

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

June 23, 2024

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Beth Sullivan & Gary Branch
Audio & Visual Technicians Shirley Allain & Donald Eddy

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
1 Samuel 17:57—18:5, 10-16 Psalm 133 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 Mark 4:35-41	2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 Psalm 130 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 Mark 5:21-43
<i>Today's bulletins are placed in honour of Isabel MacLaggan, who will be celebrating her 94th birthday on Friday, June 28th, placed by "The Ladies CH Badminton Group".</i>	

The asterisk * identifies those times in the service where you are invited to present yourselves, body, mind, and spirit, as is comfortable for you today...

GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

WELCOME & TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (in unison)

...As we gather to worship, let's respectfully pause to remember we live 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 live in peace and in friendship with its people.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (responsively)

The Christ Candle is lit..

Shine on us, Holy One. Warm us. Transform us.

Smile through us.

Touch others with love through our actions.

Run errands that help others with our energy.

Bless others through the words we share.

Shine through us. Now and always.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP – "There Is Room for All" – MV #62

*There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;
there is room for all, sheltered in God's love.
And I rejoice and sing,
"My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."
There is room for all, there is room for all!*

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Loving One,

welcome us in.

Peaceful One,

calm our hearts.

Strong One,

lift us up.

Truthful One,

focus our minds.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN –**

“Water Flowing from the Mountains”

MV #87

Water flowing from the mountains.
Water flowing o’er the earth.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water gives us birth.

Refrain

Drink deep this source of life.

Drink deep and know.

*For living water sings, and living water brings
the love that makes our spirit grow.*

Water rushing down the rivers.
Water rushing to the sea.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water makes us free.

Refrain

Water springing from the dry place.
Water springing in the sun.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water for each one.

Refrain

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

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.***

SHARING A STORY *(with those of all ages)*

It’s OK to be Different

***SINGING A SONG –** “Draw the Circle Wide”

MV #145

Refrain

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

*Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.*

God the still point of the circle,
’round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God’s gracious arms.

Refrain

Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God’s call.

Refrain

Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we’ve ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door.

Refrain

CELEBRATING THE COVENANT OF BAPTISM

***BAPTISMAL HYMN -**

- VU #644

“I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry”

[Participants gather near baptismal font during hymn.]

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word,
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young.
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your bawling cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Statement of Purpose

Presentation of Candidates

(Martha Vickers, Interim Chair of Christian Development Team)

On behalf of the Community of Faith of First United Church, I present the following persons for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism:

Sally Eileen Ronalds

Logan Noah Aubie Doucet

Profession of Faith and Promises

***Congregational Commitment** *(responsively)*

As the Community of Faith of First United Church, do you commit yourselves to support and nurture these persons within a community which worships God, loves and serves others, seeks justice, and resists evil?

We do, by the grace of God.

***Affirmation of Faith:** "A New Creed"

VU #918 (Part 1)
(in unison)

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water *(responsively)*

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give thanks and praise.

...Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do here, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ.

Amen.

The Act of Baptism *(responsively)*

Sally Eileen Ronalds,

I baptize you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Marking with the Sign of the Cross *(responsively)*

Sally, child of God, from this day forward, you bear the sign of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Laying On of Hands *(responsively)*

Sally, may the Holy Spirit, Love's power, guide you, inspire you, and work within you, all the days of your life.

Amen.

Placement of Banner Sheep

Lighting of a Candle *(responsively)*

[Baptismal Candle is lit from Christ Candle, signifying the light of Christ, and as a reminder of the link between baptism and Easter.]

Sally, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works, and give glory to God.

Amen.

[The candle is passed to the newly baptized.]

Presentation of a Bible *(responsively)*

Sally, receive this Bible and hear what the Spirit is saying to you and the Church.

Amen.

[A Bible is presented to the newly baptized.]

Declaration and Congregational Welcome

[A Certificate of Baptism is given to the newly baptized.]

In the name of Jesus Christ, Sally has been received into the holy catholic church, the body of Christ in the world.

[The Community of Faith is invited to applaud.]

Blessing *(responsively)*

Sally, the grace of Christ attend you, the love of God surround you, the Holy Spirit keep you.

Amen.

The Act of Baptism *(responsively)*

Logan Noah Aubie Doucet,

I baptize you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Marking with the Sign of the Cross *(responsively)*

Logan, child of God, from this day forward, you bear the sign of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Laying On of Hands *(responsively)*

Logan, may the Holy Spirit, Love's power, guide you, inspire you, and work within you, all the days of your life.

Amen.

Placement of Banner Sheep

Lighting of a Candle *(responsively)*

[Baptismal Candle is lit from Christ Candle, signifying the light of Christ, and as a reminder of the link between baptism and Easter.]

Logan, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works, and give glory to God.

Amen.

[The candle is passed to the newly baptized.]

Presentation of a Bible *(responsively)*

Logan, receive this Bible and hear what the Spirit is saying to you and the Church.

