

The United Church of Canada
Bathurst Pastoral Charge

First United Church, Bathurst

www.firstunited-bathurst.ca

October 4, 2026

19th Sunday after Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

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

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

Greeters Julie & Harvey Spence

Audio & Visual Technician Brenda Parrott & Lester Scott

Minister Emeritus Rev. Blair Lewis

All musical selections reprinted under license #4-606499, One License for Churches

Lectionary for next Sunday

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalm 19

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

Lectionary for next Sunday

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

Psalm 65

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Luke 17:11-19

We welcome and thank ***Sandra Boone***
for leading us in our worship service 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:** "Spirit, Open My Heart"

MV#79

Refrain:

*Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.*

God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender.

Refrain:

Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word and deed,
may my living bring you glory.

Refrain:

May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another.

Refrain:

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 us, in all of God's beloved and good Creation. *(cont. next page)*

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: "Know That God Is Good"

MV 104

***Know that God is good,
know that God is good,
know that God is good,
God is good, God is good.***

***C'est vrai: Dieu est bon!
C'est vrai: Dieu est bon!
C'est vrai: Dieu est bon!
Dieu est bon! Dieu est bon!***

***Know that God is good,
know that God is good,
know that God is good,
God is good, God is good.***

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(responsively)*

The daytime sky announces the glory of God!

The night sky proclaims God's handiwork!

Though their voices are not heard,

Their message travels throughout the earth.

God has made an abiding place for the sun,

which emerges and runs its course with joy.

There is no end to its rising and falling,

And all share in its warmth. Amen.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP:

"Come Build a Church"

(Seasons of the Spirit – volume 7)

***Come build a church with soul and spirit,
come build a church of flesh and bone.
We need no tower rising skyward;
no house of wood or glass or stone.***

***Come build a church with human frailty,
come build a church of flesh and blood.
Jesus shall be its sure foundation.
It shall be built by the hand of God.***

Words and music: Ken Medema © 1991

Ken Medema/Brier Patch Music. Used with permission

OPENING PRAYER:

God, you are with us in our struggles. Be with us as we worship today. We are grateful for opportunities to join our hearts as one. We come not to see or hear, but to be seen and heard by you; not to help ourselves, but to seek your help and be helpful to others. We press on toward our goal of abundant life for all your children. We know that it is for this reason that you have laid hold of our lives. We pray that, by opening our hearts to others with empathy and grace, we will in some small way bring about your blessed community in the world, and here in our midst. Amen.

***HYMN:** "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

VU # 371

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;

and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION:

God, you are with us in our struggles. You have tried to show us good ways to live, and we are grateful. But it is not always easy to see the way forward. Sometimes the ground seems to shift beneath our feet and confuse our direction. *(continued next page)*

Sometimes the world seems too complex to be boiled down to simple rules of behaviour. Sometimes, your guidance seems created for a different world than the one we live in. Send your Spirit of hope to show us the vision behind the rules, a vision of blessed community where all are cared for, none are mistreated, and there is a place at the table for all. Comfort us in our confusion and distress. Guide us in new ways for a new world, and transform our struggles into blessings for all. Amen.

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST:** *(responsively)*

Let us join together in the ancient ritual of the passing of the peace

The peace of Christ be with you all!

And also with you!

Please share with one another words and signs of peace.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

Loving God, you speak to us in so many ways. Speak to us now through the reading of the scriptures.

SCRIPTURE READING:

Helen Knowles

Matthew 21:33-46 (Common English Bible)

REFLECTION: "Together We Worship"

The Rev. James McTyre

GIFT OF MUSIC: "It Moves in Creation"

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Martha Vickers

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:** "What Can I Do?"

MV #191

(2 times)

What can I do? What can I bring?

What can I say? What can I sing?

I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.

I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

***OFFERING PRAYER:**

God, you are with us in your struggles. In response to your gifts of guidance and transformation, we offer these gifts for the transformation of the world. We present the fruits of our faith to you in celebration and in hope for the future. Bless these gifts to their intended purpose, and bless us to do your work in our homes and communities. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER:

Great Spirit, God of grace, we know that you are the source of all good things, joining us in all our rejoicing, and that in our suffering you are nearer to us than we can imagine, holding us with a love that will not let us go. Today, we bring before you our celebrations and our concerns, trusting that as our prayers arise, your joy, mercy, comfort, and endurance will be poured out on us and on all those who are in our hearts or known to you alone:

...in places of illness and injury
...in places of abuse and victimization
...in places of oppression and captivity
...in places of hunger and homelessness
...in places of exploitation and slavery
...in places of war and the struggle for justice
...in places of pollution and destruction of natural habitat
...in places of uncertainty and rapid change.

