

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

January 19, 2025

Supervising Clergy Rev. Blair Lewis **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Beth Sullivan & Charlene Roy
Audio & Visual Technicians Ralph Jamieson & Donald Eddy

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21
We thank Sandra Boone 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

In the light of the Christ Candle, we can find the 'A-ha' of Epiphany. In the light there is promise and truth. As we are the light, the light of the Christ shines brightly.

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)*

Come, O Come Emmanuel and be born in us today.

Come and break open our hearts once more.

Come, O people of God,
and let love extend to the heavens.

With the Christ, heaven is found right here!

GATHERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

**Holy God, creator of all things,
stir us with the wonder of this season of light.
Create in us a new desire for truth and justice.
Encourage us to live into the gifts you give in your Spirit.
Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN** –

MV #28

"God of the Bible (Fresh as the Morning)"

God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,
Hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
You are our centre, daylight or darkness,
Freedom or prison, you are our home.

Refrain:

***Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, You do not change,
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.***

God in our struggles, God in our hunger,
Suffering with us, taking our part,
Still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit
Feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.

Refrain:

Those without status, those who are nothing,
You have made royal, gifted with rights,
Chosen as partners, midwives of justice,
Birthing new systems, lighting new lights.

Refrain:

Not by your finger, not by your anger
Will our world order change in a day.
But by your people, fearless and faithful,
Small paper lanterns, lighting the way.

Refrain:

Hope we must carry, shining and certain
Through all our turmoil, terror and loss,
Bonding us gladly one to the other,
Till our world changes facing the Cross.

Refrain:

PRAYER FOR 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

And also with you.

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

John 2:1-3

***SINGING A SONG** - “Friend to Friend”

(Seasons of the Spirit Vol. 7)

Let us now as God’s own people,
give the sign of peace,
proclaiming our love for one another,
binding friend to friend.

(Chorus)

*Christ Jesus calls us to love one another,
to be one in him,
friend to friend, in love to each other,
we shall give our hands.*

In our care for one another,
by each kindly word,
by ev’ry loving deed,
we make known the love of Jesus Christ.

(Chorus)

We feed the hungry, clothe the naked,
give drink to those who thirst,
for Jesus came in love as a servant
and we follow him.

(Chorus)

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ENGAGING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS -

Isabel MacLaggan

John 2:1-11

REFLECTION – “Together We Worship” Rev. Scott Reynolds

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC – “Gift of Love”

RESPONDING

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Anne Wilson

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*)

God of Gold, Incense and Myrrh, we seek your glory, we offer you our prayers and we cry out to you in our suffering. Take our gifts and use them, so that all people may know your love.

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.

GOING OUT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** – “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.*

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun:

Refrain:

To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above!

Refrain:

To free the prisoner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see God’s children everywhere!

Church News

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.

To bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth!

Refrain:

*SENDING FORTH -

Go into this day fearless, for our God is with us:
Fresh as the morning, unchanging and always faithful.

Go in Joy

(The Christ Candle is extinguished)

***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

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
	7:00 PM	Christian Development - RMR
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market

Upcoming Services at First United:

January 26th ~ Wayne Lord with Reflection by Randy Breckenridge

February 2nd ~ Rev. Blair Lewis

February 9th ~ Hugh Ellis

February 16 ~ Helen Knowles

February 23 ~ Rev. Catherine Stuart

Sunday School Workshop is scheduled to be held on Saturday, February 22nd from 10:30 AM to 12 Noon in the Ruth Morrison Room. Rev. Catherine Stuart, Minister for Youth and Young Families will lead the workshop. We will be sending an invitation to other United Churches in the area (Clifton, Dalhousie, Campbellton & Miramichi). Anyone who is interested in engaging with youth and to get something going for our youth are encouraged to attend. Further information will be coming in the next couple of weeks.

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***

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.

Church News

Eat in or Take out Roast Pork Supper will be held on **Thursday, February 20th**. Tickets will be available soon - \$18 for adults and \$6 for children. Please contact a member of the *Ways & Means Committee* or call (506-546-3532) or drop by the church office.

