

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

**December 8, 2019**

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

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<b>Lectionary for today</b>	<b>Lectionary for next Sunday</b>
<i>Isaiah 11:1-10</i> <i>Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19</i> <i>Romans 15:4-13</i> <i>Matthew 3:1-12</i>	<i>Isaiah 35:1-10</i> <i>Psalm 146:5-10</i> <i>James 5:7-10</i> <i>Matthew 11:2-11</i>

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

GATHERING

**MUSIC AS WE GATHER**

**WELCOME** (including our friends worshipping by CD)

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP** - "As We Are Waiting"

*As we are watching for a sign*  
*As we long for new life.*  
*We trust your word revealed to us*  
*An end to all earth's strife.*



**CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsively)

The great tree is no more; only a stump remains,  
**but a green shoot is bravely growing.**

Isaiah spoke of a shoot from the stump of Jesse.

**Could this be the one?**

In Advent, the season of waiting, we watch and wait, wondering what the green shoot will become.

**Perhaps it will grow up to be a spreading tree, giving shelter to all God's children.**

A green shoot  
**is bravely growing.**

**GATHERING PRAYER**

**\*GATHERING HYMN** – "A Journey Just Begun" – AGCS #51

Come and join us on a journey just begun  
As we celebrate the life of God's own son.  
The stories of his life become our stories, too,  
In the choices that we make, In ev'rything we do.  
Come and join us on a journey just begun.

**Refrain**

*Preparing the way, preparing the way,*  
*We're preparing the way of our God.*

We will walk from the darkness to the light,  
Led by the shining star so bright.  
Once more with hope we wait for a baby's birth  
When the love of God shall bring Peace to all the earth,  
As we walk from the darkness to the light.

**Refrain**

We will walk in the light of all the world,  
Shining for the nations to be healed.  
Jesus is our friend, companion on the way,  
We want to spread his love In all we do and say,  
As we walk in the light of all the world.

**Refrain**

We will walk up the mountain of our God  
With the children of the whole wide world abroad.  
The hungry shall be fed, Yes, ev'ry girl and boy,  
The captives shall go free, The lame shall leap for joy,  
As we walk up the mountain of our God.

**Refrain**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING** (responsively)

*(The MacLaggan Family)*

Voice 1: On this second Sunday of Advent,  
we light two candles.  
Our first light was for hope,  
our second is for peace.

Voice 2: (Read while candle is lit.)

We wait, and we travel together in this Season of Advent.

This week, our light is for peace.

We remember the promise and vision of prophets long ago who spoke of a time when there would be no more war, no more fighting, no more violence, and all creation would know the light of God's peace.

**May the light of hope and peace  
guide our way as we travel through Advent.  
Amen.**

**CHORAL RESPONSE** – "We Light This Candle"

*We light this candle for Peace.*

*Await the new life within.*

*May our hearts now live each day,*

*so Peace can find a way,*

*so Peace can find a way.*

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

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

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

**\*SINGING A SONG** – "He Is Born" – VU #50 (Verses 1 & 3)

*Refrain*

*He is born, little Child divine;*

*play on the reeds while the lutes are strumming.*

*He is born, little Child divine;*

*join the song to announce the day.*

Through long ages of the past,  
prophets have for-told his coming;  
thru long ages of the past,  
now the time has come at last!

*Refrain*

Lowly lodged in a stable poor,  
laid on straw for his infant cradle.  
Lowly lodged in a stable poor,  
God come down to our mortal aid.

*Refrain*

*ENGAGING*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READING** *Grace Ronalds & Helen Knowles*

[Based on] Isaiah 11:1-10

**WHITE GIFT CELEBRATION**

*Sunday School leaders & members*

**The Children's Christmas Tree is decorated**

**The White Gifts are collected**

**The Children's Choir Sings**

- Away in a Manger (Pianist – Alexa Chamberlain)

- There's a Song of Love in My Heart

*RESPONDING*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

*Bev Murphy*

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**THE OFFERING IS GATHERED**

(in support of the ministry and mission of the church)

**\*OFFERING HYMN**

*Peace is our hope for all the earth,*

*Peace is the promise of new birth.*

*Peace for those both far and near.*

*Peace now and all throughout the year.*

**\*OFFERING PRAYER** (in unison)

**Holy One,**

**bless these gifts, bless the givers,**

**and bless the receivers.**

**Amen.**

**SHARING OUR CONCERNS** – “We are Waiting Lord” – AGCS #76

*We are waiting Lord, come by here,  
We are waiting Lord, come by here,  
We are waiting Lord, come by here,  
O Lord, come by here.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom 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 kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

*GOING OUT (as God’s people)*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** – “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” – VU #43

*Refrain:  
Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere.  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born*

While shepherds kept their watching  
Over silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens,  
There shone a holy light.

