

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

February 24, 2019
Baptism

Minister	Rev. Neal Palmer	Organist	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Isabel Clouston	Greeters	Brenda Parrott
Custodian	Steve White		Lester Scott

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Genesis 45:3-11, 15</i> <i>Psalm 37</i> <i>I Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50</i> <i>Luke 6:27-38</i>	<i>Exodus 34:29-35</i> <i>Psalm 99</i> <i>II Corinthians 3:12-4:2</i> <i>Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)</i>

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

We welcome the Men's choir today and thank them for leading our music.

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

MUSICAL PRELUDE

***CHORAL OPENING:** "Praise to the Lord" – VU #835 (Verse 1)

*Praise to the Lord,
all of you, God's servants.
Blessed be the name
of our God now and ever.
From the rising up of the sun—
may the Lord be praised,
praise to the name of the Lord!*

WELCOME (including our friends worshipping by CD)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (responsively)

One: The Christ Candle is lit as a reminder of the light of Christ

All: given to us all,

One: a symbol of God's presence

All: each and every day.

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN:**

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" – **VU #271**

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.*

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** (responsively)

One: The Peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

SHARING A STORY (with children of all ages)

CELEBRATING BAPTISM

***BAPTISMAL HYMN:**

"Out of Deep, Unordered Water" – VU #453

[Parents and children gather near baptismal font during hymn.]

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE

(Brenda Parrott – Chair of Christian Development Team)

On behalf of the congregation of First United Church,

I present the following person for initiation

into the body of Christ through baptism:

Benjamin Oran Watling Ernst—son of Sara Megan Watling and

Bradford Oran Sharpe Ernst.

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND PROMISES

Sara & Bradford,

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others by the Spirit?

We do, by the grace of God.

Will you follow in the way of Jesus Christ, resisting oppression and evil, seeking justice, and witnessing to God's love for all creation?

We will, God being our helper.

Will you proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, in your words and actions?

We will, God being our helper.

Will you join with your brothers and sisters in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, and to love and serve others?

We will, God being our helper.

COMMITMENT OF PARENTS

In baptism, Benjamin marks an important step in his journey of faith.

Will you, as his parents, share your faith with him, growing with him in faith, hope, and love?

We will, God being our helper.

***CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT** (responsively)

As the congregation of First United Church, do you commit yourselves to support and nurture these persons within a community which worships God, loves and serves others, seeks justice, and resists evil?

We do, by the grace of God.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

"A New Creed" – VU #918 (in unison)

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,**

**the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

**We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE POURING OF WATER

(responsively)

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give thanks and praise.

...Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do here, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ.

Amen.

THE ACT OF BAPTISM (responsively)

Benjamin Oran Watling Ernst,

I baptize you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

MARKING WITH THE SIGN OF THE CROSS (responsively)

Benjamin, child of God, from this day forward, you bear the sign of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS (responsively)

Benjamin, may the Holy Spirit, Love's power, guide you, inspire you, and work within you, all the days of your life.

Amen.

PLACEMENT OF BANNER SHEEP

LIGHTING OF A CANDLE (responsively)

[Baptismal Candle lit from Christ Candle, signifying the light of Christ, and as a reminder of the link between baptism and Easter.]

Benjamin, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works, and give glory to God.

Amen.

[The candle is passed to Benjamin's parents.]

PRESENTATION OF A BIBLE

Benjamin, receive this Bible and hear what the Spirit is saying to you and the Church.

[A Bible is presented to Benjamin's parents.]

BAPTISMAL STOLE (responsively)

[Baptismal Stole is draped around Benjamin's shoulders.]

Benjamin, you have put on Christ. In Christ you have been baptized.

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

DECLARATION AND CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

[A Certificate of Baptism is given to Benjamin's parents.]

In the name of Jesus Christ, Benjamin has been received into the holy catholic church, the body of Christ in the world.

[The congregation is invited to applaud and Benjamin is then welcomed by being carried into the midst of the congregation.]

CHORAL RESPONSE:

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise" – VU #444

BLESSING (responsively)

Benjamin,

The grace of Christ attend you, the love of God surround you, the Holy Spirit keep you.

Amen.

[Participants return to their pews]

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Gary Branch

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 99 (VU #819)

Gospel Lesson: Luke 6:27-38

REFLECTION: "Be Holy"

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

ANTHEM: "Trust and Obey"

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS TO GOD (including ourselves)

CHORAL RESPONSE

*We bring our gifts to share,
and lift our grateful prayer,
That with our faithful care,
our world will grow.*

*Through work of minds and hands
in gestures small or grand,
Let willing hearts expand the love You sow.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Holy One, build us together as one body.

**May our thinking, our sharing, our prayers,
and our loving action be outward serving.**

Holy One, strengthen the church by these gifts.

Bond us to one another

by our shared commitment to you.

Amen.

SHARING OUR CONCERNS –

'O God, Hear My Prayer' – VU #948 (2X)

O God, hear my prayer,

O God, hear my prayer:

when I call answer me.

O God, hear my prayer,

O God, hear my prayer:

come and listen to me.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***CLOSING HYMN** – "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" – VU #602

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL CLOSING:**

"I Am Walking a Path of Peace" – MV #221

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

*God understands our prayers
even when we can't find
the words to say them.
~Author Unknown~*

Church News

This Week at First United –Feb. 25 – March 2

Monday	9am	Ways & Means– Eddy Rm
	9-11am	Badminton
	4pm	Finance Team Meeting - RMR
	6:15	Beavers – Rms. 1,2 &3
Tuesday	6:15	Cubs & Scouts – DEMH Gym
Wednesday	9-11am	Badminton
	9-12am	TAB
	6:30	Choir Practice

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2019 **900**
 Total Collected **153**

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect 17-18 jars of peanut butter per week. The Volunteer Center supplies, on average, 500 households monthly.



The Upper Room for March and April 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.



Sunrise Breakfast Today

*Trust is letting go
 of needing to know
 all the details
 before you open your heart.
 ~Author Unknown*

Community Events

World Day of Prayer. Program prepared by the Women of Slovenia. St. Georges Anglican Church. 3pm March 1, 2019. Wheel Chair accessible. Refreshment and fellowship to follow service.

Saint George's Anglican Church 432 King Avenue
 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
 Tuesday, March 5, 2019 4:30 – 6:00 PM
 Adults \$ 7.00, Children (12 & under) \$4.00, Family \$ 15.00
 Tickets at the door – Take-outs available

Family & Community Breakfast: Saturday, March 9, 2019
 8:00 – 10:00 am Saint George's Church Hall 432 King Avenue

Time Well Spent

See tiny fingers and tiny toes,
 Bright baby eyes, cute baby nose;
 Hear baby gurgles and baby sighs,
 As Mom and Dad sing lullabies.

Life is changed, but that's okay,
 It's fun to spend glad hours each day,
 Taking time for all the good
 That comes along with parenthood.

By Joanna Fuchs
 Poemsource.com

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.

⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.

⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.

⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.

⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay.

¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.

¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'

¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Luke 6:27-38 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Love for Enemies

²⁷ "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,

²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt.

³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again.

³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.

³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.^[a] Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.