

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

December 20, 2020

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** - Martha Vickers
OfficeAdm Margaret Payne-Chenard **Greeters** - Nancy & Allan Jagoe
Custodian - Steve White

All musical selections reprinted under license #4-606499, Onelicense for Churches

<u>Lectionary for Today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Isaiah 61:10—62:3
Luke 1:46b-55	Psalm 148
Romans 16:25-27	Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 1:26-38	Luke 2:22-40

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

This morning we welcome Amanda Godin as guest vocalist and Cheryl and Mya Brewster as our Advent Candle Lighters and Scripture Readers. Thanks so very much for sharing yours gifts!

The bulletins are placed in loving memory of Ruth Knowles by Joyce, Bill and Family.

GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING –Love (responsively)

Cheryl & Mya Brewster

...Love is the theme of this day.

What does love look like?

Yours and mine too.

What does love feel like?

...Love feels like God.

What is it like to live in love?

...love overcomes death.

Today we light the candle named Love. May its light help us find our way.

(The Love candle is lit.)

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP

MV # 220

“Hope Shines as the Solitary Star”

Love 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 (responsively)

We come into this place to make a home for Love. We come to create a structure, to give shelter, to craft a dwelling place for the Incarnation.

God asks, “Have I ever asked for another dwelling place than in my Creation?”

We come into this place to tell the story of a woman who said, “yes”; of a stable and a manger and angels singing before frightened shepherds.

We come to celebrate the birth of the One who would teach us that his life was the beginning of new life for us all. We come to worship the One who asks us all to say *yes* to carrying that which will bring justice, mercy, and peace into the world.

We come into this place to remember.

We come into this place to re-imagine our place in God's incarnation.

GATHERING PRAYER

GATHERING HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" VU # 48

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

*Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, off spring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Refrain

Hail, the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.

Refrain

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

CHORAL RESPONSE

*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 – Jesus, Our Brother

VU # 56

Jesus, our brother, kind and good,
was humbly born in a stable rude,
and the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus, our brother, kind and good.

"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
"I carried the mother up hill and down,
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town;
I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

"I," said the cow, all white and red,
"I gave him my manger for his bed,
I gave him hay to pillow his head;
I," said the cow, all white and red.

"I," said the sheep with curly horn,
"I gave him my wool for his blanket warm,
he wore my coat on Christmas morn;
I," said the sheep, with curly horn.

"I," said the dove, from the rafters high,
"I cooed him to sleep that he should not cry,
we cooed him to sleep, my mate and I;
I," said the dove, from the rafters high.

Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,
in the stable dark were glad to tell
of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,
the gifts they gave Emmanuel.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mya & Cheryl Brewster

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:26-38

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

Amanda Godin

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

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

**Creator God,
we bring our gifts and ourselves, our treasure and our heart.
Bless us, we pray, in all we offer, that they might be used in
your call to us: to be stewards, but not owners, of that which
has been given, to be places in which you abide, but not,
where you're constrained.
Bless us, that in our giving, we might open ourselves to your
call to seek justice for all you've created, for all that you love.
Amen**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

*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.*

(Tune: Veni Emmanuel, VU 1) (The Gathering A/C/E 2020/21)

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

"The First Nowell"

VU # 91

The first Nowell the angel did say
 was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
 in fields where they lay a keeping their sheep
 on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 born is the King of Israel.*

They looked up and saw a star,
 shining in the east, beyond them far;
 and to the earth it gave great light,
 and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

And by the light of that same star
 three wise men came from country far;
 to seek for a king was their intent,
 and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

This star drew nigh to the northwest;
 o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
 and there it did both stop and stay,
 right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain

-7-

Then entered in those wise men three,
 full reverently upon their knee,
 and offered there in his presence
 their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Refrain

Then let us all with one accord
 sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
 that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

BLESSING**CHORAL SENDING FORTH -**

MV # 221

"I am Walking a Path of Peace"

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

(The Candles are extinguished.)

-8-

Church News

Christmas Eve worship services will be held on December 23, 2020 at 7:00 pm and December 24, 2020 at 4:00 pm. Please register with the office prior to the service you wish to attend.

The office hours over Christmas and New Years are as follows: closing at noon on the 24th, closed 25th and 28th. On December 31st the office will close at noon and remain closed until January 4, 2021.

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

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

Peanut Butter Update To date, 466 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.

2 Samuel 7:1-11
New Revised Standard Version

God's Covenant with David

7 Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, **2** the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." **3** Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

4 But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: **5** Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? **6** I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. **7** Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders^[a] of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" **8** Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; **9** and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. **10** And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, **11** from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

2 Samuel 7:16
New Revised Standard Version

16 Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me;^[a] your throne shall be established forever.

Luke 1:26-38
New Revised Standard Version

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, **27** to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."^[a] **29** But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. **30** The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. **32** He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. **33** He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." **34** Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"^[b] **35** The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^[c] will be holy; he will be called Son of God. **36** And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God." **38** Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.