

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

September 8, 2024

Supervising Clergy Rev. Blair Lewis **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Brenda Gilliss and Dawn Yao
Audio & Visual Technicians Shirley Allain & Donald Eddy

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

<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 Psalm 125 James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17 Mark 7:24-37	Numbers 21:4b-9 Psalm 98:1-5 1 Corinthians 1:18-24 John 3:13-17
Focus Scripture Today: Genesis 2:4b-25	
We welcome and thank Sandra Boone for leading us in worship this morning	
Today's bulletins have been placed in loving memory of James Knowles , whose death occurred September 11, 2008 by Joyce & Bill McLeod and family	

*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

We light a candle that affirms the diversity of God's people.

Before lighting the Christ Candle, you are invited to take a deep breath, and let it go. You are invited to take another breath, and let it go. And one more time, take a deep breath and let it go. Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

The Christ candle is lit...

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP – "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

VU #835 *(chorus)*

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

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsively)*

Those who trust in God,

stand fast forever.

Like a tree whose roots are deep in the soil,

it will not move.

Come, let us worship,

and give thanks to God.

GATHERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Holy One,

open our ears, open our hearts,

open our minds, open our mouths,

that we might hear, that we might receive,

that we might ponder, that we might proclaim

your awe and wonder.

In the name of the one who looks to heaven, sighs,

and says, "Be opened," we pray.

Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN - "Teach Me God to Wonder"**

VU#299

Teach me, God, to wonder, teach me, God, to see;
let your world of beauty capture me.

Refrain:

*Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,
life be celebrated, joy you give.*

Let me, God, be open, let me loving be;
let your world of people speak to me.

Refrain

Let me, God, be ready, let me be awake,
in your world of loving my place take.

Refrain

Teach me, God, to know you, hear you when you speak,
see you in my neighbour when we meet.

Refrain

PRAYER for TRANSFORMATION/HUMILITY *(responsively)*

Like a tree, we receive from the earth and send up to the sky as we inhale. Like a tree, we receive from the sky and send down into the earth as we exhale.

As we imagine that energy flowing through us earth to sky, sky to earth, we imagine the Spirit of God reconciling things in us that aren't where they belong: a harsh word, a cruel gesture, a mean thought, a stinginess of spirit. As we breathe, God is setting us to right relationship again, "justifying" us.

Like firm roots, God holds us close.

Like a breath of wind, God supports our reaching.

Like water and soil, God nourishes our growth.

We are reconciled; we are justified; we are made new.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL RESPONSE – "Don't Be Afraid"

MV #90

***Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger
and I have promised, promised to be always near.***

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

... "The peace of Christ be with you"

And also with you.

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

"Tree of Life – Grandparents Day"

***SINGING A SONG - "Like a Rock"**

MV# 92

Like a rock, like a rock,
God is under our feet.
Like the starry night sky
God is over our head.
Like the sun on the horizon
God is ever before.
Like the river runs to ocean,
Our home is in God evermore.

ENGAGING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Anne Wilson

Genesis 2:4b-25

REFLECTION – "Together We Worship"

Rev. Greg Powell

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Ronalds Family

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 (*responsively*)

For each new day of creation
when light rises over the eastern horizon;
For each bright evening
as stars and moon shine in the darkness;
For the breath of life that invigorates and sustains us;
For the rains, streams, oceans and lakes
that wash clean and renew;
For all creation in all its wonder and glory we sing:

Praise God! Praise God!

For promises of ancient days
made since the beginnings of creation;
For promises made to Abraham and Sarah;
For promises affirmed to Isaac and Rebekah,
Jacob and Rachael, Joseph and his siblings;
For promises made and kept we sing:

Praise God! Praise God!

For prayers heard and answered;
For a way of living given and received;
For release from captivity and slavery;
For abundance in the wilderness;
For a new life in a new land we sing:

Praise God! Praise God!

For companionship on the difficult journey;
For sages and wise ones who call us back to the path;
For mentors and teachers who remind us who we are;
For healers and caregivers who mend our wounds;
For prophets and radicals who make us accountable we sing:

Praise God! Praise God!