As with all things, named and unnamed, we trust in your goodness and wisdom, and rest easy in your arms of compassion.
Amen.

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:** "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

VU #602

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind
is like to that above.

Before our Maker's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes,
each other's burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

This glorious hope revives
our courage on the way;
that we shall live in perfect love
in God's eternal day.

SENDING FORTH: *(responsively)*

God sends guidance and a vision of hope.
Let us live out that vision in our times.

-8-

God sends teachers and leaders.
Let us teach one another in love.
God sends grace to transform our hearts.
Let us share the fruits of our joy. Amen.

Now ends our time of worship
And begins our time of service.

*May God's sheltering wings,
her gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms,
her cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love,
and hold you in her love.*

Music Copyright © 2015 by Ron Klusmeier.

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	9:30 AM-11:30 AM	Quilters – DEMH Downstairs office
	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Knitters & Rug Hookers - RMR
Wednesday	Office closing at 12 Noon	
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Thursday	1:00 PM	Knitters & Rug Hookers - RMR
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market – GYM

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 30th we have received 748 jars with funds on hand to purchase another 15+ jars

Rev. David is away on vacation until Tuesday, October 14th, returning to the office on Wednesday, October 15th. Rev. Blair Lewis (506-252-0305) will be available for any pastoral care emergencies. Sunday, October 11th, Rev. Ivan Gegan will lead us in our Thanksgiving celebration, including communion.

Church News

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.

Sometimes the greatest generosity comes from the people you would least expect—like you.

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.

Quilters have started to meet each Tuesday morning at 9:30 AM. If you like to quilt or would like to learn to quilt, come and join us each Tuesday morning from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM downstairs in the old office in the DEMH. Contact Anne Brooks 506-548-2156 or Pat Thibideau 506-546-2705. Tea and Coffee supplied.

Knitting and Rug Hooking groups meet each Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 to 3:00 PM in the Ruth Morrison Room. Everyone is welcome whether a beginner or a seasoned crafter.

Ladies Badminton Fun Group will be starting on Wednesday, October 14th and will continue each Monday and Wednesday morning from 9 to 11 AM in the Donald Eddy Memorial Hall gym. Any ladies interested in joining please contact Joyce Daley for information.

At a **joint meeting of the CD & Pastoral Care teams**, Rev. David discussed celebrating communion with any seniors and/or shut-ins, whether it be in their own home, in a care home or hospital. This would happen the week following our celebration of the sacrament here in our church worship service. Rev. David is planning to do the first one the week of October 19th. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would be interested in joining Rev. David to assist with this celebration.

Church News

Choir Practice for a *Christmas Hymn Sing*.



The choir of First United Church in Bathurst and Central United Church in Clifton will once again be offering an afternoon of Christmas music with a reception to follow. If you would like to join the combined choir for this event, practices will begin

Wednesday, October 14th from 7:00 to 8:15 PM. All are welcome! Confirmation of the date and ticket information will be coming soon!

All new members welcome.

Community News

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.

"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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS – Common English Bible

Matthew 21:33-46

Parable of the tenant farmers

33 "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a tower. Then he rented it to tenant farmers and took a trip.

34 When it was time for harvest, he sent his servants to the tenant farmers to collect his fruit.

35 But the tenant farmers grabbed his servants. They beat some of them, and some of them they killed. Some of them they stoned to death.

36 "Again he sent other servants, more than the first group. They treated them in the same way.

37 Finally he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said.

38 "But when the tenant farmers saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come on, let's kill him and we'll have his inheritance.'

39 They grabbed him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

40 "When the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenant farmers?"

41 They said, "He will totally destroy those wicked farmers and rent the vineyard to other tenant farmers who will give him the fruit when it's ready."

42 Jesus said to them, "Haven't you ever read in the scriptures, *The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. The Lord has done this, and it's amazing in our eyes?*

43 Therefore, I tell you that God's kingdom will be taken away from you and will be given to a people who produce its fruit.

44 Whoever falls on this stone will be crushed. And the stone will crush the person it falls on."

45 Now when the chief priests and the Pharisees heard the parable, they knew Jesus was talking about them.

46 They were trying to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, who thought he was a prophet.