

Part Two (12-16)

Marvellous things you did in the sight of our ancestors,
in the land of Egypt, in the plain of Zoan.

You divided the sea and let them go through,

and made the waters stand up like a wall.

By day you led with a cloud,

and all the night long with a beacon of fire.

You split rocks in the wilderness,

you gave drink in plenty as from the great deep.

You brought streams out of the rock,

And made water run down like rivers.

Refrain:

*We will tell new generations
of the wonders God has done.*

ASSURANCE:

Our Psalm sings of provision, of how God provided for a thirsty people in the wilderness, in times of worry, confusion and fear. It sings of how we join in providing the wisdom of God's work and word to the children among us and in our care, to the generations to whom we made baptismal promises and whom we love. We are all part of a community of faith, the community of our forebears, and a community that envisions and works for a present and future shaped by love, healing, justice, and peace. In all of this, God provides what we need, and in all of this, God provides you and me to the world, to be loving learners and listeners, and proclaimers and prophets of peace.

***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:** "Sweetgrass and Candle"

(Words by John Oldham/Music by Ron Klusmeier)

Sweetgrass and candle, the peace pipe and bible,
the stories of elders and beat of the drum;
these are the symbols of hope, faith and justice.
We gather in circle affirming we're one.

Welcome the stranger for he is our brother
and she is our sister of mother earth.
Care for creation for all life is sacred
and we are united by vision's rebirth.

Join in the circle that will have no ending,
for we are all equal and loved in God's sight.
Praise the Great Spirit! We gather as family
to sing of Love's freedom and dance with delight!

Welcome the stranger for he is our brother
and she is our sister of mother earth.
Care for creation for all life is sacred
and we are united by vision's rebirth.

Sweetgrass and candle, the peace pipe and bible,
the stories of elders and beat of the drum;
these are the symbols of hope, faith and justice.
We gather in circle affirming we're one.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

**As we listen for your word Creator God, may our
imaginings be watered, our thirst be quenched, and our
desire for peace flow unabated. Amen**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Judy Losier

Exodus 17:1-17 Water springs from the rock

READING: from *North of Nowhere*, pp. 32 – 34

by Marie Wilson, Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner

SERMON: Thirst and trust

GIFT OF MUSIC: "As the Deer Pants for the Water"

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Martha Vickers

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

As we walk through this life, we encounter God in many ways.
And always, God is giving in grace and in heaven's hope. So, we
respond, as does all of Creation; we respond in kind, mirroring the
unconditional love that shapes us all. In our hearts we
acknowledge our blessing and song; with our hands, we give. Our
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:** *(in unison)*

**God of abundance, in the liberty that is found in our giving,
bless us and our offerings so that all may know the peace
and freedom that is life in you. May your blessings be
found wherever we go, and with all that we meet. And
wherever we cannot go, may all that we share make a
profound difference to the world that you so love. Amen**

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF JESUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN:** "Pulsing Spirit"

Pulsing Spirit, rippling river,
source of mercy's tender might.
Gentle power, humble glory,
subtle, ever dancing light.
Healing Wisdom in us flowing,
now reveal our human worth.
Play beneath the muddied waters,
come renew the face of earth!

Spirit free, unbounded motion,
beauty's mirror, heart's delight,
Gift abundant all around us,
flood the world with life and light.
Fountain ancient, ever springing,
play in new, creative ways.
Lift us, steam of lavish loving,
high on waves of joyful praise!

*Text © Delores Duffner 1993.
Seasons of the Spirit Songbook – vol. 7
tune Beach Spring VU #374*

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>Church Office Closed</i>	
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market – GYM

Choir Practice will resume on Wednesday evening, September 30th at 6:30 PM. ***All are welcome to join!***

***Thank you to our volunteers during the
summer months of July and August***

Counters – Gary Branch, Edie Gammon, Bob & Beth Sullivan, Margaret Payne-Chénard and Mike Kierstead; **Greeters** – Brenda Gillis, Dawn Yao, Brenda Parrott, and Julie & Harvey Spence; **Your Generosity Matters** – Anne Wilson, Ronalds Family, Bev Murphy, Wayne Lord, Judy Losier and Martha Vickers; **Minute for Affirming** – Phyllis Davidson Allan; **Scripture Readers** – Anne Wilson; Helen Knowles, Gayle Ferron, Gary Branch, Cheryl Brewster, Amanda Godin, Judy Losier and Stephen Maisey; **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.

The Ways and Means Team would like to express a sincere thank you to all who helped in anyway with our Beef BBQ Supper on September 17th. A very special ***"thank you"*** to Hatheway Group of Companies for their generous sponsorship. The net profit was \$4,886.17.

Christian Development and Pastoral Care Teams are asked to meet briefly with Rev. David after the worship service today. Please grab your refreshment from the Ruth Morrison Room and come to the front of the church beside the podium.

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 September 24th we have received 748 jars with funds on hand to purchase another 15+ jars.

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.

The power of God's generosity is stronger than you know.
You have the opportunity to wield this power when you
give to help others.

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.

Rev. David will be on vacation from ***September 28th until Tuesday, October 14th***. Rev. Blair Lewis (506-252-0305) will be available for any pastoral care emergencies. ***Thank you*** to our Sunday worship leaders in Rev. David's absence:

October 4: Sandra Boone
October 11: Rev. Ivan Gregan

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.

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)

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on ***Saturday, October 17th from 8:00 – 10:00 am.*** ***Please note the change to the 3rd Saturday for the month of October.*** As this community event helps to fund our local mission projects, we rely on donations and ask that you consider a minimum donation of 8.00 to help defray costs. We appreciate your kindness and support. Come and enjoy fellowship and great food.

Church Pantry

The first Sunday of each month is going to be *Church Pantry Sunday*. We ask that you please bring 1 non-perishable item with you if you are able. There will be a blue box at each door so you just need to drop the item in. Thank You!



SCRIPTURE READING - New International Version

Exodus 17:1-7

1 The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

2 So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?"

3 But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

4 Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

5 The Lord answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.

6 I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So, Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.

7 And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

*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.*