The United Church of Canada
Bathurst Pastoral Charge
First United Church, Bathurst
www.firstunited-bathurst.ca
November 22, 2026
Reign of Christ Sunday

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

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

Lectionary today	**Lectionary for next Sunday**
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 100	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Ephesians 1:15-23	1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Matthew 25:31-46	Mark 13:24-37

*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__: "Make a Joyful Noise" VU #820

Refrain:
Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.
Come to this place with a song!

Know that your God has made you.
Know it's to God we belong.
And come to this place with joyfulness and praise.
Worship your God with a song!

Refrain

Enter these gates, thanks giving.
Enter these courts with praise.
Sing thanks to your God and bless the holy Name.
Worship your God with a song!

Refrain

Ages through endless ages,
seasons of endless years,
the love of our Maker ever shall endure.
Worship your God with a song!

Refrain

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

We are seekers of the light. We are bearers of the light. We are, Jesus said, salt and light, in and with Christ bringing new and abundant life into the world. Where shadows fall, the light rises, and here, in this sacred place, in this sacred time of memory and of hope, in this sacred moment, we light the Christ Candle as a reminder and a sign of the presence of the light, of Christ among and within us all. We light this candle in the presence of Love.

(The Christ Candle is lit…)

LIGHTING THE AFFIRMING CANDLE:

From the Christ Candle we light our Affirming Candle. Here we affirm the wondrous diversity of God's good and beloved Creation, created all in the divine image, created all as a blessing and a gift. Created all to be as one, in the One who lights us with grace and unconditional love. May God's countenance shine upon you, you who are God's glory.

(The Affirming Candle is lit…)

CHORAL RESPONSE: "Jesus, You Fill Our Hearts" MV #101

Jesus, you fill our hearts with love,
our minds with your peace,
and our lives with your joy.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(responsively)*

Day and night creation sings its praises to God.
We come with joy; we worship with gladness.
We come with our pains and sorrows too, with all that we are.
And we know we are God's; we know we are loved,
and so we can still sing our songs even as we bare our souls.
We come into God's presence with a spirit of hope.
We come with thanksgiving, for our God is good;
we worship the Faithful One, the Merciful,
whose love endures forever.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"
Refrain only

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, Wind, Wind on the sea.

OPENING PRAYER: *(responsively)*

In gratitude we pray, God of all, and with praise we sing for the outpouring of your love, a love that is patient and purposeful, generous and full of grace. May our worship be life-changing, and may our lives be worshipful.

Here where we are and wherever we may go from here, may your presence be known in the spirits of all. Never may it be confined within these walls, and always may you be experienced in all, through all, and with abundant joy.
For there is nowhere we can go where you are not already there, and always, your presence is peace.
This is our assurance; this is our amen.
We sing our alleluia…
Amen

PSALM 100 Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing
Refrain 1 VU Page 824

Refrain:
Enter God's gates with thanks and praise

Shout to God, all the earth:
worship with gladness and joy.
Come before God with laughter,
our maker to whom we belong
To the Shepherd who tends us like sheep,
let us raise our voices in song.
Come to God's gates with thanks;
come to God's courts with praise.
Praise and bless God's name.
"Truly you are good:
you are always gracious,
and faithful age after age."

Refrain:
Enter God's gates with thanks and praise

***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:** "The Church Is Wherever God's People" VU #579

The church is wherever God's people are praising,
singing God's goodness for the joy on this day.
The church is wherever disciples of Jesus
remember his story and walk in his way.

The church is wherever God's people are helping,
caring for neighbors in sickness and need.
The church is wherever God's people are sharing
the words of the bible in gift and in deed.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

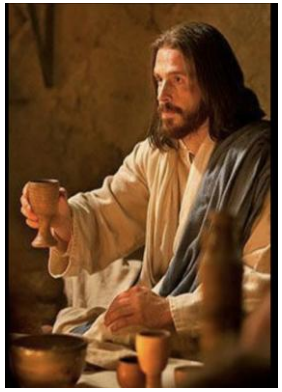
God, you write of love on our hearts, and so we now pray as did Paul, that we receive the Spirit of wisdom and revelation. As we listen and reflect, may our hearts be enlightened with trust and with truth, and with the hope that is the help of all, the coming of the kingdom of heaven. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS: *Judy Losier*

Ezekiel 34:11-24	God searches for the sheep
Matthew 25:31-46	When you helped the least of these, you helped me

SERMON: A greater love





GIFT OF MUSIC: "I am the Dream"

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS *Bev Murphy*

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

We do not always see the need of the world, but in knowing of our own, we can grow in empathy and compassion when we widen our gaze. Here we hope to widen our reach, by faithfully and in trust giving of ourselves. With widened hearts and thanks for the gift of grace, 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)*

What you have done for the world, O God, is to create a place of plenty. You have done the same with our hearts and spirits. So, continue to bless us and all that we do, bless these offerings that they be a blessing. These things we pray as followers of Jesus, these things we do in remembrance of him, these things we share with the Christ that is in all. Amen

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF JESUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN**: VU #681

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife,
we hear your words of life again.

In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds, dark with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.

The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long these multitudes to view
the strong compassion of your face.

O Jesus, from the mountainside,
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide;
and tread the city's streets again,

till all the world shall learn your love
and follow where your feet have trod,
till glorious from your heaven above
shall come the city of our God.

COMMISSIONING and BENEDICTION

***CHORAL CLOSING:** "May the God of Peace" MV #224

May the God of peace and of all good,
may the God of peace and of all good
be always with you. Amen!
May God's peace be with you. Amen!

