

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

December 30, 2018

Minister Rev. Jean Herman **Organist** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Isabel Clouston **Greeters** Nancy & Allen Jagoe
Custodian Steve White

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Micah 5:2-5a</i>	<i>Isaiah 60:1-6</i>
<i>Psalms 80:1-7</i>	<i>Psalms 72</i>
<i>Hebrews 10:5-10</i>	<i>Ephesians 3:1-12</i>
<i>Luke 1:39-45</i>	<i>Matthew 2:1-17</i>

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

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Musical Prelude:

Choral Opening: *'Go, Tell It on the Mountain' #43 VU*
Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.

Welcoming:

Inside your Temple, O God,
we think of your constant love.
Psalm 48:9

Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:

Announcements:

Lighting of the Christ Candle: (in unison)

Holy God, we light the Christ Candle on this last Sunday of 2018 we thank you for your presence with us in all the years of our lives. We have known joy, and also sorrow, success and failure, and through it all, you have been with us—the companion of all our journeys. Much of life is fleeting and so we thank you for things that endure: the love of faithful friends, wisdom gained from experience, the reliability of nature, and your steadfast love. We thank you for this new year which awaits us; take us by the hand, and lead us on.

Call to Worship:

One: Praise the Lord, all the earth,
from the highest heights to the deepest depths!
All: Let everything sing and shout praise to the Creator!
One: Praise the Lord, all the heavens and starry host!
All: All throughout the universe may praise to God abound!
One: Come, let us joyfully praise God!
All: Let us live our praise in deeds of loving kindness. AMEN.

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)

God, who walks with each one of us, help us to place our trust in your guiding care for us as we gather to learn the great lessons of living in peaceful community with each other. Prepare us to be witnesses of your love and forgiveness. Make us ready to work for you in your creation; for we ask this in the name of Jesus, your beloved Son. AMEN.

***Opening Hymn: 'Good Christian Friends, Rejoice' #35 VU**

Children of all ages:

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding: (in unison)
Source of all wisdom and understanding,
by your Word you give light to the soul.
Pour out on us the spirit of insight
so that our hearts and minds may be opened.
In the name of Jesus, we pray, Amen

Scripture Readings: Isabel MacLaggan
New Testament Lesson: Colossians 3:12-17
Responsive Psalm: Psalm 148 #871VU
Gospel Lesson: Luke 2 :41-52

***Hymn:** 'Joy is Now in Every Place' #45 VU

Meditation:

Anthem: 'We Three Kings'

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

Invitation to the offering:

Presentation of Gifts and Self to God:

Choral Response:
*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 .*

Prayer of Dedication: (in unison)
King of Kings,
we join the angels in singing your unending praise.
You alone created the universe in all of its glory.
We present these gifts
knowing that they will be transformed
into ministries of Good News.
Bless this offering so our giving honors your glory.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

Psalms 148

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Prayer of Confession: (in unison)
Lord, it's only a few days
after the Christmas celebration
and we are exhausted.
People have come and gone;
gatherings are winding down;
we are being reminded
of the "normalcy" of life returning to us.
We don't want to go there just yet.
We want to linger in the warmth of the season.
Forgive us when we don't seem
to feel your warmth in our lives all the time.
Forgive us when we assign
warmth only to Christmas, and then to Easter
and seem to dwell on the mundane
the rest of the time.
Give us courage to live as people of the Light,
those who find your comforting,
encouraging presence in our lives at all times.
Strengthen us for joyful service in your name. AMEN.

Choral Response:
*O holy Child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.*

Assurance of Pardon:
People of God, feel the presence of God
right now, in this place, warming your hearts,
forgiving your fears and strife;
preparing you for joyful service.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
you are beloved and forgiven. AMEN.

Silent Prayer:

Reflecive Music:

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Pastoral Prayer: (in unison)

**Lord God, creator and lover of heaven and earth,
with gladness we sing your praise.**

**For making us in your image to love one another
and to care for your creation,
we give you thanks.**

**For the gift of your Son
who redeems and guides us according to your will,
baptizing us to be your people in the world,
we give you thanks.**

**By your Holy Spirit,
empower us to show your love to others
as we pray for**

**the church and those who lead in it
the world that you have asked us to care for
those who rule in the nations of the world
those who serve others as healers and caregivers
those struggling with poverty,
homelessness, and hungry
those who mourn and feel alone
those imprisoned for defending truth or justice
Those who experience powerless and oppression**

As the year draws to a close:

**give us grateful hearts
for what has been loving and life-giving,
give us peace about things that have been painful,
and focus our attention
to look forward with eager anticipation
for new opportunities to grow closer to you
and to each other.**

**God eternal,
keep us in communion
with God's people of all time
that we may worthily serve you
as people of your everlasting covenant
until your will is done on earth as it is in heaven,
for to you, through Jesus Christ
your Son and the Holy Spirit,
we offer all praise and honour
and this prayer said together in his name,
Our Father...**

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***Closing Hymn:** *'Once in Royal David's City'* #62 VU

Benediction

People who have been found, loved, and forgiven,
go into God's world bringing messages
of peace, love and hope to all you meet.

Be prepared for lives of service, helping others in all kinds of
needs and situations. Go in peace. **AMEN.**

***Choral Closing:** *'I Am Walking a Path of Peace'* #221MV
***I am walking a path with heart
I am walking a path with heart
I am walking a path with heart
lead me home, lead me home.***

Organ Postlude:

Irish Blessing

*In the New Year
May your hand always be
Stretched out in friendship
But never in want.*

Church News

This Week at First United –Dec. 31 – Jan. 5

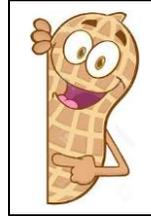
Monday	12:00	Office Closed
Tuesday	Closed	New Year's Day
Wednesday	3pm	Office Closed

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2018 **900**

Total Collected **881**

The Community Outreach team would like to thank all who contributed Peanut Butter over the past year.



The Upper Room for Jan. and Feb. are in the Narthex. Please feel free to take one. A container for donations is located with the publication.

2019 Envelopes: The Contribution Envelopes for 2019 are located in the Narthex. Please insure that envelopes for the correct year are used as individual contribution #'s may have changed.

Notice from the Property Management Team For security reasons, all doors to the sanctuary will be kept locked except the one closest to the office. To enter the church during business hours, please use the St. Patrick Street entrance.



Poinsettia Memorial booklets are available in the Narthex.

Community Events

Family & Community Breakfast

Saturday, January 12, 2018 8:00 – 10:00 am

Saint George's Church Hall 432 King Avenue

Colossians 3:12-17 New International Version (NIV)

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Luke 2:41-52 New International Version (NIV)

The Boy Jesus at the Temple

⁴¹ Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover.

⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom.

⁴³ After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.

⁴⁴ Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends.

⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him.

⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

⁴⁷ Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.

⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

⁴⁹ "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"^[a]

⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁵¹ Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.