

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

**January 14, 2024**

**Minister** Rev. Neal Palmer    **Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Margaret Daniels    **Custodian** Lester Scott  
**Greeters** Edie & Peter Gammon  
**Audio & Visual Technicians** Shirley Allain & Donald Eddy

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<b><u>Lectionary for today</u></b>	<b><u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u></b>
1 Samuel 3:1-20	Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18	Psalms 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 6:12-20	1 Corinthians 7:29-31
John 1:43-51	Mark 1:14-20

*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 AND TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

*(responsively)*

...Since time immemorial, Indigenous peoples have occupied and cared for this land, the country many call Canada, from coast to coast to coast. In naming this land mass, even more specifically, Bathurst, and the surrounding communities, as *Settlers*—we acknowledge this area as the traditional home of the *Mi'kmaq* people.

As a *Community of Faith*, we seek to rebuild right relations with the First Nation, Metis and Inuit peoples, to learn from them, and to live on this land, their land, with gratitude and respect for its creation and Creator.

**This is our commitment.**

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Each Sunday morning, we gather around this candle, a symbol of Christ.

This ritual brings focus for our time together, a time when we pause to renew our faith and spiritual life with Creator.

May the light shine, gathering us in and bringing us to a place of peace and calm.

*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**

**GATHERING PRAYER** *(in unison)*

**... God who calls, open us to the possibility we’ll wake from our sometimes dysfunction and slumber, and serve one another.**

**Amen**

**\*GATHERING HYMN** – “All Beautiful the March of Days” – VU #530

All beautiful the march of days,  
as seasons come and go;  
the hand that shaped the rose has wrought  
the crystal of the snow,  
has sent the silvery frost of heaven,  
the flowing waters sealed,  
and laid a silent loveliness  
on hill and wood and field.

O'er white expanses sparkling pure  
the radiant morns unfold;  
the solemn splendours of the night  
burn brighter through the cold;  
life mounts in every throbbing vein,  
love deepens round the hearth,  
and clearer sounds the angel hymn,  
good will to all on earth.

O God, from whose unfathomed law  
the year in beauty flows,  
yourself the vision passing by  
in crystal and in rose;  
day unto day declare thro' speech,  
and night to night proclaim  
in ever-changing words of light  
the wonder of your name.

**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.

**And also with you.**

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

**\*SINGING A SONG** – “Set the Sun Dancing”

Set the sun dancing!  
New life has begun!  
Star, you must fade,  
for your journey is done,  
New Year rides onward now,  
Christmas is gone,  
carry the light with us  
as we move on.

*For the light that is shining  
is our light to hold,  
facing, embracing  
the darkness and cold,  
light that's not hidden  
where Good News is told:  
the hope that is born  
with Christ Jesus!*

Wise men with riches of knowledge and thought  
found greater treasure than ever they brought,  
rose from their knees and were clothed in this light  
—new understanding of power and right,

*Refrain  
And the light that is shining is our light to hold,  
facing, embracing the darkness and cold,  
light that's not hidden where Good News is told:  
the hope that is born with Christ Jesus!*

We are the company, foolish and wise,  
rich in a faith that all reason defies,  
crossing the borders of culture and race,  
leading by lifestyle, forgiveness and grace,

*Refrain*

*And the light that is shining is our light to hold,  
facing, embracing the darkness and cold,  
light that's not hidden where Good News is told:  
the hope that is born with Christ Jesus!*

Peace is not born at the end of a gun,  
peace is a family gathered as one,  
here is Epiphany, wrapped in a shawl,  
Christ who is Light, who is wiser than all,

*Refrain*

*ENGAGING*

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

*Isabel MacLaggan*

1 Samuel 3:1-20

### **REFLECTION**

### **MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

### **GIFT OF MUSIC - "In the Quiet Curve of Evening"**

*RESPONDING*

### **YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS** *(Minute for Mission)*

*Ronalds Family*

### **INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING**

### **THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD**

### **\*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)*

**Holy One,  
who knows us, inside and out,  
we've been created to have different experiences  
and taught to respond with gifts of gratitude.  
We have worked to collect and recollect abundance.  
We have toiled and felt the weight of a future unknown.  
But—we come now in earnest hope and faith  
to offer what we have, do what we can,  
and let go of the outcome.  
Amen**

### **SHARING OUR CONCERNS**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER – VU #916 (A Paraphrase)** *(in unison)*

**Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be.**

**Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo  
through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed  
by peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done  
by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and for ever.**

