

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

**December 24, 2024 – 7 PM**

**Interim Minister** Rev. Ivan Gregan **Music Director** Martha Vickers

**Office Adm.** Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott

**Greeters** Julie & Harvey Spence

**Audio & Visual Technicians** Shirley Allain & Donald Eddy

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 139 Luke 2:1-14	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52
The bulletins this evening have been placed in honour of our First United Church Family who support our ongoing ministry in many ways & a <b>fond "farewell"</b> and " <b>many thanks</b> " to <b>Rev. Ivan</b> ~ Isabel MacLaggan~	
The bulletins this evening have been placed in loving memory of: <b>Edgar Brown</b> by his wife Heléne <i>Wishing you peace and love – You'll always be with me.</i> & Parents, <b>Bette &amp; Sprague Wiseman</b> , nephew, <b>Trevor Wiseman</b> by Melony, Colin 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**

**"O HOLY NIGHT"**

*Amanda Godin*

**PROCLAMATION FROM ISAIAH 9:2**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
On those living in the land of the shadow of death,  
the light has dawned!

**INTROIT**

***Il est né, le divin Enfant***  
***Jouez haut-bois, résonnez musettes,***  
***Il est né, le divin Enfant!***  
***Chantons tous son avènement!***

***Through long ages of the past,***  
***prophets have foretold his coming,***  
***Through long ages of the past,***  
***now the time has come at last!***

***Il est né, le divin Enfant***  
***Jouez haut-bois, résonnez musettes,***  
***Il est né, le divin Enfant!***  
***Chantons tous son avènement!***

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** *(responsively)*

Christ is born! Hallelujah!  
**Christ is born indeed! Hallelujah!**  
 Amen! Let us worship God.

**\*HYMN # 60 (VU) ADESTE FIDELES**  
**O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL / PEUPLE FIDÈLE**

**\*LIGHTING THE ADVENT & CHRIST CANDLES** *(responsively)*

Here, tonight, is the meeting place of heaven and earth.  
**Here, God keeps his appointment to meet his people.**

Into our world as into Mary's womb,  
**Come, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Into the forgotten places as into the stable,  
**Come, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Into our darkness as into the Bethlehem night,  
**Come, Lord Jesus Christ.**

And the Glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
**Come, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Light of the Universe, in the beginning You said,  
**"Let there be Light!"**

So tonight, your Light comes to dwell in our midst  
that we may behold the Presence of God.

With untiring voices may we proclaim your Glory  
as we, with all the Angels, sing your praises  
throughout the entire universe.

***Singing:***

***All Glory be to God on high  
and to the earth be peace!  
Good will henceforth from heaven to earth  
begin and never cease.***

*(Tune While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks – VU #75)*

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

**First Testament: Isaiah 9: 2-7**

**Psalms 139** *(Re-interpreted from a child's perspective)*

*As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us enter into his  
very Being.*

*Let us feel for him as the unseen child in the womb,  
sensing that the time for him to leave his place of safety is drawing  
near.*

*We do not know his thoughts, but the words of Psalm 139 might  
help us to imagine them.*

**\*HYMN # 74 (VU) WHAT CHILD IS THIS**

**Gospel: Luke 2:1-14**

**ANTHEM – I WONDER AS I WANDER**

**REFLECTION ON THE LESSONS**

**\*HYMN # 59 (VU) JOY TO THE WORLD**

*Our offerings will be received as we sing this hymn.*

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

**PASTORAL PRAYER and the LORD'S PRAYER**

**\*HYMN # 38 (VU) ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH**  
**LES ANGES DANS NOS CAMPAGNES**  
**AINGLEAN CHUALA SINN GU H-ARD**

**PARTING RUNE**

*From the Celtic Tradition*

God our Creator; God of surprises,  
**Shaping the sea, the stars, and the planets,  
gather us into your circle of love.**

God our Redeemer, Icon of caring,  
**Gurgling, crying, a Bethlehem babe,  
gather us into your circle of love.**

God our Inspirer, the Breather of Life  
**Flickering, dancing, like light in the dark,  
gather us into your circle of love.**

Great God, Three-in-One, Great God, One-in-Three,  
**Gather us into your circle of love.**

Hold us like Mary now holding her child,  
**Sweeping us gently up into your arms,**  
Hold us like Joseph now holding his bride,  
**Breaking traditions to stand by his love,**  
Hold us like shepherds now saving their lambs  
**Protect us in death, from danger and dread,**  
Hold us, your children, secure in your care.  
**Hold us, your children, secure in your care.**

*Translated – Seumas Eoin macGhrioghair*

## COMMISSIONING

Go into all the world, rejoicing in God,  
who this night has come to be with us.  
Go to meet God incarnated, God in human flesh,  
God among us. God is with us!

***Singing:*** *(Refrain VU #43) 2X*

***Go tell it on the mountain!  
Over the hills and everywhere!  
Go tell it on the mountain,  
that Jesus Christ is born!***

**BENEDICTION** \* *(in Gaelic, French and English)*

*...The sanctuary lights are dimmed...*

**\*CLOSING CAROL # 67 (VU) SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT**

*(The Advent Candles are extinguished.)*

**POSTLUDE** – “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”

*Refrain*

*We wish you a Merry Christmas (3X)*

*And a Happy New Year*

Good tidings we bring, to you and your kin  
We wish you a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year

*Refrain*

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

### New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

#### ISAIAH 9: 2-7

- 2** The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.
- 3** You have multiplied exultation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.
- 4** For the yoke of their burden  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- 5** For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- 6** For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders,  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- 7** Great will be his authority,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

#### LUKE 2:1-14

##### The Birth of Jesus

- 1** In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.
- 2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
- 3** All went to their own towns to be registered.
- 4** Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.
- 5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.
- 6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.
- 7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

##### The Shepherds and the Angels

- 8** Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.
- 9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.
- 10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
- 11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.
- 12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."
- 13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
- 14** "Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"