

*The United Church of Canada*  
*Bathurst Pastoral Charge*  
**First United Church, Bathurst**  
[www.firstunited-bathurst.ca](http://www.firstunited-bathurst.ca)

**August 18, 2024**

**Supervising Clergy** Rev. Blair Lewis      **Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Margaret Daniels      **Custodian** Lester Scott  
**Greeters** Shirley Allain and Gary Branch  
**Audio & Visual Technicians** Ralph Jamieson & Donald Eddy

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<u><b>Lectionary for today</b></u>	<u><b>Lectionary for next Sunday</b></u>
1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 Psalm 111 Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58	1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11) 22-30, 41-43 Psalm 84 Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69
We welcome and thank Helen Knowles who is leading us in worship this morning	

*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)*

One: As we join in worship, we prepare to light the Christ Candle, as a symbolic reminder

**All: that Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

One: May its flame also remind us

**All: that the presence of Christ is always in our midst.**

One: May the light of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

*The Christ candle is lit...*

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP** – "Praise to the Lord" – VU #835

*(Verse 1)*

***Praise to the Lord, all of you, God's servants.  
Blessed be the name of our God now and ever.  
From the rising up of the sun  
May the Lord be praised,  
praise to the name of the Lord!***

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** *(responsively)*

One: God, we give you thanks for creating the world in all its diversity.

**All: You created mountains & plains, deserts & rain forests, birds of the air, fish in the sea & all the animals of the land.**

One: God has made each of us unique .... some tall, some short, some strong, others weak, some male & some female.

**All: Like the colors of the rainbow, we are united by God's love.**

One: Come, let us worship God.

**GATHERING PRAYER:**

**\*GATHERING HYMN:** "Come Let Us Sing" VU #222

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION/HUMILITY:** *(in unison)*

**God, we confess that often we close our hearts & minds to the needs of others. We ignore the cries of our neighbors. We turn a blind eye to problems in our own country & overseas. We feel that we are helpless & there is nothing we can do. For this short-sightedness, forgive us, O God. Your promises, like the one made to Noah, are forever. Amen.**

**CHORAL RESPONSE – "Take, O Take Me as I Am"** MV #85

*Take, O take me as I am;  
summon out what I shall be;  
set your seal upon my heart  
and live in me, in me*

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

Let us greet one another in the name in which we gather, the One who is our peace

...Peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**\*SINGING A SONG:** "The Church is Wherever God's People" VU #579

*ENGAGING*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** Isabel MacLaggan

**Old Testament:** Genesis 9: 8-17 "God's Covenant with Noah"

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 25: 35-40 "Serving Christ"

**REFLECTION: "Taking Care of Our World"**

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**GIFT OF MUSIC**

*RESPONDING*

**YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS:** Martha Vickers

**INVITATION TO MAKE AN 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**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**The Lord's Prayer:**

**Our Father, 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, the power, and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

*GOING OUT (as Spirit people)*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

\***CLOSING HYMN:** "Though Ancient Walls" VU #691

\***COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

\***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 be open Monday to Thursday 9 AM to 3 PM – closed Friday.

**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 August 15th, 2024 we have collected 463 jars.

If you are aware of **anyone in the hospital or needing a visit from Rev. Lewis** let the office know (506-546-3532) and the message will be forwarded to him.

**Guest Speakers for the upcoming services:**

Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> – Cindy Doucet  
September 1<sup>st</sup> – Wayne Lord  
September 8<sup>th</sup> – Hugh Ellis  
September 15<sup>th</sup> – Sandra Boone  
September 22<sup>nd</sup> – TBA

Would you be available to be a **Greeter in September?** If so, advise the office (506-546-3532) that you would be willing to help. Thank you in advance.

**Community Outreach Request**

Over the summer, our pantry is becoming depleted so we are requesting food products to replenish content. We have lots of pasta on hand, so those products are not required. For more info, contact Helen Knowles (546-9563).

Genesis 9:8-17

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

<sup>8</sup> Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup> 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>11</sup> I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' <sup>12</sup> God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup> I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup> I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup> When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' <sup>17</sup> God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Matthew 25:35-40

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

<sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" <sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,<sup>[a]</sup> you did it to me."

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