

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

**December 24, 2019**

**7pm**

<b>Minister</b>	Rev. Neal Palmer	<b>Organist</b>	Martha Vickers
<b>Office Adm.</b>	Isabel Clouston	<b>Greeters</b>	Gayle Ferron
<b>Custodian</b>	Steve White		Pat Thibideau

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**Lectionary for today**

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

*Psalm 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)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**HOPE, PEACE, JOY & LOVE CANDLES ARE LIT**

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP –**

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear" #44 vs 1

*It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold.  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
From heaven's all gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*GATHERING CAROL** – "O Come, All Ye Faithful" VU #60

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

**Refrain:**

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

*God of God, Light of light,  
Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
Very God begotten, not created:*

**Refrain:**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,  
Glory to God in the highest:

**Refrain:**

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear,  
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;

**Refrain:**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

**Refrain:**

**GATHERING PRAYER**

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

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

ENGAGING

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**OPENING THE WORD**      *Narrator – Joanne Wiseman*

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7      *Isaiah*

Luke 2:1-7

**CAROL** – “Away in a Manger” – VU #69

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love You, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And fit us for heaven, To live with you there

Luke 2:8-14      *Angel*

**CAROL** – “Angels We Have Heard on High” – VU #38 (Verses 1-3)

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.

**Refrain:**

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*  
*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song?

**Refrain:**

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

**Refrain:**

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*  
*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

Luke 2:15-16

**SOLO** – “Wexford Carol”      *Emma Vickers*

Luke 2:17-20      *Shepherds*

**\*CAROL** – “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  
o’er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, through-out 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 Savior’s birth

**Refrain:**

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

**Refrain:**

**REFLECTION**

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**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 of your peace.  
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**

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

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 can find a way.***



**SOLO** – “Holy Night”

*Emma Vickers*

*GOING OUT (as God’s people)*

**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** – “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”

***Refrain***

***We wish you a Merry Christmas (3X)***

***And a Happy New Year***

Good tidings we bring, To you and your king  
We wish you a Merry Christmas, And a Happy New Year

Now bring us some figgy pudding (3X)  
And a cup of good cheer

We won't go until we get some (3X)  
So bring it right here

So bring us some figgy pudding (3X)  
And bring it right here

Good tidings we bring, To you and your king  
We wish you a Merry Christmas, And a Happy New Year

***Refrain***

***We wish you a Merry Christmas (3X)***

***And a Happy New Year***

(For reasons of safety, please extinguish candles prior to leaving the sanctuary.)