*Refrain:*

The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Saviour’s birth!

*Refrain:*

Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent our salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn’.

*Refrain:*

**\*BLESSING**

**\*GOING FORTH** – “I Am Walking a Path of Peace” – MV #221

*I am walking a path of peace,  
I am walking a path of peace,  
I am walking a path of peace,  
lead me home, lead me home.*

**POSTLUDE**

*If we have no peace,  
it is because we have forgotten  
that we belong to each other.*

*~Mother Teresa~*

# Church News

## This Week at First United –Dec. 8 – Dec. 15

Sunday	11am	Children Choir Practice
Monday	9-11am	Badminton
	6:15pm	Beaver Scouts rms. 1,2&3
Tuesday	12pm	UCW
	6:30	Cub Scouts - DEMH Gym
Wednesday	9–11:30	TAB
	9-11am	Badminton
	6:30pm	Choir Practice

### Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2019 **900**

Total Collected **863**

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect 18-19 jars of peanut butter per week.

The Volunteer Center supplies, on average, 500 households monthly. The need increases greatly over the Christmas season.



### **Christmas Hymn Sing Concert Joy to the World!**

The annual Christmas Hymn Sing will be held on Sunday, Dec, 15, 2019 at 2pm, First United Church, Bathurst.(Storm Date - Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> 7pm)  
Come join with us as we celebrate the Christmas season with familiar carols as well as new selections you are sure to enjoy. The choir will be joined by Amanda Godin, Emma Vickers, Take Note, Catalyst, BHS Choir, and our very own Children's Choir!  
Cost \$10 adults, \$5 youth. Tickets are available from choir members, the church office 546-3532 and at the door

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



**Poinsettia Fund:** Once again this year we are hoping to have the beauty of our sanctuary enhanced with poinsettias for the Christmas season. Those wishing to contribute to the annual poinsettia fund may place an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please mark clearly on the face of the envelope – Poinsettia Fund with your name, PAR or envelope number. List the names that you wish to have printed in the Christmas bulletin insert. Donations will also be received in the church office – deadline is December 16, 2019.

**2020 Envelopes:** The Contribution Envelopes for 2020 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.

**Annual Christmas Benevolence Program:** For those interested in supporting this benevolence program, donation envelopes are available on the Christmas tree located at the entrance to the sanctuary. The White gift service is today, Sunday, December 8, but the envelopes can be returned at that time. Any personal cheque may be made payable to First United Church. Donations to this fund will be used to support the volunteer center as well as those people in our congregation who find it difficult, financially, throughout the year.



**Attention all hand quilters:** If you like to hand quilt or would like to learn to hand quilt come and join us at TAB each Wednesday morning at 9am-11:30am. In rooms 1,2 & 3 of the Donald Eddy memorial Hall. Contact Anne Brooks 548-2156, Pat Thibideau 546-2705 or Karen Whelton 546-6273. Tea and Coffee supplied. All new members welcome.

The **covenanting service** for the Bathurst Pastoral Charge, Rev. Neal Palmer and Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region 14 will be held at First United Church, Bathurst, N.B. today, December 8, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. Everyone welcomed to share in this important event.

### **Profession of Faith Chats**

Do you have questions about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, the United Church of Canada, etc.? Things you'd like to discuss in a safe setting?

Are you interested in being baptized, confirmed, transferring your membership to First United, reaffirming your faith and/or simply introducing or reintroducing yourself to the United Church of Canada? If so, we can make it happen. Please let the church office and/or Rev. Neal know as soon as possible and we'll look at getting something going in the new year. Sessions like this, generally, run for 6-8 weeks, but please know—that can and will be negotiated within the group itself. Looking forward to it... :o)

**Thank You.** The Ways and Means team would like to thank everyone for their support of the Turkey Supper. Because of all who donated to, worked at and bought tickets, a profit of approximately \$7040.00 was realized. A special thank you to our sponsors for the turkey supper Kenny's Trucking LTD and Shine House (A Division of Stothart Automotive)

Our next event will be the Roast Pork Dinner which is scheduled for January 30, 2020.