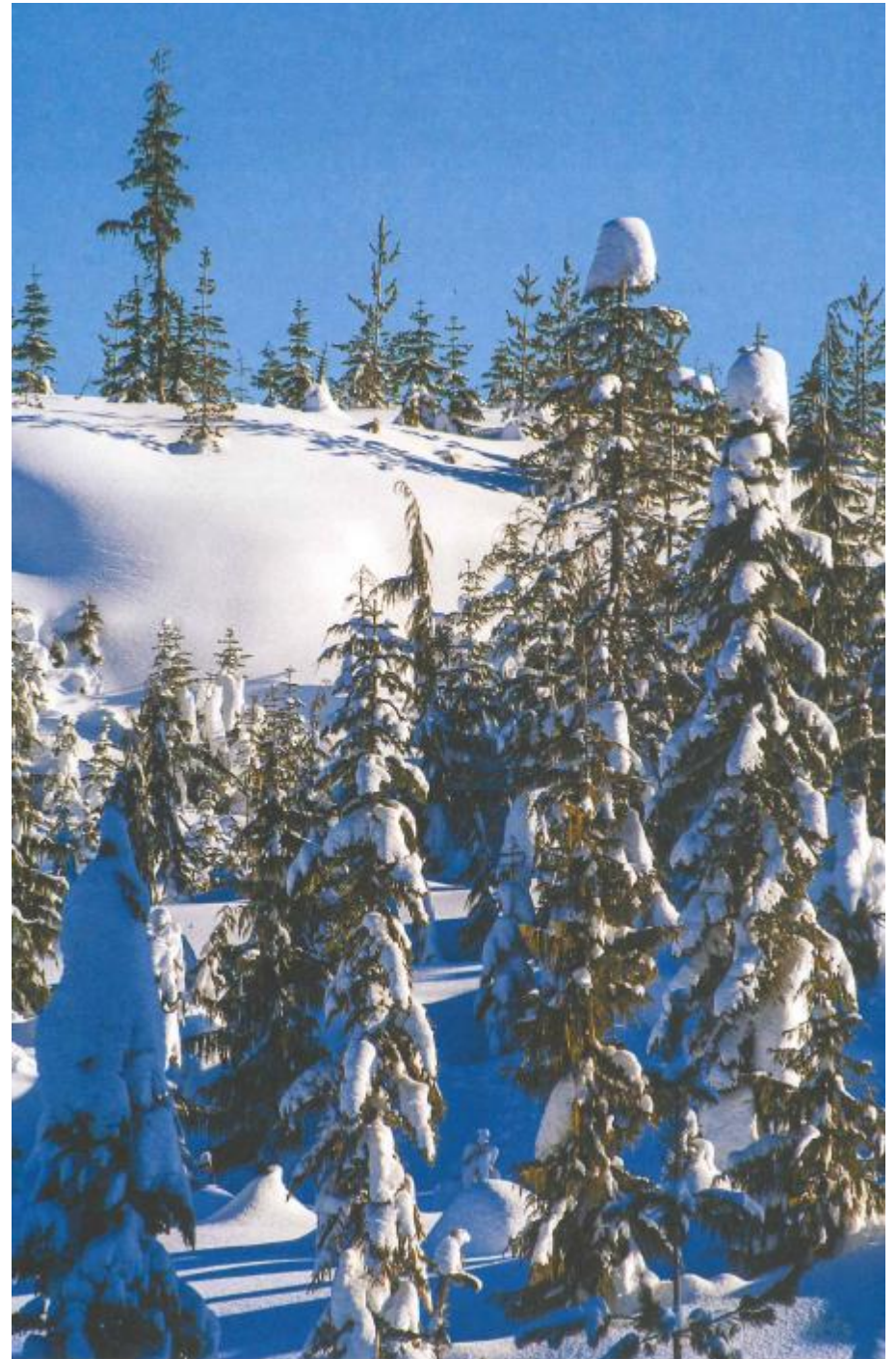
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Community News

The annual **Robbie Burns Social**, organized by Bathurst Chapter, NB Scottish Cultural Association, will be held downstairs at *Bathurst Curling Club* on *Saturday, January 25*. A finger food potluck at 2 PM will be followed by an afternoon of Scottish entertainment and fellowship. Bring your favourite finger food to accompany the traditional haggis. Call Isabel MacLaggan at 506-546-5521 for further information and tickets at \$10 per person. Memberships for 2025 will be available. Everyone is welcome but advance notice is requested.

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on Saturday, February 8th 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.



SCRIPTURE READINGS

JOHN 2:1-11 (Common English Bible)

Wedding at Cana

- 1** On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and
- 2** Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration.
- 3** When the wine ran out, Jesus' mother said to him, "They don't have any wine."
- 4** Jesus replied, "Woman, what does that have to do with me? My time hasn't come yet."
- 5** His mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."
- 6** Nearby were six stone water jars used for the Jewish cleansing ritual, each able to hold about twenty or thirty gallons.
- 7** Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water," and they filled them to the brim.
- 8** Then he told them, "Now draw some from them and take it to the headwaiter," and they did.
- 9** The headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine. He didn't know where it came from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. The headwaiter called the groom
- 10** and said, "Everyone serves the good wine first. They bring out the second-rate wine only when the guests are drinking freely. You kept the good wine until now."
- 11** This was the first miraculous sign that Jesus did in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.