SHARING THE LIGHT

(The Christ Candle and Affirming Candle are extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

Christmas Hymn Sing – Sunday, December 6th



Celebrate the joy and spirit of the Christmas season with us at **First United Church, 309 St. Patrick Street on Sunday, December 6th at 2:00 p.m.** for our annual Christmas Hymn Sing!

Once again, we are delighted to welcome the combined choirs of First United Church, Bathurst, and Central United Church, Clifton. Special guests this year include **The Treble Makers, In Harmony** and local musical group **Catalyst**.

And there's more! Everyone is invited to join in singing their favourite Christmas carols as we share the music and traditions that make this season so special.

Tickets are $10.00 each and are available from choir members or through the First United Church office. A limited number of tickets will also be available at the door.

A portion of this year's proceeds will support the **First United Church Pantry**. A reception will follow the concert.

Come and enjoy an afternoon of music, singing, fellowship, and Christmas cheer. **All are warmly welcome!**

This Week at First United Church		
Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday to Friday		
Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
	9:00 AM	Ways & Mean Team - RMR
Tuesday	9:30 AM-11:30 AM	Quilters – DEMH Downstairs office
	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Knitters & Rug Hookers – RMR
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Thursday	**Turkey Supper Take Out – 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM Eat In – 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM**	
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market – GYM
Sunday	3:00 PM	Emerald City String Quartet Church Sanctuary

Peanut Butter – Once again this year our goal is to collect 1,000 jars of peanut butter to donate to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. Due to an unexpected computer issue, we are unable to give you an accurate count this week. However, we are very close to hitting our target. **Thank you!**



On Friday, November 13th, a ***Peanut Butter & "Jam"*** session was held with a variety of music performed by The Treble Makers.



Not only was it an enjoyable afternoon, but thanks to their performance the pantry received a full blue bin of pantry items and 25+ jars of peanut butter. ***Thank you so very much to Linda Knowles MacPherson and her group!***

Ecumenical Advent Devotional Group: Along with St. Lukes Presbyterian and St. George's Anglican, planning has begun for a time of devotions during Advent. Gatherings will take place on three Thursday afternoons, December 3rd (at St. Lukes), 10th (at First UC) and 17th (at St. George's), and include creativity, singing, prayer and reflection. The tentative time will be from 1:30 to 3:00. Participants will receive a booklet called "Sing a New Song", produced by The Presbyterian Church in Canada. All are welcome! This a great opportunity to share your faith and build connections. Please let Rev. David know if you are interested.

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.

> When your generous giving and actions care for the hungry, give clean water to the thirsty, welcome the lonely and the different, provide for the poor, and visit the prisoner, you are actually giving generously to Jesus.

Turkey Supper will be held on Thursday, November 26th

Take out will be from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM
Eat in will be from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM

Tickets are $18 for adults and $6 for children. As there are a limited number of tickets, they will be sold on a first come-first served basis. Please contact a member of the *Ways & Means Team* or drop by the church office from 9 AM to 3 PM Monday to Friday.

Sponsored by
Kenny's Trucking Ltd. & Shine House
(A Division of Stothart Automotive)

"Share in the Joy of Christmas" by adding light and meaning to our Christmas Services. Sign up in groups of two or more (grandparent/grandchild, parent/child, Duos, etc.) While one person lights the Advent Candle, the other(s) reads a few lines.

Available dates include the following:
December 6th, and 24th at 4 PM

Please sign up on flip chart located in the narthex.

Community News

St. George's Anglican Church Outreach Program is having a ***"Winter Coat Drive"***. You can drop them off at the church or call Cathy Gallagher at 506-543-1401.

St. Lukes Presbyterian Church, 395 Murray Ave. will be hosting the following events:

- Saturday November 28th from 9 am to 1 pm book and yard sales
- Saturday December 5th from 9 am to 1:30 pm Everything Christmas Bazaar with soup and tea biscuit luncheon. A variety of baked goods, etc. will be available for purchase.
- Saturday December 12th from 9 am to 1 pm Christmas Bazaar
- Sunday December 13th from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm Christmas Concert with members of the Bathurst Community Band flute, clarinet, and woodwind ensembles.

Thank you!

On behalf of the "Lesotho Initiative" Committee of ASD - N, a special 'thank you' is extended to the congregation of First United Church who supported our recent calendar drive. A total of 190 "Help Lesotho" 2027 calendars were sold, and this will raise $ 2850. for the work of "Help Lesotho" with Grandmothers and vulnerable children in the tiny mountain kingdom of Lesotho, Africa. Since 2006, this initiative has raised over $158,000. for the work of "Help Lesotho". (There are additional calendars available for anyone else who would like to support this cause. Contact - Gary Branch - egbranch@rogers.com – (506-546-9208))

SCRIPTURE READINGS – New International Version

Ezekiel 34:11-24 NIV

11 "'For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. **12** As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. **13** I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. **14** I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. **15** I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. **16** I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

17 "'As for you, my flock, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will judge between one sheep and another, and between rams and goats. **18** Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture? Must you also trample the rest of your pasture with your feet? Is it not enough for you to drink clear water? Must you also muddy the rest with your feet? **19** Must my flock feed on what you have trampled and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

20 "'Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. **21** Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, **22** I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. **23** I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. **24** I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

Matthew 25:31-46 NIV

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with
him, he will sit on his glorious throne. **32** All the nations will be
gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from
another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **33** He will
put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are
blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared
for you since the creation of the world. **35** For I was hungry and you
gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something
to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, **36** I needed clothes
and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in
prison and you came to visit me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you
hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to
drink? **38** When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or
needing clothes and clothe you? **39** When did we see you sick or in
prison and go to visit you?'

40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of
the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who
are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his
angels. **42** For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was
thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, **43** I was a stranger and
you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me,
I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or
thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did
not help you?'

45 "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of
the least of these, you did not do for me.'

46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous
to eternal life."