### **White Gift Sunday – Dec. 8, 2019**

The tradition of White Gift Sunday has its roots in a small Methodist church in Ohio in 1904. What began as a humble way to reflect on the love and devotion of the giver and not the value of the gift has grown into today's white gift services in many churches across several denominations. The story is told that a minister's wife initiated the idea to solve the problem of inequity of gifts given at the Sunday school Christmas party. Instead of focusing on receiving gifts, the focus shifted to bringing gifts to Jesus that could in turn be shared with people around the world who did not have much. All the gifts would come wrapped in plain white paper, so that no one would know which was an expensive gift and which was a more modest one. No one would feel ashamed of their gift and everyone would share in the joy of giving to others.

In keeping with the spirit of the first White Gift service all those attending bring a gift wrapped in white paper to be given to someone in need.

**Thank You** to Beth & Bob Sullivan, Dorothy McCallum, Margaret Payne-Chénard and Mike Kierstead for being our greeters and Margaret Payne-Chénard and Mike Kierstead for being the counters for the month of November.

**Christmas Newsletters** are ready for pick up in the Narthex. Please help with postage costs by delivering to your family, friends and neighbors. Special envelopes for Christmas contributions can be found in the Narthex.

## **Community Events**

### **Bathurst Community Orchestra Christmas Concert**

Saturday Dec 14th at 6:30 p.m. at Evangel Church  
150 Basin Road, Bathurst. Tickets \$10 and \$5/child under 12  
Tickets available at the door or in advance at a Few Splinters,  
Main Street or Evangel Church office.

In Support Of: Evangel Mission Team Construction Project

**Saint George's Choir** will be presenting an evening of Christmas Music on Thursday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. A light lunch will follow in the Hall.

### **Family & Community Breakfast**

Saturday, December 14, 2019, 8:00 – 10:00 am  
Saint George's Church Hall, 432 King Avenue

**Special Request:** When sending Christmas cards this year, please take a card & send it to a member of the Canadian Armed Forces, serving overseas, who will be away from home this Christmas. Send to this address:

**Any Canadian Armed Forces Member,  
PO Box 5140, Stn Forces,  
Belleville, Ontario,  
K8N 5W6 ..**

..... no stamp necessary! The card will be delivered to a sailor, soldier or airman, who isn't home for Christmas, but serving elsewhere in the world. If we share this request with others, just imagine how many cards will be sent overseas to these special people, who sacrifice so much. Remember, Freedom is NEVER free!

*May you have the gladness of Christmas,  
Which is Hope;  
The spirit of Christmas,  
Which is Peace;  
The heart of Christmas,  
Which is Love.  
~Ada V. Hendricks Larsen*

[Based on] Isaiah 11:1-

Hello. My name is Isaiah and I am a prophet. A prophet is someone who tells people about God. A prophet wants all the people to listen and learn about who God is and what God does. Life is difficult for the people of Judah, where I live. The people of the land are afraid and sad that other nations are trying to take over and they feel that God is not really listening to them.

I was thinking about all of this and suddenly a picture came into my mind. I knew that God wanted the leaders and people of Judah to hear about it.

The picture was of a tree that had been cut down; it was just a stump, its life and beauty gone. But from the root of that tree a new branch would grow and it would become a strong tree again. I told the people not to give up hope; just like the new branch that grew from the stump of the tree that seemed dead, a new leader would come. This leader would have the Spirit of God and all of God's knowledge and understanding. This person would be happy and really enjoy knowing God by seeing and hearing about all the good things God has done and will do. Caring for the poor and teaching bad people to be good would be something for this person to do.

The rest of my story was all about what would happen if God made all things good and safe. I told about a mountain where no one would be hurt and all the animals would live together. No animal would hunt and kill another animal for food. All the animals would live peacefully on the mountain and a child would lead them on the mountain. The child would teach the world about God and all the good things God can do. No one would harm or destroy anyone or anything else on this mountain. Everyone and everything in the whole wide world would know about God. They would know that God is everywhere even in the biggest ocean. They would know that all the people have been a part of God's plan and all the people will be a part of that plan in the future.