

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

December 24, 2019
4pm

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Organist** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Isabel Clouston **Greeters** The Lavigne Family
Custodian Steve White

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Lectionary for today

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalms 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2L:1-20

*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, JOY & LOVE CANDLES ARE LIT
(The Lavigne Family)

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP - "A Candle Burning" #6 VU vs 4&5

A Candle is burning, a candle of love,
A candle to point us heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
For Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

We honour Messiah with Christ-candle's flame,
Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
As God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

CALL TO WORSHIP

***GATHERING CAROL** - "Joy to the World" # 59 VS 1&2

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GREETING ONE ANOTHER** (responsively)

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20

Sherry Mitton

SHARING A STORY (with children of all ages)

ANTHEM -

The Children's Choir

"Away in a Manger"

"There's a Song of Love in My Heart"

RESPONDING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE OFFERING IS GATHERED

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

***OFFERING HYMN** 'In the Bleak Midwinter' #55 VU vs.4
*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,
Yet what I can, I give him, give my heart.*

***OFFERING PRAYER** (in unison)
Holy One,
take our offerings—what we offer here,
what we offer with our time and energy—
and make them holy.
May such light shine from us
and from these gifts that all may know your peace.
Amen

LIGHTING [THE CHRIST CANDLE]

SOLO Torey Smith

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (*The Lavigne Family*)
Voice 1: For the past four Sundays, we have lit the Advent candles,
one by one, as we travelled toward this day.

Voice 2: We now light the Christ candle, in celebration of God's
most precious gift to us: a fragile baby who brings hope, peace, joy,
and love into the world and into the hearts and minds of each one
of us. (The Christ candle is lit.)

CHORAL RESPONSE – "We Light This Candle"

We light this candle for Christ.
Await the new life within.
May our hearts now live each day,
so Christ can find a way,
so Christ we can find a way.



SHARING THE CHRIST LIGHT

***CLOSING CAROL** –
"Silent Night, Holy Night" #67VU

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

*Christmas Eve has come at last,
That day of all most glad—
The angels sing with joy and praise,
Christmas Eve has come at last—
That day of all most blest.
~Amy Campbell*

Let Every Day Be Christmas

*Christmas is forever, not for just one day,
for loving, sharing, giving,
are not to put away
like bells and lights and tinsel,
in some box upon a shelf.
The good you do for others
is good you do yourself.*

*Peace on Earth, good will to men,
kind thoughts and words of cheer,
are things we should use often
and not just once a year.*

*Remember too the Christ-child,
grew up to be a man;
to hide him in a cradle,
is not our dear Lord's plan.
So keep the Christmas spirit,
share it with others far and near,
from week to week and month to month,
throughout the entire year!*

*—Norman W. Brooks,
“Let Every Day Be Christmas,” 1976*