

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

September 29, 2024

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Supervising Clergy Rev. Blair Lewis **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Margaret Payne Chénard & Mike Kierstead
Audio & Visual Technicians Brenda Parrott & Donald Eddy

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"If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we would find in each man's life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility."

<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Ester 7:1-6, 6-9; 9:20-22 Psalm 19 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50	Job 1:1; 2:1-10 Psalm 26 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16
We welcome Wendell Gregan , DLM; MEd and thank him for leading us in worship this morning	
The bulletins today have been placed in loving memory of Bill McCallum by Dorothy Ann and family and Joy Wiseman by Randy, Holly and family	
One of the plants at the front of the church is in loving memory of Roger Fulton placed by Ann and family and the other plant is in loving memory of our parents Edith & Wilmot Hatheway placed by Hayden, Ann and families	

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

***GATHERING HYMN** - "Come and Find the Quiet Centre"

VU #374

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
 find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
 clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
 all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
 God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, face to face,
 making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
 raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
 let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
 there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
 in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

WELCOME & TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT *Wayne Lord*

...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.

NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

Orange Shirt Day Video

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE *(responsively)*

One: In this autumn season, we are grateful for glowing colours and mellow afternoons. Evenings shorten, sunset comes early, and, with the night, the chill creeps in.

All: As we light the Christ Candle, we remember and are thankful that, in all seasons, the light of Christ warms our hearts and homes.

The Christ candle is lit...

WE SING OF CHRIST'S LIGHT – "I Am the Light of the World"
VU #87 (*refrain*)

**"I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!"
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery
Of what you were meant to do and be.**

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsively*)

One: Now is the time of reflection;

All: God's Word will gently come home to us.

One: Now is the time of joyful praise;

All: we will not hold back our singing.

One: Now is the time for giving thanks;

**All: our hearts overflow as we remember our
Generous Creator.**

One: Now is the time to recall and then release our
anxieties;

All: God's peace will be our peace.

Let us worship God.

GATHERING PRAYER (*in unison*)

Inspired by Ephesians 5:9-14

**God who is constant, Love that is Light, your passion
shines upon us like the sun shines upon the earth; even in
darkness, light is present, even in our unseeing, light is
there. We open our eyes to perceive your offering, your
living, your giving. We want to unwrap our blindfolds of
hesitation offering to love, to serve, and to give so that all
may know the Love that is Light. With no obligation you
gift us pure light and love, asking only that we replace**

**doubts and fears with the good news of your loving. As
we begin our worship today, may we be immersed in your
light, in love without ending. In faith you grant all things,
we also pray as you taught ---**

THE LORD'S PRAYER – VU #921 (in unison)

**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.

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

***SINGING A SONG** - "We Are One"

VU #402

We are one as we come,
as we come, joyful to be here,
in the praise on our lips
there's a sense that God is near.

We are one as we sing,
as we seek, we are found;
and we come needful of God's grace
as we meet, together in this place.

We are one as we share,
as we share brokenness and fear,
in the touch of a hand
there's a sense that God is here.

We are one as we care,
as we heal, we are healed;
and we share warmth in God's embrace
as we pray together in this place.

We are one as we feast,
as we feast, peace becomes the sign;
in the bread and the wine
there's a sense of love divine.
We are one as we come,
as we feed, we are fed;
and we feel God's refreshing grace
as we meet at table in this place.

We are one as we hear,
as we hear, heart and hand unite;
in the word we receive
there's a sense that God is light.
We are one as we leave,
as we love, we are loved;
and we seek justice in God's ways
as we move together from this place.

ENGAGING

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *(in unison)*

God of Holy Mystery, beyond complete knowledge, above perfect description. So God creates the universe, and with it the possibility of being and relating. We sign of God the Spirit, faithful and untameable, who is creatively and redemptively active in the world. The risen Christ lives today, present to us, and the source of our hope. In response to who Jesus was, and all he did and taught, to his life, death, and resurrection, and to his continuing presence with us through the Spirit, we celebrate him as the Word made flesh, the one in whom God and humanity are perfectly joined, the transformation of our lives, the Christ. Grateful for God's loving action, we cannot keep from singing. Creating and seeking relationship, in awe and trust, we witness to holy Mystery who is Wholly Love. Amen

Taken from Iona Community Worship Book

CHORAL RESPONSE – “Spirit of the Living God”

VU #376

***Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.***

***Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
Make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:
Humble, caring selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!***

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Gary Branch

The age-old story comes to us once again, Holy God. May it be as fresh and new this year as it was once before. Open our hearts and minds to the call and comfort of your Word so that we can become all that we can be as followers of the Way of Jesus.
Amen

READING OF THE PSALM

Gary Branch

Psalm 19

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Wendell Gregan

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC – “Wake, O My Soul”

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS *(formerly Minute for Mission)*

Judy Losier

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

Creator God, take these gifts of money that represent the fruits of our love for you, for our community, and for our congregation. Use these gifts as you use us to spread your message of love throughout the world.