Source of all Being, Open our hearts and mouths to pray for the
church, the earth and all those in need...

Now we turn to you as a child turns to her mother, seeking
affirmation and comfort, praying the words Jesus taught us, each in
the language of our own hearts:

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

**Our Mother/Father/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** – “Spirit of Life, Come onto Me” VU# 381

Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to come, come to me.

***SENDING FORTH**

***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.*

*Text © Allan Baer, 2014
290 Indian Rd. Kingston ON Canada K7M 1T8
email: allanbaer7@gmail.com
website: www.crossroadsunited.ca/spirit*

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

Church News

This Week at First United Church		
Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday to Friday		
Monday	9:00 AM	Ways & Means Team RMR
Wednesday	Office closing at 2:45 re medical appointment	
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Thursday	7:00 PM	Christian Development Team RMR
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market

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 September 5th, 2024 we have collected 553 jars.

If you are aware of **anyone in the hospital or needing a visit**, please let the office know (506-546-3532) and the message will be forwarded to the Pastoral Care Team.

Back to School Request from the Community Outreach Team: If you are able, please donate school supplies, so that replenishing doesn't become the responsibility of teachers. The most required essentials include scribblers, pencils & erasers.

Guest Speakers for the upcoming services:

- September 15th – Hugh Ellis
- September 22nd – Rev. Kendall Harrison
- September 29th – Rev. Wendell Gregan

BBQ Beef Supper will be held on Thursday, September 19th.

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 now available - \$18.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children. As there are a limited number of tickets they will be sold on a first come basis. Please contact a member of the Ways & Means Committee or drop by the church office from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Sponsored by Hatheway Auto Group

