

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

October 18, 2026
21st Sunday after Pentecost
World Food Sunday

Minister Rev. David Allan **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Julie & Harvey Spence
Audio & Visual Technician Ralph Jamieson & Lester Scott
Minister Emeritus Rev. Blair Lewis

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<u>Lectionary today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22	Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Psalm 90:1-6; 13-17 1 Thessalonians 2L1-8 Matthew 22:34-46
We welcome Rev. Dr. Sherpherd Munikwa for sharing in our worship service today.	
<i>Today's bulletins have been placed in loving memory of</i> Vivian Howatt <i>by her family</i> <i>and</i> <i>the bulletins and flowers at the front of the church</i> <i>are placed in loving memory of</i> Betty & Blair, Bradley & Gordie Chamberlain <i>by the family</i>	

*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:** "Worship the Lord"

VU #401

Refrain:

*Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
praise the Creator, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!*

Raising our hands as a sign of rejoicing,
and with our lips our togetherness voicing,
giving ourselves to a life of creativeness,
worship and work must be one!

Refrain

Praying and training that we be a blessing,
and by our handiwork daily confessing:
we are committed to serving humanity,
worship and work must be one!

Refrain

Called to be partners with God in creation,
honouring Christ as the Lord of the nation,
we must be ready for risk and for sacrifice,
worship and work must be one!

Refrain

Bringing the bread and the wine to the table,
asking that we may be led and enabled,
truly united to build new communities,
worship and work must be one!

Refrain:

*Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
praise the Creator, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!*

Now in response to the life you are giving,
help us, Creator, to offer our living,
seeking a just and a healing society,
worship and work must be one!

Refrain

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

God sings out, "Let there be light!" Light bursts forth, not out of nothingness, but out of the very being of the Creator. It brightly flashed and spread out and sped up billions of years ago, it shone for all time in a man named Emmanuel, and in this sacred moment, in you, it shines anew. The Christ light, the Lovelight, the light that is the life of all people, the light that is never overcome, shines right here and out there, everywhere! And so, we who seek the light, light this candle as a sign, and a reminder that the One we name the Light of the World, also anoints us with light, and calls us to be the light. We light this candle because we love our God.

(The Christ Candle is lit...)

LIGHTING THE AFFIRMING CANDLE:

From the Christ Candle we light our Affirming Candle. Through the prism of love and grace, in the light we are opened to all of the colours, the wonderful awesome diversity, of God's ongoing and good Creation, God's delight. We are continually made in God's image, all of us, and here in God's house, here in God's world, all belong, are welcomed, not just by those of us who have been here a while, but by our God who is Love. We light this candle because just as we love our God, we love one another as ourselves. We light this candle because our God loves us as we are.

(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) drawn from Psalm 24

The earth is our God's and all that is in it,
the world, and those that live in it;
for God has founded it on the seas,
and established it upon the waters.

The seasons and the solar system, the uniqueness of each creature
and the unknowns of the universe, all belongs to God.
All has its being, its becoming, its belonging, in God.

**The cosmos continues to expand; like God's infinite
presence, it is, we are, God's unfinished love song.**

And so, we gather, called by the Singer of Creation,
grounded in grace,

**we gather to worship, to worship as one,
here, in our God.**

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.***

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OPENING PRAYER:

In the Christ light, as it glimmers and dances and beckons, may we shine bright. Your image and radiance be alive in us and in our worship, Creating God, our fellowship and our love for one another, your world. Your love; our peace. **Amen**

***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:** "Each Blade of Grass"

MV #37

Each blade of grass, ev'ry wing that soars,
the waves that sweep across a distant shore,
make full the circle of God.
Each laughing child, ev'ry gentle eye,
a forest lit beneath a moon-bright sky,
make full the circle of God.

Each silent paw, ev'ry rounded stone,
the buzz that echoes from a honey'd comb,
make full the circle of God.
Each fire-brimmed star, ev'ry out-stretched hand,
the wind that leaps and sails across the land,
make full the circle of God.

Each icy peak, ev'ry patterned shell,
the joyous chorus that the dawn foretells,
make full the circle of God.

Each cosmic hue, ev'ry creature's way,
all form the beauty of this vast array,
making full the circle of God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

**May the winds of the Spirit blow through our imagination,
lift our spirits in hope, and fill us with Love's truth. As we
listen, ponder and are moved in faithfulness, may the word
of God re-create us yet again, for the sake of the world
God so loves. Amen**

SCRIPTURE READING:

Jennifer Oliver

Matthew 22:15-22 Give to God the things that are God's

MESSAGE: *Rev. Dr. Sherpherd Munikwa*

GIFT OF MUSIC: "Come Touch Our Hearts"

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Anne Wilson

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

"Give to God the things that are God's." Give from your heart,
God's dwelling place, with abundant love. And don't, you who are
God's beloved, be afraid. Our offerings will now be gathered.

***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:** *(in unison)*

**Creator God, receive these offerings of the fruit of our
labours and the gifts of our lives, that in thanksgiving we
and your renewed creation may always be restored to one
another, and to you. Amen**

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF JESUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS – see insert

***CLOSING HYMN:** “May the God of Hope Go with Us” VU #424

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Refrain:

*Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that’s new,
faithful when we hear Christ’s call.*

May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed.

Refrain

COMMISSIONING and BENEDICTION

***CHORAL CLOSING:** “May God’s Sheltering Wings” MV #214

***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.***

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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	9:30 AM-11:30 AM	Quilters – DEMH Downstairs office
	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Knitters & Rug Hookers - RMR
	6:00 PM	Council - RMR
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
	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 October 16th we have received 759 jars with funds on hand to purchase another 30+ 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.

Remember that people of faith have been the key to some of the most incredible changes in our society. How does your faith call you to be a changemaker?

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 has resumed 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.

Church News

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.

All new members welcome.

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.

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!

Community News

The Anglican Parish of New Bandon Christmas Craft, Bake Sale and Breakfast Buffet will be held at Christ Church Hall on **Saturday, November 14th from 8:30 to 10:30 AM**. Start your day with a continental breakfast buffet and then get a jump on your Christmas baking and shopping at our sale tables.

Central United Church in Clifton, will be having a Roast Pork Supper on **Saturday, November 14th, from 4:30 to 6:00 PM**. For tickets, please call Nisha Ellis-Silver (506-544-1577) or Debbie Henry (506-543-8420). Tickets are \$20 per person. You will have the choice of eating in or take-out.

SCRIPTURE READINGS – New International Version

MATTHEW 22:15-22

15 Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap [Jesus] in his words.

16 They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are.

17 Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?"

18 But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me?"

19 Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius,

20 and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"

21 "Caesar's," they replied.

Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

22 When they heard this, they were amazed. So, they left him and went away.

*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.*