

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Joy! Joy!
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
and we are blest for evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

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.*

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

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

And also with you.

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

***SINGING A SONG** – “Joy Is Now in Every Place” VU #45

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S VOICE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Joanne Wiseman

Psalm 148 (Common English Bible)

This is the trustworthy witness of God's faithful people through the ages,

The divine word to us today. Amen.

REFLECTION – “Together We Worship” – Rev. Matthew Heesing

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC –

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Judy Losier

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

***OFFERING RESPONSE**

(Tune: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow)

*Praise God with songs that never cease,
Praise God who fills the earth with peace.
Praise God for love and joy within,
The Holy Child is born again.*

OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father/Mother/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.**

GOING OUT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** – “Once in Royal David’s City” VU #62

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who, with God is over all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
There among the poor and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

For he is our lifelong pattern;
daily, when on earth he grew,
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,
tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;

for that child who seemed so helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and He leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

***SENDING FORTH**

***CHORAL SENDING FORTH** – “May the God of Peace” – MV #224

***May the God of peace and of all good,
may the God of peace and of all good
be always with you. Amen!
May God’s peace be with you. Amen!***

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE



Church News

This Week at First United - Dec. 30 th to Jan. 4 th		
Monday	Office open 9 AM to 3 PM	
	Badminton will resume in January 2025	
Tuesday	Office closing as noon	
	Knitting will resume in January 2025	
Wednesday	New Year's Day – Office Closed	
Thursday	Office open 9 AM to 3 PM	
	Choir Practice will resume at 4:15 later in January 2025	
Friday	Office open 9 AM to 3 PM	
Saturday	8 AM to 1 PM	Bathurst Community Market – DEMH

Upcoming Services at First United:

January 5th ~ Epiphany Sunday
Service lead by Sandra Boone

January 12th ~ Baptism of the Lord
Service lead by Hugh Ellis

Community News

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on Saturday, January 11th 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.

Focus Scripture: Psalm 148 (Common English Bible)

148 Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from heaven!

Praise God on the heights!

2 Praise God, all of you who are his messengers!

Praise God, all of you who comprise his heavenly forces!

3 Sun and moon, praise God!

All of you bright stars, praise God!

4 You highest heaven, praise God!

Do the same, you waters that are above the sky!

5 Let all of these praise the LORD's name

because God gave the command and they were created!

6 God set them in place always and forever.

God made a law that will not be broken.

7 Praise the LORD from the earth,

you sea monsters and all you ocean depths!

8 Do the same, fire and hail, snow and smoke,

stormy wind that does what God says!

9 Do the same, you mountains, every single hill,

fruit trees, and every single cedar!

10 Do the same, you animals—wild or tame—

you creatures that creep along and you birds that fly!

11 Do the same, you kings of the earth and every single person,

you princes and every single ruler on earth!

12 Do the same, you young men—young women too!—

you who are old together with you who are young!

13 Let all of these praise the LORD's name

because only God's name is high over all.

Only God's majesty is over earth and heaven.

14 God raised the strength of his people,

the praise of all his faithful ones—

that's the Israelites,

the people who are close to him.

Praise the LORD!

This is the trustworthy witness of God's faithful people through the ages,

The divine word to us today. Amen.