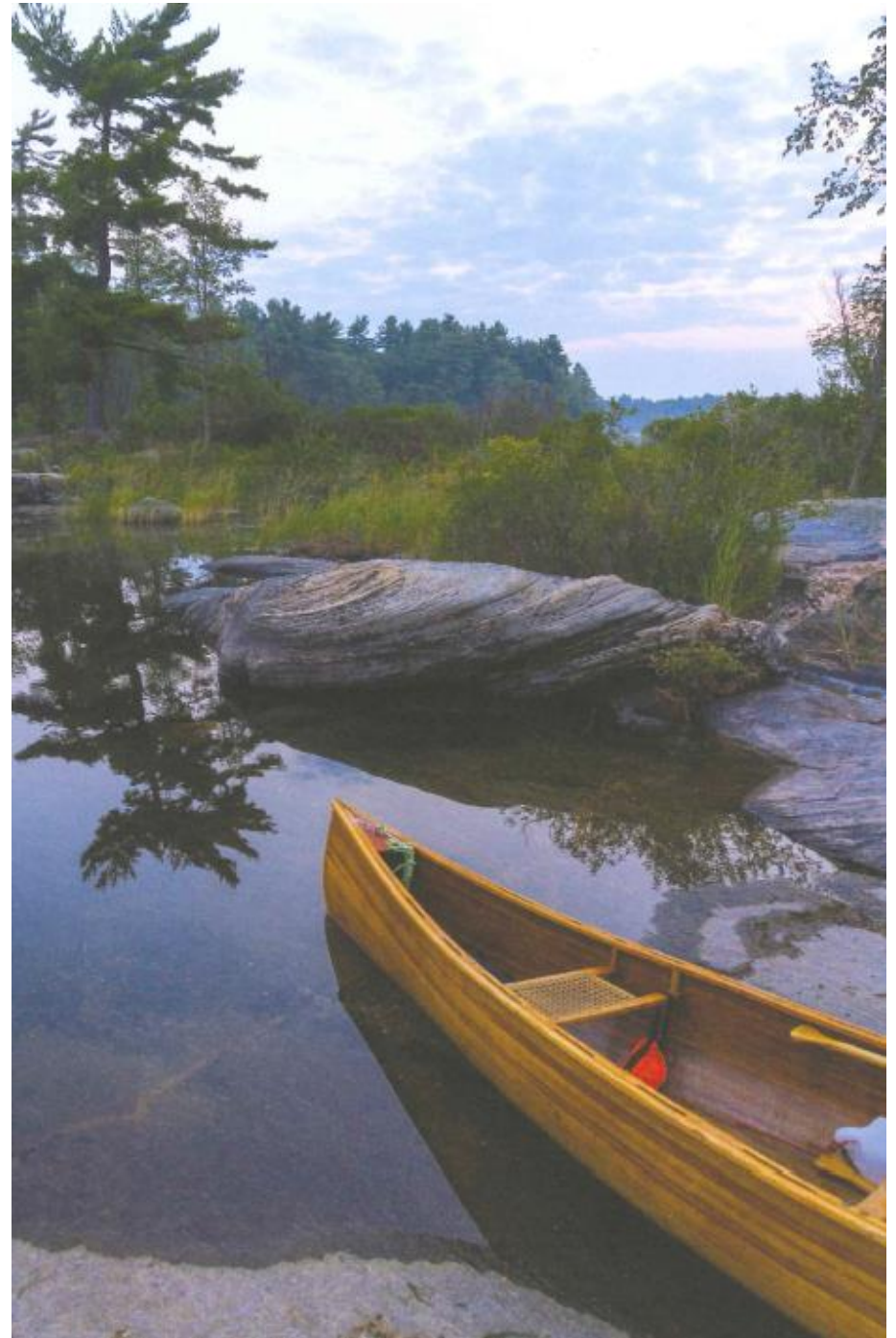
Community News

"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 2025 calendars for sale at a cost of \$15.00. You are invited to support this initiative with your donation. Gary Branch (506-546-9208) (egbranch@rogers.com) will be taking orders for these calendars until October 15, 2024. Payment can be made in advance by cash, cheque, or eTransfer, 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.

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, Sept. 14th from 8:00 – 10:00 am**. As this community event serves 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.

Join us for **St. George's Arts and Crafts Fair and Bake Sale** on Saturday, September 21st from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM at St. George's Hall, 432 King Avenue. Featuring hand knit & crocheted items, quilts, cushions, hangings, placemats, fabric by the bolt, yard and fat quarters, as well as assorted crafting supplies & books and jams, jellies, preserves and baked goods.



SCRIPTURE READING –

Genesis 2:4-25

Common English Bible

4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

World's creation in the garden

On the day the Lord God made earth and sky—

5 before any wild plants appeared on the earth, and before any field crops grew, because the Lord God hadn't yet sent rain on the earth and there was still no human being to farm the fertile land,

6 though a stream rose from the earth and watered all of the fertile land—

7 the Lord God formed the human from the topsoil of the fertile land and blew life's breath into his nostrils. The human came to life.

8 The Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east and put there the human he had formed.

9 In the fertile land, the Lord God grew every beautiful tree with edible fruit, and also he grew the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 A river flows from Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides into four headwaters.

11 The name of the first river is the Pishon. It flows around the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold.

12 That land's gold is pure, and the land also has sweet-smelling resins and gemstones.

13 The name of the second river is the Gihon. It flows around the entire land of Cush.

14 The name of the third river is the Tigris, flowing east of Assyria; and the name of the fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 The Lord God took the human and settled him in the garden of Eden to farm it and to take care of it.

16 The Lord God commanded the human, "Eat your fill from all of the garden's trees;

17 but don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because on the day you eat from it, you will die!"

18 Then the Lord God said, "It's not good that the human is alone. I will make him a helper that is perfect for him."

19 So the Lord God formed from the fertile land all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky and brought them to the human to see what he would name them. The human gave each living being its name.

20 The human named all the livestock, all the birds in the sky, and all the wild animals. But a helper perfect for him was nowhere to be found.

21 So the Lord God put the human into a deep and heavy sleep, and took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh over it.

22 With the rib taken from the human, the Lord God fashioned a woman and brought her to the human being.

23 The human said,

"This one finally is bone from my bones
and flesh from my flesh.

She will be called a woman

because from a man she was taken."

24 This is the reason that a man leaves his father and mother and embraces his wife, and they become one flesh.

25 The two of them were naked, the man and his wife, but they weren't embarrassed.

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