**Amen**

*GOING OUT (as Spirit people)*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** – “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky” – VU #509

I, The Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

*(Refrain)*

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain,  
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

*(Refrain)*

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,  
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

*(Refrain)*

**\*BLESSING** *(in unison)*

*(The Blessing for the Season of Epiphany is a common thread from week to week. Rather than one leader issuing the blessing to the Community of Faith, the blessing comes from each person to the congregation.)*

**... We may fail; the Spirit does not.  
We may end; the Spirit does not.  
Bless and be blessed.**

**We may fail; the Spirit does not.  
We may end; the Spirit does not.  
Bless and be blessed.**

**Amen.**

**\*CHORAL SENDING FORTH** – MV #211  
“Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light”

***Go now in peace,  
guided by the light of Christ,  
so you may be  
nourished by the Word of Life.***

*(The Christ candle is extinguished.)*

## **POSTLUDE**

# Church News

This Week at First United – Jan 15 <sup>th</sup> to Jan 20 <sup>th</sup>		
Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
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

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

**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 11, 2024 we have collected 16 jars.

**Please Note** - In an effort to assist the Bathurst Volunteer Center, should you wish to make a monetary donation you may now do so by **issuing your cheque to First United Church**, indicating it is to be used for the purchase of Peanut Butter. Your donation will be marked as such and will be included on your annual tax receipt. Your cheques can be dropped off at the church office or mailed. Periodically someone from our Community Outreach Team will purchase the peanut butter and have it delivered directly to the Volunteer Center.

**Thank you** to Gary & Elizabeth Branch, Rick & Debbie Watling, Beth Sullivan, Gwen Sturgeon, Brenda Parrott and Lester Scott for assisting with the packing up of the Christmas decorations.

**Congratulations to Herman Comeau who celebrated his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday on Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>!**



# Church News

As part of our **Stewardship Program** here at First United, information on Planned Giving through Wills and Bequests is available to our congregational membership. All members are encouraged to review this information and take the appropriate steps pertaining to your wishes. The information is available from the church office.

Below you will find a stewardship quote relating to the same.

"Giving is more than a responsibility-it is a privilege; more than an act of obedience-it is evidence of our faith."  
~ William Arthur Ward

## Community News

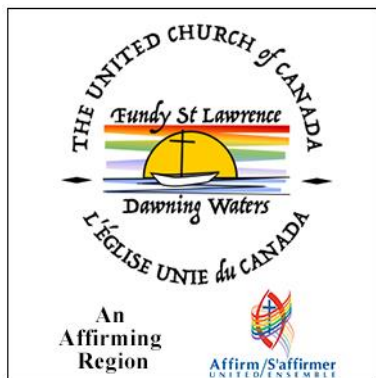
**Dusty Sneakers** will resume at **Central United Church**, Clifton on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30. Come out for some light exercises and fun. (Weather permitting)

**Central United Church** in Clifton is hosting a **Senior's afternoon of games and cards** on Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00. Light refreshments will be available. (Weather permitting)

Anglican Parish of New Bandon will be holding a **Pulled Pork Takeout** on Thursday January 25, 2024 at **St. Alban's Church, 4633 Cape Road in Salmon Beach**. The takeout will consist of a Pulled Pork Sandwich, coleslaw & apple crisp - One size \$12.00  
For tickets please contact any of the following persons:

Kay Addison 506 350 0960	Linda Smith 506 546 6174
Ellis Jagoe 506 543 8513	Rolf Chors 506 350 3050
Elsie Daley 506 546 5072	Nancy Hodnett 506 5545 5263.
Louise Whalen 506 548 9197	Laura McNulty 506 544 6473

## Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional News



### **Affirm Committee Workshop Mental Health and Resiliency**

Many of us are thinking and talking about our mental health; this next webinar in our series will address some of our questions and concerns.

It will be presented by Dawn O'Dell of Mental Health New Brunswick, on Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 and will be 90 minutes long.

Please note this webinar will not be recorded for the website.

For registration please use the following link:

<https://ucceast.ca/82237-fslw-affirm-webinar-mental-health-and-resiliency>



## SCRIPTURE READING

### 1 SAMUEL 3:1-20

#### Samuel's Calling and Prophetic Activity

1 Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

2 At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room;

3 the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was.

4 Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!"

5 and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.

6 The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."

7 Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

8 The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy.

9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

11 Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle.

12 On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.

13 For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them.

14 Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

15 Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli.

16 But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am."

17 Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you."

18 So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him."

19 As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.

20 And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

*May the Spirit bless to our understanding this significant part of our faith story...*