

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

**January 15, 2023**

**Minister** Rev. Neal Palmer    **Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Margaret Daniels    **Custodian** Lester Scott  
**Greeters** Peter & Edie Gammon

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<b><u>Lectionary for today</u></b>	<b><u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u></b>
Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 4-9 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23
Today's bulletins are in honour of <b><i>Herman Comeau</i></b> who celebrated his <b><i>100<sup>th</sup></i></b> birthday on January 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 placed by Isabel MacLaggan	

*The asterisk \* identifies those times in the service where the congregation is invited to stand as able.*

*GATHERING*

**MUSIC AS WE GATHER**

**WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**LIGHTING THE CRIST CANDLE**

...May this candle and the light it produces be a symbol and sign of all these things...

*The Christ Candle is lit.*

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP** - "Come Touch Our Hearts"

MV #12 (*Verse 2*)

***Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,  
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;  
create a space for spirit to grow in us,  
let life and beauty fill us,  
come touch and bless our souls.***

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

We are one, in this space, in virtual space,

**in this building, in this community.**

We are one, through the generations,

**through word and song, through worship.**

We are one, just as we are.

**All are welcome in this place.**

Let's journey as one,

**in the light of love.**

**GATHERING PRAYER**

**\*GATHERING HYMN** –

VU #644

"I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"

I was there to hear your borne cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,  
with a faith to suit you well;  
in a blaze of light you wandered off  
to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word,  
I was there to cheer you on;  
you were raised to praise the living Lord,  
to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time  
and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,  
not too old, no longer young.  
I'll be there to guide you through the night,  
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in  
and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been  
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.

#### **PRAYER OF HUMILITY**

**CHORAL RESPONSE** – "How Deep the Peace" - MV #95

*How deep the peace, the confidence,  
of those whose wrongs are forgiven.  
How deep the peace, the confidence,  
of those whose hearts are healed.*

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

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

**In God's justice is our peace.**

Jesus calls us to live in unity.

**We seek to live the Spirit of Christ.**

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

*Brooke Knowles & Mya Brewster*

John 1:29-31

**\*SINGING A SONG** – "God Says" – MV #172

God says, "Be still so you may hear  
the words I whisper in your ear.  
If you will listen, you will know  
I'm with you always where you go."

God says, "Look up and see the prize  
I've placed here right before your eyes.  
Find beauty in the things of earth,  
a cause for wonder and rebirth."

God says, "Come here! I need your voice.  
Please teach my people to rejoice.  
In who you are, in what you do,  
your life will show my love for you."

God says, "Reach out! The world's in need  
and wants a word, a song, a deed.  
I send you forth to speak, to sing,  
to act for Christ in everything."

*ENGAGING*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*Isabel MacLaggan*

Isaiah 49:1-7

John 1:29-42

**REFLECTION**

## MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

**GIFT OF MUSIC** - "Will You Come and See the Light"

*RESPONDING*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

*Pat MacIntosh*

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD**

**\*OFFERING HYMN**

*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** *(in unison)*

**All that we are, Holy One,  
and all we're called to be,  
we bring to this special moment  
of offering and hope.  
May our gifts be used imaginatively  
for the well-being of all.  
Amen**

**SHARING OUR CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kindom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kindom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

*GOING OUT (as Spirit people)*

**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!

*Refrain:*

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:*

**\*BLESSING**

**\*CHORAL CLOSING** – “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 – Jan 16 <sup>th</sup> to Jan 20 <sup>th</sup>		
Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Tuesday	9:00 AM	Hospitality & Friendship Meeting
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Thursday	7:00 PM	CD Team – Zoom Meeting

**Church office hours** - Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

**Sunday School** will be resuming on January 29<sup>th</sup> and continuing up to and including Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. There will be 2 Sundays during Spring Break where Sunday School will not be held.

**Team Committee Reports** will be required in order to prepare 2022 Annual Report. Would the individuals responsible for preparing each report please email them to the church office at your earliest opportunity. If you have already sent in your report, thank you.

**Peanut Butter** – Once again this year we are setting a **goal of 900 jars** of peanut butter to donate to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. Up to January 12, 2023 we have collected 15 jars.



*Congratulations to  
Herman Comeau!!*

## Community News

**SAVE THE DATE!** Please save Sunday, January 22, 2023, for an afternoon filled with lively music. Central United will be featuring Roger Lanteigne, member of the NB Country Music Hall of Fame, and the Acadian Fiddlers.

**When:** Sunday, January 22 - 1:30-3:30

**Where:** Central United Church, Clifton

Light refreshments will be available following the performance. A “free- will offering” to help support Central United Church, would be appreciated.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS *(New Revised Standard Version)*

### ISAIAH 49:1-7

1 Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away.

3 And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

4 But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God."

5 And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—

6 he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

7 Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

### JOHN 1:29-42

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'

31 I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel."

32 And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.

33 I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

34 And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

35 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,

36 and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!"

37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

38 When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

39 He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

41 He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed).

42 He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

*May God bless to our understanding these significant parts of our Christian story...*