Amen.

[A Bible is presented to the newly baptized.]

Declaration and Congregational Welcome

[A Certificate of Baptism is given to the newly baptized.]

In the name of Jesus Christ, Logan has been received into the holy catholic church, the body of Christ in the world.

[The Community of Faith is invited to applaud.]

Blessing *(responsively)*

Logan, the grace of Christ attend you, the love of God surround you, the Holy Spirit keep you.

Amen.

[Participants return to their places]

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAN FAITH

(also known as Confirmation)

Presentation of Candidates

(Martha Vickers, Interim Chair of Christian Development Team)

[Participants gather near baptismal font as their names are called.]

For Candidates who have been baptized

On behalf of the Community of Faith of First United Church, I present the following persons who seek to renew the faith proclaimed in their baptism:

Mya Cameron Brewster
Weston Henry Brewster
Alexa Blair Chamberlain
Lane Carlen Dempsey
Brooke Janelle Knowles

Chloe Gwenyth McLellan
Lia Anita McLellan
Autumn Elizabeth Ronalds
Grace Margaret Ronalds
Brenda Jean Gilliss
Kenneth Lavigne Jr.

For Candidates, baptized and confirmed, wishing to reaffirm their baptismal faith

On behalf of the Community of Faith of First United Church, I present the following person who seeks to reaffirm publicly the faith proclaimed in her baptism and confirmation:

Doris Irene Alexander

Profession of Faith and Promises

***Congregational Commitment** *(responsively)*

Let's pledge to these siblings of ours our continued support and care.

We will continue to support you, walk with you, and grow with you. With God's help, we will live out our baptism as a loving community in Jesus Christ: nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer, encouraging one another in God's work.

***Affirmation of Faith:** "A New Creed" VU #918 (Parts 1 & 2)
(in unison)

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

[Participants return to their places]

The Act of Renewal of Baptismal Faith

[Those renewing their baptismal faith are invited to remember their baptism through "asperges," the ceremonial sprinkling of water with an evergreen branch, accompanied by the words, "Remember your baptism and be thankful."]

Laying On of Hands *(responsively)*

[The candidates kneel, as they are able. The presider and other participants place their hands on the head of each candidate. A prayer for the Holy Spirit is offered.]

[Full Name], remember your baptism and be thankful.

Ceremonial Sprinkling of Water, followed by kneeling as able and Laying On of Hands

[Name], the power of the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may continue to be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ.

Amen

Presentation of a Bible/Book & Certificate of Confirmation/Certificate of Reaffirmation of Faith

Prayer for the Candidates *(responsively)*

[Candidates return to the front facing the Community of Faith]

Holy One,
we have been called by name.
We pray today for your blessing on these wonderful people.
Watch over them and guide them, as they continue to grow in faith.
Remind us of the promises of our own baptism, and renew our trust in you. Strengthen us, we pray, to do your will and to serve with joy through the power of the Spirit.

Amen

Blessing *(responsively)*

The grace of Christ attend you,
the love of God surround you,
the Holy Spirit keep you.
Go into the world in the power of the Spirit.
Pursue justice, faith, love, patience, and humility,
for to this, you've been called.

Amen

[Participants return to their places]

Welcoming New Members

[New members come forward and face the Community of Faith]

Presentation of Candidates

(Martha Vickers, Interim Chair of Christian Development Team)

On behalf of First United Church, I present the following persons whom we welcome into the membership of this community of faith:

Ellen Lynn O'Neil

Dawn May Yao

Commitment of New Members

***Congregational Commitment** *(responsively)*

Friends in Christ, let's pledge to Ellen and Dawn our support and care.

**As your siblings in Christ,
we rejoice in the gifts you bring.
We pledge to you our love and support.
With God's help, together, we'll live out the ministry of
Christ's church.**

***Profession of Faith:** "A New Creed" – VU #918 *(in unison)*

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.
We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has
come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make
new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Welcome

Presentation of a Book and Certificate of Membership by Transfer

Blessing (*responsively*)

The grace of Christ attend you, the love of God surround you, the Holy Spirit keep you. Knowing always, all who are united in the covenant of baptism are the Body of Christ in the world.

Go in peace.

Amen

***Response** – "Halle, Halle, Halle" – VU #958

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallejajah!

[Participants return to their places]

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Anne Wilson

Psalm 133

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Ronalds family

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE OFFERING IS GATHERED

***OFFERING RESPONSE** –

VU #541

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.***

***OFFERING PRAYER** (*in unison*)

**Holy One,
we bring forward our best.
Use it, we pray,
to help our church, our community, and the world.
Amen**

COMMUNING

***COMMUNION HYMN** – "I Am the Bread of Life" MV #201 (3X)

I am the bread of life broken for the world,
I am the cup poured out for all.
Those who believe in me will never die.
I am the life of the world.

***GREETING ONE ANOTHER** (*responsively*)

...The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

INSTRUCTIONS

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*responsively*)

What does the Holy One require of us?

