

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

January 29, 2012
4th Sunday after Epiphany

Clergy Rev. Blair Lewis **Organist** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Isabel Clouston **Greeters** Wilma Dempsey
Custodian Alan Wilcox Haines Scott

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Lectionary for today	Lectionary for next Sunday
<i>Deuteronomy 18:15-20</i> <i>Psalms 111</i> <i>I Corinthians 8:1-13</i> <i>Mark 1:21-28</i>	<i>Isaiah 40:21-31</i> <i>Psalms 147</i> <i>I Corinthians 9:16-23</i> <i>Mark 1:29-39</i>

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

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

We welcome the Men's choir today and thank them for leading us in our music.

Organ Prelude:

***Choral Opening:** 'Arise, Your Light is Come' **#79VU vs.1**
Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey,
Show forth the glory of your God,
Which shines on you today.

Welcoming:

Ever-present God,
this day enfolds us and surrounds us:
be in our speaking and in our thinking;
be in our life and on our lips;
be in our hearts and in our souls,
this day and forever.

Welcoming One Another:
Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:
Announcements:

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

One: Behold, as we light the Christ Candle we are aware that God is doing something new.

All: Here. Now.
In the midst of daily life.

One: The Holy One who created heaven and earth forms us afresh today.
God is with us as we celebrate our successes and as we are confronted by life's challenges.

All: Let our spirits rise to greet our Maker

Call to Worship:

One: We come, like Abraham, Sarah, and John the Baptist,

All: people with vision.

One: We come, like Job, Thomas, and the Samaritan woman,

All: people with questions.

One: We come, like Moses, Jeremiah, and Mary,

All: people with self-doubts.

One: We come, like Joshua, Deborah, and Stephen,

All: people with courage.

One: We come, like David, Mary Magdalene, and Paul,

All: people with regrets.

One: We come, like Hagar, Uria, and the Syrophenician woman,

All: people with wisdom from the margins.

One: We come, like Rebekah and Samuel, like Hosea and Esther, like Nathaniel and Martha, like John, Mark and Priscilla,

All: people with a part to play in the story of faith.

Prayer of Approach:

Gracious God, we pray for your blessing on the church in this place.
Here may the faithful find salvation, and the careless be awakened.
Here may the doubting find courage, and the anxious be calmed.

Here may the tempted find help,
and the sorrowful be comforted.
Here may the weary find rest,
and the strong be renewed.
Here may the aged find consolation,
and the young be inspired,
in Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** *'O Worship the King'* #235 VU

Time for Children of all Ages:

The Lord's Prayer:

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding: *(in unison)*

Oh God through Jesus you extend your love to us, we pray that you will cause the pure light of your divine knowledge to shine forth in our hearts, open our eyes to understanding, that we may comprehend the precepts of your gospel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Scripture Readings: Nancy Scott
Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
*Responsive Psalm: Psalm 111 # 833 VU
New Testament: I Corinthians 8:1-13
Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:21-28

***Hymn:** *'Jesus Calls Us'* #562 VUV

Meditation: "Choosing Life"

Anthem: *'Fairest Lord Jesus'*

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

Minute for Missions:

Presentation of Gifts and Self to God:

Choral Response:

'Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow' #541 VU
**Praise God with songs that never cease,
Praise God who fills the earth with peace.
Praise God for love and joy within,
The Holy Child is born again.**

***Prayer of Dedication:** *(in unison)*

**In gratitude and humble trust
We bring our best today,
To serve your cause and share your love
With all along life's way.
O God who gave yourself to us
In Jesus Christ your Son,
Teach us to give ourselves each day
Until life's work is done. Amen**

Prayer of Confession: *(in unison)*

Eternal God, our judge and Redeemer: we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves. We have refused to shoulder the troubles of others, and turn from our neighbours. We have ignored the pain of the world, and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. Oh God, in your great mercy, forgive our sin and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your Commandments; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Choral Response: *'How Deep the Peace'* #95 MV
**How deep the peace, the confidence,
Of those whose wrongs are forgiven.
How deep the peace, the confidence
Of those whose hearts are healed.**

Prayer of Assurance:

God the Creator brings you new life,
forgives and redeems you.
Take hold of this forgiveness,
and live your life in the spirit of Jesus. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer:

One: We call to mind our concerns and commitments,
and join our prayers for peace and well-being
to the prayers of the whole church
as they are offered this day for the whole world.
Let us pray:

