

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

January 6, 2019

Minister Rev. Jean Herman **Organist** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Isabel Clouston **Greeters** Cheryl & Dave Brewster
Custodian Steve White

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Isaiah 60:1-6</i> <i>Psalm 72</i> <i>Ephesians 3:1-12</i> <i>Matthew 2:1-17</i>	<i>Isaiah 43:1-7</i> <i>Psalm 29</i> <i>Acts 8:14-17</i> <i>Luke 3:15-17, 21-22</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: *'Gentle Mary Laid Her Child'* #46VU vs3
Gentle Mary laid her child
lowly in a manger
He is still the undefiled,
But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story,
Praise his name in all the earth;
Hail the king of glory!

Welcoming:

Send out a cheerful, positive greeting,
and most of the time
you will get back a cheerful, positive greeting

Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:
Announcements:

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

One: O God, as light comes from this candle,
All: May the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us,
Warming our hearts
and brightening our way.
May Christ our Savior
Bring life into the darkness of this world,
and to us, as we wait for his coming.

Call to Worship:

One: Arise! Shine!
All: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.
One: Arise! Shine!
All: God's light pierces the darkness.
One: Arise! Shine!
All: God's light is revealed
for the way ahead in this new year.
One: Arise! Shine!
All: For the Glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)

God of power and might,
of grace and of love,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
You chose to become one of us in Jesus Christ,
sharing our joy and sorrow,
manifesting your greatness
in the child of the manger.
And so we praise you for your love
which is great enough to embrace the universe,
yet close enough to enter our hearts.
Surprise us with your grace that we,
with the rest of the church
and the whole creation,
may praise and adore you, O God,
our Creator and Redeemer and Guide
Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** 'Called by Earth and Sky' #135 MV

Chorus

*Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.*

Precious these waters, endless seas,
deep ocean's dream, waters of healing,
rivers of rain, the wash of love again.

Precious this gift, the air we breathe;
wind born and free. Breath of the Spirit,
blow through this place, our gathering and our grace.

Chorus

Precious these mountains, ancient sands;
vast fragile land. Seeds of our wakening,
rooted and strong, Creation's faithful song.

Precious the fire that lights our way,
bright dawning day. Fire of passion,
sorrows undone, our faith and justice one.

Chorus

Children of all ages:

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding: (in unison)

**O God, your Word was with you in the beginning,
and through your Word
all things came into being.
In time you sent your Word
to take on human flesh
and live among us.
Now, as we turn to your written word,
with the guidance of your Holy Spirit
help us to see your light and to testify to it.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Scripture Readings:

Sherry Mitton

Old Testament Lesson:

Isaiah 60:1-6

Responsive Psalm:

Psalms 72 (VU # 790 Parts 1&2)

Gospel Lesson:

Matthew 2:1-12

***Hymn:**

'As with Gladness Men of Old'

#81 VU

Meditation:

'The visit of the Magi'

Anthem:

'A Light is Gleaming'

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)

**Gracious God,
accept the offerings we bring;
the gifts of our mind,
the loving of our hearts,
the work of our hands
and the riches we have been given in life.
Bless these gifts and bless us
and use all things for the building
of your kingdom of light in your world.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

Psalms 148

Prayer of Confession:

(in unison)

**God of mercy and loving-kindness,
you sent Christ among us
as a gift to be the light of the world
and to reveal your love to all people.**

**We confess that our sins and pride
hide the brightness of your light;
we waste our gifts,
we ignore cries for justice,
and we do not strive for peace.
In your mercy, cleanse us and make us new.**

Choral Response: 'How Deep the Peace' #95 MV
*How deep the peace, the confidence,
Of those whose wrongs are forgiven.
How deep the peace, the confidence
Of those whose hearts are healed.*

Assurance of Pardon:

Be assured of God's love and forgiveness;
begin again with God
and with one another and be at peace.

Silent Prayer:

Reflecive Music:

Pastoral Prayer: (in unison)

**Light of the minds that know you,
strength of those who serve you,
wisdom of those who seek after you:
shine into the dark places of this world
and cast your light into the shadows of our lives.
Awake us to the needs
of those who carry heavy burdens;
who do not know where to turn;
those with broken hearts
and secrets that impinge life.
Give them peace and save us
from hiding in blindness or denial
and give us grace to share one another's burden.
We pray for people who are celebrating today,
who welcome good news or new possibilities,
who have reason to celebrate with joy;
give us the grace to share one another's joy.**

**Awake us to the needs
of those who do not have enough to eat
or adequate shelter
and those who have enough to share
but no-one to share with,
sustain them and give us grace
to share one what we have with each other.
Awake us to anguish
of those who are filled with grief
because of a loss that forever has altered their lives;
of those who are ill or dying,
and those who are bereaved.
Give them peace
and give us grace to share one another's grief.
Awake us to your wisdom
and to your will and desire for the world,
to the values of your kingdom,
and the renewal and redemption
that we receive in Christ**

Our Father...

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***Closing Hymn: 'Come, O Fount of Every Blessing' #559 VU**

Benediction

You have been called to serve the Lord with gladness.
Go from this place knowing that God's blessings
have been poured on you
so that you may be a blessing to others.
Be at peace and bring the good news
of God's love and peace to all whom you meet. **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:

Church News

This Week at First United –Jan 7 – Jan. 13

Monday	9-11am	Badminton
	6:15	Beavers Rms 1,2 & 3
Tuesday	6:15	Cubs & Scouts – Gym
Wednesday	9-11am	Badminton
	3pm	Office Closed
Thursday	7pm	Christian Dev. – RMR

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2018 **900**

Total Collected **900**

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.

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.

Thank You to Audrey & George McGillivray for being the counters and to Nancy & Allen Jagoe for being our greeters for the month of December. Thanks also to the Lavigne Family, Gayle Ferron and Lester Scott for being our greeters on Christmas Eve.

*When you possess light within,
you see it externally.*

~Anais Nin~



Roast Pork Dinner

First United Church
309 St. Patrick Street

Thursday, January 31, 2019

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Takeouts available 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

\$15. Adults \$6. Children (under 12)

All tickets sold in advance

Tickets available from Ways and Means team members
and at the church office

Community Events

Family & Community Breakfast

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

Saint George's Church Hall 432 King Avenue

*We are each gifted
in a unique and important way.
It is our privilege and our adventure
to discover our own special light.*

~Evelyn Dunbar~

"Prayer for the New Year"

*Lord, as the New Year dawns today,
Help me to put my faults away.*

*Let me be big in little things;
Grant me the joy which friendship brings;*

*Keep me from selfishness and spite,
Let me be wise to what is right.*

*A Happy New Year! grant that I
May cause no tear to any eye.*

*When this New Year in time shall end,
Let it be said: "I've played the friend,*

*Have lived and loved and labored here
And made of it a happy year."*

~Edgar Guest (1881-1959),

Isaiah 60:1-6 New International Version (NIV)

The Glory of Zion

60 "Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

² See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.

³ Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ "Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.

⁵ Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.

⁶ Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

Matthew 2:1-12 New International Version (NIV)

The Magi Visit the Messiah

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem

² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.'^[b]"

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.