

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

January 12, 2025

Supervising Clergy Rev. Blair Lewis **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Cheryl & Dave Brewster
Audio & Visual Technicians Shirley Allain & Donald Eddy

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8: 14-17 Luke 3: 15-17 21-22	Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11
<i>Today's bulletins are placed in loving memory of Beth Lord by Wayne and the girls</i>	
We welcome and thank Hugh Ellis for 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)*

We light this candle as a sign of welcome and of invitation.

We welcome all to this house of God!

We welcome friends and strangers, young and old and "in-between"

We share this light with all who desire to find a place of welcome, peace and hope.

May we become a home for all who are searching.

May this be a place of welcome, inspiration and refuge.

Alleluia, Amen

The Christ candle is lit...

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP – "A Light is Gleaming"

VU #82 (refrain only)

A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night, living in the light. Come share its gladness, God's radiant love is burning bright, living in the light.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsively)*

The Spirit calls us to this place

All around us the world cries out.

The needs of the world overwhelm our human limits of energy and prayer

Only You are sufficient to meet every need.

And so we turn to you for guidance and direction.

Given and Sustainer of Life,

Be with us in this time, this week, this year.

Let us breathe deeply into our souls, filling ourselves with the Spirit that gives life and offers love to those in need. AMEN

GATHERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Holy Spirit, Breath of Life, move in Creation, refresh our faith, let us meet each new day as one filled with hope and possibility. As we share in story, prayer and song, we ask that our words and our thoughts, that our very breathing, might mingle with your Breath, and bring healing and hope for the world. Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN –**

VU #96

“Will You Come and See the Light”

Will you come and see the light from the stable door?

It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.

It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are;
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you step into the light that can free the slave?

It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.

By the pyramids of greed there’s a longing to be freed;
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?

Though it’s shackled out of sight, it is shining well.

When the truth is cut and bruised, and the innocent abused,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you join the hope, a light in the young girl’s eyes,

of the mighty put to flight by a baby’s cries?

When the lowest and the least are the foremost at the feast,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?

In the candle lit at night there’s a gleam of dawn,

and the darkness all about is too dim to put it out:
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

***A NEW CREED - VU p 918** *(in unison)*

We are not alone,

We live in God’s world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit

We trust in God

We are called to be the church:

to celebrate God’s presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil

to proclaim Jesus crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God

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

...“The peace of Christ be with you”

And also with you.

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

“Welcome and Invitation”

***SINGING A SONG - "I Am a Child of God"**

MV #157

I am a child of God, I am a glimpse of God's new creation.
I am a child of God, I am a child of God.

I am an endless prayer, I am a yearning for contemplation,
I am an endless prayer, I am an endless prayer.

I am an angry voice, I am compassion and consternation,
I am an angry voice, I am an angry voice.

I am a cry for peace, I am commitment and dedication,
I am a cry for peace, I am a cry for peace.

I am a song of joy, I am the moment of jubilation,
I am a song of joy, I am a song of joy.

ENGAGING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS -

Brenda Parrott

Acts 8: 14-17

Luke 3: 15-17 21-22

REFLECTION – "*The Church as Home*"

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC – I Have Called You by Your Name"

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Ronalds Family

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

THE OFFERING IS GATHERED

***OFFERING RESPONSE** (*Tune Old 100th*)

***Hope in our God so filled with love.
Peace in the symbol of a dove.
Joy in the coming of the Son.
Love fills us up and makes us one.***

Catherine MacDonald 2007

***OFFERING PRAYER** (*in unison*)

**Spirit God. Bless these gifts offered for your work.
May it be used mindfully to meet the needs
of this community and beyond.
May these gifts and all of our many gifts be dedicated to
your honour and your glory and continue the
establishment of your kingdom here on earth.
Amen**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 – “Let Us Build a “HOME”

MV #1

Let us build a home where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

(Refrain:)

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a home where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

(Refrain:)

Let us build a home where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground,
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

(Refrain:)

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place*

Let us build a home where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

(Refrain:)

Let us build a home where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

(Refrain:)

BENEDICTION AND COMMISSIONING:

*SENDING FORTH - *(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)*

This light is not gone. It has been entrusted to you.

**May we continue to be conscious of the Christ's Light
in our lives and may it continue to signal that this
church, our church is a warm welcoming love filled
HOME to all.**

*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!***

POSTLUDE

Church News

This Week at First United Church		
Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday to Friday		
Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Tuesday	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Knitters
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Thursday	4:15 PM	Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market

*The flowers at the front of the sanctuary are in loving memory of **Briddy Payne**, placed by her family*

Upcoming Services at First United:

January 19th ~ Service lead by Kyle Grant

January 26th ~ Service lead by Kyle Grant

February 2nd ~ Service lead by Helen Knowles

February 9th ~ Service lead by Hugh Ellis

Thank you to everyone who so generously donated to the fundraisers during the Advent Season. We raised \$3,090 for the Benevolence/White Gift Fund, a large portion of which will go directly to the Bathurst Volunteer Center and \$2,900 for the Poinsettia Fundraiser (including costs of the plants). And **thank you to Anne Wilson** for attending at the church several times to check on/care for the plants.

Thank you to Gary Branch, Rick Watling, Gwen Sturgeon, Brenda Parrott, Wayne Clowater, Bev Murphy and Lester Scott for assisting with the packing up of the Christmas decorations.

Congratulations to Herman Comeau who celebrated his 102nd birthday on Saturday, January 11th!



Church News

Team Committee Reports will be required in order to prepare **2024 Annual Report**. Would the individuals responsible for preparing each report please email them to the church office. The deadline for reports is February 14th. *Thank You*

The **Upper Room** booklets for January and February still have not been delivered. As soon as I receive the package, I will post a notice in the bulletin and send them out to our shut ins who receive CDs.

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

Community News

Thank you!

On behalf of the "Lesotho Initiative" Committee of ASD – N, a special 'thank you' is extended to you for your support of our recent calendar drive. A total of 196 "Help Lesotho" 2025 calendars were sold, and this will raise \$ 2940 for the work of "Help Lesotho" with Grandmothers and vulnerable children in the tiny mountain kingdom of Lesotho, Africa. Since 2006, this initiative has raised \$ 147,551.78 for the work of "Help Lesotho". (There are additional calendars available for anyone else who would like to support this cause.)

SCRIPTURE READINGS - New International Version

ACTS 8: 14-17

14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria.

15 When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit,

16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

LUKE 3: 15-17, 21-22

15 The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah.

16 John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

17 His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

The Baptism and Genealogy of Jesus

21 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened

22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."