

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

January 3, 2021

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** - Martha Vickers
OfficeAdm Margaret Payne-Chenard **Greeters** - Margaret Payne-Chenard
Custodian - Steve White Mike Kierstead

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<u>Lectionary for Today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:1-18	Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11

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

The bulletins are placed in loving memory of Manford Sealy by Shirley, Harley, Hadley and Families

GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP "A Light Is Gleaming"

VU # 82

refrain

*A light is gleaming,
spreading its arms throughout the night,
living in the light.
Come share its gladness,
God's radiant love is burning bright,
living in the light.*

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsively*)

...we proclaim the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, the promise that God is with us.

In hope, we follow.

We celebrate the wonder of Jesus, healer and transformer.

In awe, we follow.

We worship the light of the world, our guide going forward.

In faith, we follow.

GATHERING PRAYER

GATHERING HYMN "Carol at the Manger" (Tune Afron VU # 244)

Holy Child within the manger,
long ago yet ever near;
come as friend to every stranger,
come as hope for every fear.
As you lived to heal the broken,
greet the outcast, free the bound,
as you taught us love unspoken,
teach us now where you are found.

Once again we tell the story--
how your love for us was shown,
when the image of your glory
wore an image like our own.
Come, enlighten with your wisdom,
come and fill us with your grace.
May the fire of your compassion
kindle every land and race.

Holy Child within the manger,
lead us ever in your way,
so we see in every stranger
how you come to us today.
In our lives and in our living
give us strength to live as you,
that our hearts might be forgiving
and our spirits strong and true.

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

CHORAL RESPONSE "How Deep the Peace" MV # 95

*How deep the peace, the confidence,
of those whose wrongs are forgiven.
How deep the peace, the confidence,
of those whose hearts are healed.*

***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' Hands Were Kind Hands" VU # 570

Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all,
healing pain and sickness, blessing children small,
washing tired feet, and saving those who fall;
Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all.

Take my hands, O Jesus, let them work for you,
make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do;
let me watch you, Jesus, till I'm gentle too,
till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS John 1:1-18 *Helen Knowles*

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION *Bev Murphy*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

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

**You love abundantly, Holy One, and provide generously.
We, in gratitude, give back.
May our offerings—our time, money, energy, and prayers—
nurture and support all those in need and represent to all
what a joy it is to be counted as part of your family.
Use us, we pray, AND these gifts.
Amen**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

VU # 400

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

***Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send you Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!***

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 "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" VU # 684

Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me bring your love,
where there is injury, your healing power,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

*Refrain
O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life, let me bring hope,
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

BLESSING

...Go in peace! **(Go in peace!)**

You are loved **(You are loved)**

by God and us! **(By God and us!)**

Spread the light **(Spread the light)**

and share God's story **(and share God's story)**

because you are loved **(because you are loved)**

and you are enough. **(and you are enough.)**

Amen! **(Amen!)**

CHORAL SENDING FORTH

"Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light"

MV # 211

***Go now in peace,
guided by the light of Christ,
so you may be nourished
by the Word of Life***

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

Church News

My apologies for the omissions in the Poinsettia Memorial Bulletin. Adjustments have been made and copies are available in the narthex.

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 In 2020, 479 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.

Thank you to the greeters in December: Lester Scott; Jini Palmer; Cheryl & Dave Brewster; Nancy & Allan Jagoe; Gayle Ferron; the Lavigne Family.

Thank you also to the counters Edie Gammon and Gary Branch.

Thank You to our congregation for your generosity on White Gift Sunday and throughout the following weeks. We donated 73 non- perishable canned and boxed items, 18 personal care items, a gift certificate, and a huge box of knitted goods and blankets.

Look For The Good

In the New Year, let's resolve
to get less stressed, upset, anxious
about things over which we have no control.

Let's have a narrower focus on our lives,
loving and helping our family and friends,
making our community a better place to live,
to create peace and contentment.

In the New Year, let's resolve
to pay less attention to depressing shows
on TV, in magazines and newspapers,
and to stop focusing on what we want
that we haven't got
instead of appreciating
the many blessings we do have.

In the New Year, let's look for the good.

We may have to search
through a mass of negative media,
but the good is there
all around us.

I wish for you a New Year filled with good,
engulfed in serenity and happiness.

-Joanna Fuchs

John 1:1-18

New Revised Standard Version

The Word Became Flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life,^[a] and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.^[b]

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own,^[c] and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,^[d] full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son,^[e] who is close to the Father's heart,^[f] who has made him known.