To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

Then let's remember the Spirit's ways

and seek to walk them together.

...In companionship with all creatures, we are one in gratitude for the gift and mystery of life, and one in longing for a world reborn.

Creator and Friend,

we give praise for your presence in and with Creation, ever drawing it towards healing and wholeness.

In our joy, you are the overflowing cup; in our need, you're the bread by which we journey on.

With all who abide in your presence and care, we lift our voices to sing:

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

MV #203

***O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heaven, creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always!***

...We remember Jesus:

On Good Friday he died.

On Easter he rose again.

Today—he lives forever!

THE LORD'S PRAYER – VU #916 (A Paraphrase) *(in unison)*

Eternal Spirit,

Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be.

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

**The hallowing of your name
echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world!**

**Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!**

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever.**

"Great Amen"

MV #205

Amen, amen, O Holy One!

Hosanna and Amen!

Amen, amen, O Holy One,

Hosanna and Amen!

Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.

Jesus Christ, the True Vine.

Congregational Response – "Amen" or "Thanks be to God"

GIFT OF MUSIC – "Come Touch Our Hearts"

(while the elements are distributed)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(in unison)*

**For the bread we have eaten,
for the juice we have tasted,
for the life we have received,
we thank you God.**

**Grant that what we've done
and been given here,
may so put its mark on us,
that it will always remain in our hearts.**

**Grant that we may grow
in Christian love and understanding,
and that ours may be lives of faithful action,
now and always.
Amen**

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** – “Like a Healing Stream”

MV #144

Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth...
like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation,
yearning for an end to want and need...
like a gentle rain.

Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel in a new direction,
calling for an end to hate and war...
like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide!
Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,
like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL SENDING FORTH** – “Lift Us Up, Send Us Out”

*Lift us up, send us out
as we now go in peace
and our worship and living entwine.
May God's presence be near
and may concord increase
when our hope and our actions combine.*

*Be the salt, be the light
and let each be a sign
that our caring will highlight the way.
Share a meal, plant a tree,
let our faith underline
that by giving, our love is conveyed.*

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The Christ Candle is extinguished.

POSTLUDE

Church News

Summer church office hours are now in effect until after the Labour Day Weekend in September. The office will now be open Monday to Thursday 9 AM to 3 PM – closed Friday

Please note the office will be closed between 1 and 2 PM on Monday.

Peanut Butter – Once again this year we have set a goal of **900 jars** of peanut butter to donate to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. Up to June 20th, 2024 we have collected 376 jars. We have funds on hand to purchase another 60 jars in the next couple of weeks.

The **Profile Committee** will meet Monday, June 24th at 7PM in the RMR

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 / adherents 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.

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9:7

Preserve our heritage. Create our future. Please remember The United Church of Canada in your estate plans.

Help Needed for West Bathurst Cemetery – As soon as the Eddy Group receives the okay to clean up the site of the recent fire, the West Bathurst Cemetery will need help to remove about a dozen trees along the bank neighbouring the Eddy property. We will need workers to operate chain saws, move limbs, etc. and possible trucks and trailers to move some of the limbs to the city compost site. If you are willing to help, please give your name to Gary Branch, Lester Scott, or the church secretary

Community News

Stonehaven New Bandon Union Cemetery Service will be held on **Sunday, June 30th at 2 PM** at the Community Chapel in Stonehaven. The service will be led by the Rev. Paul Gwese. Offering from this service may be designated to cemetery maintenance, chapel restoration or perpetual care fund.

St. George's Anglican Church will be hosting the **Hospitality Days Breakfast** on Saturday, July 20th from 8 AM to 10AM. Tickets to be sold in advance by dropping into the Church Office or calling 506-546-3225. Adults – \$10 and Children under 12 - \$5

Bathurst Community Market will be celebrating their **First Anniversary** of serving the community in the Donald Eddy Memorial Hall on Saturday, June 29th. The Property Management Team of First United Church would like to thank the Market Group for working with them and also congratulate them on their success.

50th Anniversary – Central United Church

Remember the Past,

Celebrate the Present, Grow the Future

You are invited to join the Congregation of Central United, Clifton NB to celebrate the 50th anniversary of ministry

Sunday, July 7th, 2024 during the 10:00 am worship service

Community News

A summer kids' event called Scuba VBS will be hosted at *St. Lukes Presbyterian Church*, 395 Murray Avenue, Bathurst from **July 22 to July 26**, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. At Scuba, kids explore what it means to have a friendship with God, participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible adventures, and test out sciency-fun experiments that get imagination bubbling. Family members and friends are encouraged to join-in daily for this special time at 11:30. Scuba is for kids from 4 to 12 and we welcome teenagers to volunteer as crew leaders. For more information, call 506-546-4645 or email stlukes@bellaliant.com.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 133

The Blessedness of Unity

1 How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

May the Spirit bless to our understanding this significant part of our Christian story...