**All: We remember the people we know
who are in trouble,
and pray for healing and happiness for all.**

silence

**We seek God's encouragement:
for honest trade and just commerce;
for medicine and education;
for the gifts and aptitudes in every person
which serve justice in community living.**

silence

**We pray for peace on earth:
for the generous sharing of the earth's resources
and the responsible sharing of the earth's problems;
for understanding of others
and willingness to regard the diversity
of human culture
as more stimulating than threatening;
for the turning of swords into ploughshares
and spears into pruning hooks.**

silence

**We pray for the church,
by all its names and in all its places:
or its continuing usefulness
as a channel of grace and hope;
for its rescue from bureaucracy and stagnation;
for its witness to unity and justice;
for its commitment to hospitality and compassion.**

silence

**We commend to the Lord our families and friends;
and let us ask God to help us in the days of this
coming week.**

silence

Amen.

Quiet time:

Reflective Music:

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***Closing Hymn:** *'Lord Speak to Me'* **#589 VU**

***Commissioning:** *(in unison)*
**The God who challenges us
is also the God who encourages us.
The God who confronts us
is also the God who accepts us.
Be assured that God is with us even now,
accepting, guiding, and forgiving.**

***Blessing:**
Go forth,
for the love of God is yours to share,
the peace of Christ is yours to extend,
the power of the Holy Spirit is yours to offer.

***Choral Closing:** *'When You Walk From Here'* **#298 VU**
***When you walk from here,
When you walk from here,
Walk with justice, walk with mercy,
And with God's humble care.***

Organ Postlude:

Church News

Community Events

The Royal Canadian Legion Herman J Good VC Br. #18

Meal of the Month Sunday February 5, 2012

Roast Beef Supper Served at 5pm

Includes tea coffee and dessert

Takeouts Available Cost: \$11.00 Information Call 546-3135

Covenanting Service: Please note that the covenanting service on the Tabusintac Pastoral Charge originally scheduled for January 29, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in Tabusintac, is being postponed. We will let you know later of another date, perhaps when weather permits easier travel.

Covenanting Service: Please note that the covenanting service for the Rev. Doreen Bird-Daley and the New Richmond and New Carlisle Pastoral Charges will be held at St. Andrew's United Church in New Richmond, QC on Sunday, February 5, 2012 at 7 p.m. Storm date is February 12th.

It's always been and always will be

the same in the world:

The horse does the work

and the coachman is tipped.

~ Author Unknown ~

This Week at First United –Jan 30- Feb 5

Monday	9am	Way & Means - Eddy Rm
	6:15pm	Beavers – Rms 1,2&3
Tuesday	9:30-11:30	Do-Drop-In – RMR
	6:15pm	Cubs & Scouts – DEMH Gym
Wednesday	9am	TAB – Rms 1,2,& 3
	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Thursday	7pm	Pastoral Care - RMR

The bulletin today has been placed ***in loving memory of Gladys & Harold Moore*** by Gladys Chamberlain & Family.

The bulletin today has been placed ***in loving memory of Robert (Bert) Carmichael*** by Joyce and Family.

The flowers in our Sanctuary today have been placed ***in loving memory of Robert (Bert) Carmichael*** by Dale & Leonard McGrath, Linda & Bill Young, Donna & Gerald Pettigrew, Robert & Donna Carmichael and Carol & David Branch.

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2012 **900**

Total to Date **155**

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect 16-17 jars of peanut butter per week.

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

Community Outreach Team would like to express their appreciation for the generous support of the Congregation of First United to the Benevolence Fund. The amount of \$1385.00 was realized. You helped to make Christmas for those people who rely on the Volunteer Center so much better.

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁵ The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. ¹⁶ For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die."

¹⁷ The LORD said to me: "What they say is good. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. ¹⁹ I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. ²⁰ But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death."

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 New International Version (NIV)

Concerning Food Sacrificed to Idols

¹ Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. ² Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. ³ But whoever loves God is known by God.^[a]

⁴ So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that "An idol is nothing at all in the world" and that "There is no God but one." ⁵ For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), ⁶ yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

⁷ But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. ⁸ But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

⁹ Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? ¹¹ So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. ¹² When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

Mark 1:21-28 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Drives Out an Impure Spirit

²¹ They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²² The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. ²³ Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, ²⁴ “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

²⁵ “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” ²⁶ The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

²⁷ The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.” ²⁸ News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.