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)*

**Your many gifts surround us each day from
each breath we take to the bounty of our lives.
Receive these gifts, which we offer with faith,
so this community may continue to be strong
and so that our faith may reach out from this place
in acts of peace and justice. We ask it in Jesus’ name.
Amen**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wayne Lord

*CLOSING HYMN – “Go to the World”

VU #420

Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life’s worth,
baptising as the sign of our rebirth.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the Word of God’s redeeming grace.
Go seek God’s presence in each time and space.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Go to the world! Go struggle, bless and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant Church, you follow Christ’s own way.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you ‘til the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry “Amen”!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

*COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION:

Let by the Spirit, we go into the world
not as conquerors, but as servants.
With the humility of Christ our Saviour,
may we dedicate ourselves to being
the first fruits of the new creation
and to caring for the creation that surrounds us.
In the name of God our Creator,
Jesus our brother,
and the Holy Spirit our companion,
we go forth to live the gospel. Amen.

*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
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(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	Office Closed – National Day of Truth & Reconciliation	
Tuesday	1:00PM – 3:00 PM	Knitting Group - RMR
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
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 26th, 2024 we have collected 670 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.

The Rev. Ivan Gregan, BA, MDiv (retired) has agreed to lead our services and provide us with 1 day per week of pastoral care beginning in October and concluding after the Christmas Services.

Thanksgiving – October 13th, 2024 - Anyone wishing to contribute items to decorate the church is encouraged to bring them in by *3PM Thursday October 10th*. Thank you in advance.

Thank You: The Ways and Means team would like to express a sincere thank you to all who helped in anyway with our BBQ Roast Beef Supper. Because of the generous sponsorship of Hatheway Group of Companies, the Ways and Means team realized a profit of \$4,905.83.

The Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for the life of Don Tozer will be held at Elhatton’s chapel on Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 2 PM. A reception will be held at Elhatton’s following the service.

Community News

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George’s Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, October 12th 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.

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.

Community News

Wednesday, October 2nd at 1 PM the **Bathurst Heritage Museum** will host, in collaboration with the **Bathurst Public Library**, a celebration to kick off **“Canadian Library Month”**. An exhibit with artifacts will honour the literary works of Mary Jane Losier and Celine Pinet on the Tracadie Leprosy Colony. This will be followed by the wonderful variety of music by the **“Treble Makers”**. Selections will include songs such as “Sail Along Silvery Moon”, “Blueberry Hill”, “Yellow Bird”, “Tous les Violons D’Acadie”, some instrumental music, toe tapping jigs, reels and me.

There is no admission fee – however, a good will donation towards the museum is always appreciated.

The Anglican Parish of New Bandon will be holding a **Talent Night** on **Saturday, October 5th** beginning at 6:30 p.m. at **Christ Church Hall in Clifton**. Admission is \$10 for adults, children 13 and under, free. We look forward to seeing you for some laughs and a time of fellowship.

READING OF THE PSALM

(New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised)

PSALM 19

God's Glory in Creation and the Law

To the leader. A Psalm of David.

- 1** The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
- 2** Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
- 3** There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
- 4** yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
5 which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
- 6** Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hidden from its heat.
- 7** The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple;
- 8** the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
- 9** the fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring for ever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.
- 10** More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.
- 11** Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

- 12** But who can detect their errors?

Clear me from hidden faults.

- 13** Keep back your servant also from the insolent;

do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless,

and innocent of great transgression.

- 14** Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

be acceptable to you,

O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

JAMES 5:13-20

The Prayer of Faith

- 13** Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful?

They should sing songs of praise.

- 14** Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.

15 The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

16 Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

17 Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.

18 Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

19 My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another,

20 you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

MARK 9:38-50

Another Exorcist

38 John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.'

39 But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me.'

40 Whoever is not against us is for us.

41 For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

Temptations to Sin

42 'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea.'

43 If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.

45 And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.

47 And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell,

48 where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

49 'For everyone will be salted with fire.'

50 Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'