

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

November 29, 2020

**Minister** Rev. Neal Palmer      **Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**OfficeAdm** Margaret Payne-Chenard      **Greeters** Gayle Ferron  
**Custodian** Steve White      Shirley Sealy

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<u>Lectionary for Today</u> <i>Isaiah 64:1-9</i> <i>Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19</i> <i>1 Corinthians 1:3-9</i> <i>Mark 13:24-37</i>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u> <i>Isaiah 40:1-11</i> <i>Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13</i> <i>2 Peter 3:8-15a</i> <i>Mark 1:1-8</i>
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*Asterisk \* identifies those times in the service where the congregation is invited to stand as able.*

**GATHERING**

**MUSIC AS WE GATHER**

**WELCOME**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING** – Hope (*responsively*)

...Hope is the theme of this day.

**What does hope look like?**

...Hope looks like the people joining us here.

**What does hope feel like?**

...Hope feels like an encouraging word just when you thought you couldn't continue any longer.

**What is it like to live in hope?**

*The Hope candle is lit.*

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP -**  
**"Hope Shines as the Solitary Star"**

MV # 220

***Hope shines as the solitary star.***  
***Faith is the inner light.***  
***You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,***  
***and illumine the pathway home.***

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**GATHERING PRAYER**

**GATHERING HYMN** – "God of All Places"

VU # 4"

God of all places; present, unseen;  
voice in our silence, song in our midst,  
we are your people, knowing, unsure:  
come, Lord Jesus, come!

God of all dreaming, near and yet far;  
vision unheard of, wake us to rest.  
We are your presence sent forth, afraid:  
come, Lord Jesus, come!

God of all people, dust and the clay:  
breath of a new wind, fire in our hearts,  
light born of heaven, peace on the earth:  
come, Lord Jesus, come!

**PRAYER OF HUMILITY**

**CHORAL RESPONSE** – "The Advent Prayer Song"

***Breathe into this moment of peace***  
***with courage to let go, daring to dream.***  
***For the days are surely coming***  
***when we'll rise strong together once again in peace.***

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

The Peace of Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

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

**SINGING A SONG** – “O Come Little Children”

O come, little children, O come one and all,  
To Bethlehem haste, to the manger so small,  
God's son for a gift has been sent you this night  
To be your redeemer, your joy and delight.

He's born in a stable for you and for me,  
Draw near by the bright gleaming starlight to see,  
In swaddling clothes lying so meek and so mild,  
And purer than angels the heavenly Child.

See Mary and Joseph, with love beaming eyes,  
Are gazing upon the rude bed where He lies,  
The shepherds are kneeling, with hearts full of love  
While angels sing loud hallelujahs above.

*ENGAGING*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Mark 13:24-37  
Isaiah 64:1-9

*Anne Brooks*

**REFLECTION**

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**GIFT OF MUSIC** – “Shelter Me” (pre-recorded April 26, 2020.  
Emma Vickers)

*A prayer-song written in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. It  
is a paraphrase of Psalm 23.*

*RESPONDING*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

*Bev Murphy*

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

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

**God of Restoration,  
we've brought our pain and our hopes, our hurts and our  
tears.  
We've brought our gifts as well.  
Take these gifts, we pray, and mould them, craft them, shape  
them into things that bring hope to all.  
Amen**

**SHARING OUR CONCERNS - *O Come, Emmanuel*** – *Wherever  
You May Dwell* (Tune: Veni Emmanuel, VU 1) (The Gathering A/C/E  
2020/21)

***O come, O come, Emmanuel  
Refresh us at your life-giving well.  
All people long to feel your grace.  
Pour out your Spirit on every place.  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel,  
Shall come to thee wherever you may dwell.***

**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** – “Hark the Glad Sound”

VU # 29

Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long:  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.

He comes the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to bless the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.

**BLESSING**

**CHORAL SENDING FORTH** “*I am Walking a Path of Peace*” -MV #221

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

*(The Hope Candle is extinguished.)*

## Church News

**Please note** the office hours are now Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, closed for lunch from 12:00 to 12:30.

**Just a reminder** that you need to register at the church office before 1:00 pm each Friday for the following Sunday's service.

**Peanut Butter Update** To date, 433 jars have been collected and \$1090.00 towards the purchase of Peanut Butter has been given to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. Peanut butter can be dropped off at the church office anytime during office hours; cheques can be delivered or mailed to the Bathurst Volunteer Center at 464 King Ave., Bathurst NB E2A 1P5. Please indicate on your cheque that it is for the purchase of Peanut Butter for the First United contribution.

**Annual Christmas Benevolence Fund:** It's that time of year! Giving to this fund is even more important than ever because of COVID-19. Things will be a bit different, but we hope the results will be the same as other years. Should you wish to give, please place your donation in an envelope and drop it in the offering plate, or drop it off at the Church or mail to First United Church, 309 St. Patrick Street, Bathurst N.B, E2A 1E2. Make your cheques payable to First United Church. Please mark clearly that this donation is for the Benevolence Fund. The proceeds from this fund support the Bathurst Volunteer Center and people in our congregation who need assistance. We thank you for your generosity.  
Community Outreach Sub-Team

**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 14, 2020.

**Thank you! On behalf of the "Lesotho Initiative" Committee of ASD - N,** a special 'thank you' is extended to you for your support of our recent calendar drive. A total of 156 "Help Lesotho" 2021 calendars were sold, and this will raise \$2340. for the work of "Help Lesotho" with Grandmothers and vulnerable children in the tiny mountain kingdom of Lesotho, Africa. (There are additional calendars available for anyone else who would like to support this cause.)



### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Shriners** – Each year the Shriners have calendars and fruit cake for sale. All profit goes to help support sick children in our region. Calendars are 20\$ each and Fruit Cakes are 3 in a box for 20\$. If interested please contact Harvey Spence at 546-2742 or by email at [colovey@hotmail.ca](mailto:colovey@hotmail.ca) Thank you for supporting the Shriners!

**Team Esperanza** – Due to pandemic-related restrictions, our mission team won't be holding a pre-Christmas craft sale. However, note that we have a large variety of crafts suitable for gift giving on hand & Marie is prepared to take orders for hand painted items prior to Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. As well, we have a limited quantity of chili (individual servings), smoked cheese & lobster paste for sale. For more information, contact Helen Knowles (546-9563) or Marie Oliver (548-3493).

### The Coming of the Son of Man

<sup>24</sup>“But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

<sup>25</sup> and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

### The Lesson of the Fig Tree

<sup>28</sup> “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he<sup>[a]</sup> is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

### The Necessity for Watchfulness

<sup>32</sup> “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Beware, keep alert;<sup>[b]</sup> for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup> It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each

with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup> Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup> or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup> And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Isaiah 64:1-9  
New Revised Standard Version

**64** O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,

so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

<sup>2</sup> <sup>[a]</sup> as when fire kindles brushwood

and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,

so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

<sup>3</sup> When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,

you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

<sup>4</sup> From ages past no one has heard,

no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,

who works for those who wait for him.

<sup>5</sup> You meet those who gladly do right,

those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;

because you hid yourself we transgressed.<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>6</sup> We have all become like one who is unclean,

and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,

and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

<sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered<sup>[c]</sup> us into the hand of our iniquity.

<sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

<sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

