

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

December 15, 2019

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

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Lectionary for today	Lectionary for next Sunday
<i>Isaiah 35:1-10</i> <i>Luke 1:47-55</i> <i>James 5:7-10</i> <i>Matthew 11:2-11</i>	<i>Isaiah 7:10-16</i> <i>Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19</i> <i>Romans 1:1-7</i> <i>Matthew 1:18-25</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)

HOPE & PEACE CANDLES ARE LIT *(The Watling Family)*

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP - "As We Are Waiting"

As we are wondering what comes next
As we seek peace and joy.
We trust your word revealed to us.
Proclaimed in a baby boy.



CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Your promise, Holy One, dawns upon us—

we wait expectantly.

Your hope, Holy One, arises among us—

we wait confidently.

Your Cherished One appears for us—

we wait in joy.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – "Good Christian Friends Rejoice"

(Gathering, A/C/E 2007-8 pg.86)

Good Christian friends, rejoice,
 With heart and soul and voice,
 In darkness we have heard a call:
 Hope! Hope!
 Gift of God for one and all.
 Light shines in the darkness near.
 We're released from all our fear.
 A candle flames in hope,
 A candle flames in hope.

Good Christian friends, rejoice,
 With heart and soul and voice,
 Battles, wars should be no more:
 Peace! Peace!
 Harmony will be our core.
 Calls for peace and calls you all,
 In penitence to humbly fall.
 A candle flames for peace,
 A candle flames for peace.

Good Christian friends, rejoice,
 With heart and soul and voice.
 Now we hear of endless bliss:
 Joy! Joy!
 Jesus Christ was born for this.
 He has opened heaven's door
 And we are blessed forevermore!
 A candle flames in joy,
 A candle flames in joy!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (responsively)

(The Watling Family)

Voice 1: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light three candles.

Our first light was for hope, our second for peace.

Today we light the candle for joy.

Voice 2: (Read while candle is lit.)

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

This week our light is for joy.

There may not always seem to be too much
to rejoice about in the world.

But, we light this candle to remind us
that God has promised that the world can be transformed –
turned upside down and right side up.

We rejoice in this good news.

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

Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE – “We Light This Candle”

We light this candle for Joy.

Await the new life within.

May our hearts now live each day,

so Joy can find a way,

so Joy 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 & 2)

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Wayne Lord

Isaiah 35:1-10

Luke 1:47-55

***Hymn** - Never Ending Joy #40 MV

Refrain:

Never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy,

Never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy!

God of every tribe, every language,

God of every river and sea.

God of every mountain and island,

you bring joy to me.

Refrain:

God of every hill, every valley,

God of every leaf, every tree.

God of every cloud, every raindrop,

you bring joy to me.

Refrain:

God of every song, every story,

God of every captive set free.

God of every dance, every footstep,

you bring joy to me.

Refrain:

Never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy,

Never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy!

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

ANTHEM – “Still, Still, Still”

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**

Joyful is how we seek to live,

Joyful is what we each can give.

Joyful in what we speak and hear,

And joy in what we offer here.

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***OFFERING PRAYER** (in unison)

**For the opportunity to give freely,
Holy One, we give thanks.
For the privilege to worship openly,
we give thanks.
For the blessings we've received,
we give thanks.
Accept these gifts, then, with our thanks,
with our love, and with joy.
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 (in unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.**

GOING OUT (as God's people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** – “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

***BLESSING**

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

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

POSTLUDE

*“Joy
is the infallible sign
of the presence of God.”
— Pierre Teilhard de Chardin*

Church News

This Week at First United –Dec. 16 – Dec. 20

Monday	9-11am	Badminton
	6:15pm	Beaver Scouts rms. 1,2&3
Tuesday	6:30	Cub Scouts - DEMH Gym
Wednesday	9-11:30	TAB
	9-11am	Badminton

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2019 **900**

Total Collected **902**

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 **TODAY** at 2pm, First United Church, Bathurst. (Storm Date - Dec. 16th 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 and our very own Children's Choir!

Cost \$10 adults, \$5 youth. Tickets are available 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.

Thank You to all who participated in the Silent Auction. \$379.00 was raised for the Life and Work of First United.



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.

Thank You: The organizers of the Luncheon that was held on Friday Dec. 6th would like to thank all who attended as well as baked for the sale table. Because of your generous support the "Friends of First" raised approximately \$1200.00.

White Gift Contributions: During our Dec.8th church service the following items were collected from the congregation by our Church School children for the Volunteer Center.

279 non-perishable food items

33 personal hygiene products

46 pairs mitts, socks, slippers,

14 comfort items (Throws/ soft toys etc.)

10 age specific gifts

Gift cards

To date \$1515.00 has been collected.

Thank you to all who contributed.

*"Sometimes your joy is the source of your smile,
but sometimes your smile
can be the source of your joy."*

— Thich Nhat Hanh

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)

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.

Give Broadview Magazine! Special Gift Subscription – only \$20(plus tax). Makes an inspiring year-round gift for family and friends. Contact the church office for your Order Form and Gift Card.

Community Events

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!

Isaiah 35 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

The Joy of the LORD's People

35 The desert and the dry ground will be glad.
The dry places will be full of joy.
Flowers will grow there.
Like the first crocus in the spring,

² the desert will bloom with flowers.
It will be very glad and shout for joy.
The glorious beauty of Lebanon will be given to it.
It will be as beautiful as the rich lands
of Carmel and Sharon.
Everyone will see the glory of the LORD.
They will see the beauty of our God.

³ Strengthen the hands of those who are weak.
Help those whose knees give way.

⁴ Say to those whose hearts are afraid,
"Be strong and do not fear.
Your God will come.
He will pay your enemies back.
He will come to save you."

⁵ Then the eyes of those who are blind will be opened.
The ears of those who can't hear will be unplugged.

⁶ Those who can't walk will leap like a deer.
And those who can't speak will shout for joy.
Water will pour out in dry places.
Streams will flow in the desert.

⁷ The burning sand will become a pool of water.
The thirsty ground will become bubbling springs.
In the places where wild dogs once lay down,
tall grass and papyrus will grow.

⁸ A wide road will go through the land.
It will be called the Way of Holiness.
Only those who lead a holy life can use it.
"Unclean" and foolish people can't walk on it.

⁹ No lions will use it.
No hungry wild animals will be on it.
None of them will be there.
Only people who have been set free will walk on it.

¹⁰ Those the LORD has saved will return to their land.
They will sing as they enter the city of Zion.
Joy that lasts forever will be
like beautiful crowns on their heads.
They will be filled with gladness and joy.
Sorrow and sighing will be gone.

Luke 1:47-55 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

⁴⁷ My spirit delights in God my Savior.

⁴⁸ He has taken note of me
even though I am not considered important.
From now on all people will call me blessed.

⁴⁹ The Mighty One has done great things for me.
His name is holy.

⁵⁰ He shows his mercy to those who have respect for him,
from parent to child down through the years.

⁵¹ He has done mighty things with his powerful arm.
He has scattered those who are proud in their deepest thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones.
But he has lifted up people who are not considered important.

⁵³ He has filled with good things those who are hungry.
But he has sent away empty those who are rich.

⁵⁴ He has helped the people of Israel, who serve him.
He has always remembered to be kind

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his children down through the years.
He has done it just as he promised to our people of long ago.”