

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

December 29, 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 63:7-9</i> <i>Psalm 148</i> <i>Hebrews 2:10-18</i> <i>Matthew 2:13-23</i> | <i>Jeremiah 31:7-14</i> <i>Psalm 147</i> <i>Ephesians 1:3-14</i> <i>John 1:1-18</i> |

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

GATHERING

CAROLS AS WE GATHER

WELCOME (including our friends worshipping by CD)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP –

“I heard the bells on Christmas Day”

I heard the bells on Christmas Day

Their old, familiar carols play,

and wild and sweet

The words repeat

Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING CAROL** – “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” – VU #43

PRAYER OF HUMILITY (responsively)

...In those times, Holy One, as always, we seek your guidance.

Amen

***CAROL** – “O Little Town of Bethlehem” VU #64

***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** – “Deck the Halls”

Deck the hall with boughs of holly,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

'Tis the season to be jolly,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Don we now our gay apparel,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Troll the ancient Christmas carol,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Fast away the old year passes,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Hail the new, ye lads and lasses!

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Sing we joyous all together,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Heedless of the wind and weather,

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

[Based on] Psalm 148

Gary Branch

MINISTRY OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS

*Carol – “A Huron (Wendat) Carol ”

*As an Indigenous person, in the spirit of Reconciliation,
I respectfully offer lyrics reflective of Wendat (Huron) culture.*

D L Seaborn

We gather at midwinter dark to share this hallowed night.
Within our longhouse, warm and dry, the fire glows with light.
Our Elders sing a teaching song;
it fills the night that seems so long:
This is our sacred home, 'neath heaven's dome,
shining stars proclaim the dawn.

Sky Woman came down from above, but found no place to stand,
till Toad put mud on Turtle's back, and that became the land.
Sky Woman died in giving birth;
her holy body fed the earth.
This is our sacred home, 'neath heaven's dome,
shining stars proclaim the dawn.

A valiant Little Turtle rode a cloud up to the sky;
she used the light'ning to make fire, and made our Sun to shine.
He journeys 'neath the world we see,
returns to make the shadows flee.
This is our sacred home, 'neath heaven's dome,
shining stars proclaim the dawn.

The Black Robes came from lands a'far, and told us of a day
Judea had been colonized, and Rome must be obeyed.
A mother bore a child of light;
rejoicing filled the starlit night:
This is our sacred home, 'neath heaven's dome,
shining stars proclaim the dawn.

Rejoice! Have courage one and all! The stars shine overhead,
the same stars that shone down upon a baby's humble bed.
The infant grew to be a man;
his words, like stars, light many lands.
This is our sacred home, 'neath heaven's dome,
shining stars proclaim the dawn.

Anthem – “Musical offering of a carol”

*Carol – “The Holly and the Ivy”

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown.

*The rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a blossom,
As white as the lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
To be our sweet Saviour.

*The rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a berry,
As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to do us sinners good.

*The rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a prickle,
As sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas Day in the morn.

*The rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.*

RESPONDING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE OFFERING IS GATHERED

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

***OFFERING HYMN – “Dream a Dream” # 158 MV vs. 2, 3&4**

Dream a time, this Christmas time,
When no one’s hungry or afraid;
That weapons go and harvests grow,
That friends are met and made.

Dream a peace, our planet’s peace,
The greening of the earth at play,
The holy ground where life is found,
Where God has touched the clay.

Dream a gift, the Christmas gift
That changes everything we see:
The shimmering of angel wing,
The Child, the Mystery.

***OFFERING PRAYER (in unison)**

**As part of creation’s endless song of praise, Holy One,
may these offerings express our hope
and joy for all things living.
Open us and use us, then,
in the ways of your generous love.
Amen.**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS –

“O God, Hear My Prayer” – VU #948

***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)

**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 CAROL – “The First Nowell” – VU #91**

***BLESSING**

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

***We are walking a path of grace,
We are walking a path of grace
We are walking a path of grace joy,
lead me home, lead me home.***

POSTLUDE

*The rose of the old year withers away
as the new bud begins to bloom.
~Terri Guillemets~*

Church News

This Week at First United –Dec. 30– Jan 4

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------------|
| Tuesday | 12pm Closed | New Year's Eve |
| Wednesday | Closed | New Year's Day |

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



Poinsettia Memorial booklets are available in the Narthex.

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.

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)

Community Events

Family & Community Breakfast
Saturday, January 11, 2020 8:00 – 10:00 am
Saint George's Church Hall 432 King Avenue

Based on] Psalm 148

(In the voice of the psalm writer)

Have you felt so alive it was as if everything around you was humming with energy and singing? I have felt like that some days: when I receive really good news, when I fall in love, when I have hiked all the way to the top of a mountain, when I see a beautiful sunrise or the stars on a clear night.

On these kinds of days, it feels like everything says "thanks, God" and "praise you, God" for beauty and life. As a songwriter for the king,

I am asked to write songs that we can use during holidays or special celebrations to express how we feel.

Sometimes these are sad songs, sometimes they are worry songs, sometimes thank you songs, sometimes "we're sorry" songs, sometimes happy songs. All the time we are singing to God to say how we feel.

One day, the king asked me to write a song to talk about when we are happy, and it feels like everything around us joins in thanking God.

So I went for a long walk outside on a beautiful day, and here is what I wrote:

Praise God, everything!

Mountains, hills, and trees praise God.

Rivers, oceans, and lakes praise God.

All creatures in the air, in the sea, on the land, praise God.

The sky, the clouds, the earth praise God.

The rain, snow, the wind praise God.

The sun, the moon, the stars praise God.

All people old and young praise God.

God created everything and loves all that is created.

Because of this love, we feel God is close to us.

Nothing is better than this special love from God, and for this, we give all glory and thanks to God!