

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

January 10, 2010
Baptism of the Lord

Clergy	Rev. Blair Lewis	Organists	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Isabel Clouston		Joseph MacDonald
Custodian	Alan Wilcox	Greeters	Mae & Byron Branch

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Isaiah 43:1-7</i>	<i>Isaiah 62:1-5</i>
<i>Psalms 29</i>	<i>Psalms 36</i>
<i>Acts 8:14-17</i>	<i>I Corinthians 12:1-11</i>
<i>Luke 3:15-17,21-22</i>	<i>John 2:1-11</i>

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

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

Organ Prelude:

***Choral Opening:** *'Arise, Your Light Is Come'* (#79 VU vs1)
Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.

Welcoming:

Jesus went with his parents and came to Nazareth; and his mother kept all these things in her heart, and Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and the people.

Luke 2:51-52

Welcoming One Another:
Welcoming Friends Worshipping by Tape:

Announcements:

Lighting of the Christ Candle: (in unison)
 Holy God, we light the Christ Candle as we enter this new year, we thank you for your presence with us in all the years of our lives. We have known joy and also sorrow, success and failure, and through it all, you have been with us – the companion of all our journeys. Much of life is fleeting and so we thank you for things that endure: the love of faithful friends, wisdom gained from experience, the reliability of nature, and your steadfast love. We thank you for this new year which awaits us; take us by the hand, and lead us on.

Call to Worship:

One: The Magi came from many places, following a star.
All: We come to worship, and the star sheds light on our lives.
 One: The Magi brought gifts to offer the Child.
All: We too bring gifts – ourselves, our hopes, our dreams.
 One: Shepherds and Magi – the meek and the mighty – all were welcome in Bethlehem.
All: We too come to Bethlehem and then return to our homes rejoicing.

Prayer of Approach:

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires, known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn: 'Called by Earth and Sky' #135 MV

Refrain

*Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.*

Precious these waters, endless seas,
deep ocean's dream, waters of healing,
rivers of rain, the wash of love again.

Precious this gift, the air we breathe;
wind born and free. Breath of the Spirit,
blow through this place, our gathering and our grace.

Refrain

Precious these mountains, ancient sands;
vast fragile land. Seeds of our wakening,
rooted and strong, Creation's faithful song.

Precious the fire that lights our way,
bright dawning day. Fire of passion,
sorrows undone, our faith and justice one.

Refrain

Children of All Ages:

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding:

O You who are the Light of the minds that know you, the Life of the hearts that love you, the Strength of the spirits that seek you; help us so to know that we may truly love you, so to love you that we may fully serve you, in whose service is perfect freedom. Amen

Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 43:1-7* Pat MacIntosh

***Responsive Psalm:** Psalm 29 # 756 VU Pat MacIntosh

Choral Response: #951 VU

*Holy, holy, holy,
My heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words:
You are holy, God.*

Gospel Reading: *Luke 3:15-17, 21-22* Pat MacIntosh

***Hymn:** 'When Jesus Comes to be Baptized' #100 VU

Message:

Anthem: 'Bathe Me in Your Light'

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

Presentation of Gifts and Self to God:

***Choral Response:**

*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:**

Prayer of Confession: *(in unison)*

**Light has come into the world but we love the night.
Love has come into the world but we continue to hate.
Grace has come into the world but we cannot forgive.
Hope has come into the world but we are surrounded by despair.
New life has come into the world but we are tired.
Peace has come into the world but conflict continues.
Joy has come in to the world but we are sad.**

(silence)

Judge us, O God, by your gracious love. Forgive us, O God, and set us free. Amen.

Choral Response: *'Kyrie Eleison'* #70 MV
*Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison,
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.
O God have mercy, O God have mercy,
O God have mercy, have mercy on us.*

Pastoral Prayer: (in unison)

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)

All: 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)

All We pray for peace on earth: for the generous sharing of earth's resources and 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)

All: We pray for the church, by all its names and in all its places: for 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)

All: 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)

All: Amen.

Lord's Prayer:

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***Closing Hymn:** *'Behold a Light'* (Tune St. Thomas #715 VU)

Behold a light shall shine,
Just as it did before,
a light to share with us the dream
of peace forevermore.

Behold a light shall shine,
a sign of joy for all,
may it reveal a future clear
for all who hear God's call.

Behold a light shall shine,
through gifts that we now share,
God sends us forth, preparing us
to serve, to help, to care.

Behold a light shall shine
to guide us on this day.
Illuminate, O God, our paths,
disclose to us Christ's way.

Behold a light shall shine,
despair shall be no more,
our mission is to show Christ's love,
so hope may be restored.

Commissioning: (in unison)

**God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at my end, and at my departing.**

Attributed to St. Patrick 5th Century

Church News:

This Week at First United – Jan 11– Jan. 16

Monday	9:00	Way & Means – Eddy Room
	6:15	Beavers & Cubs
	7:30	Pastoral Care- Fellowship Room
Tuesday	9:30-11:30	Do Drop in – Fellowship Room
	1:30-3:30	Bible Study - Eddy Room
Wednesday	9:00-12:00	TAB
	6:30	Choir
Thursday	1:30	Finance Committee budget meeting - Eddy Room

Blessing:

*Light of God to give us hope
 Power of God to protect us
 Light of God to give us joy
 Peace of God to calm us
 Light of God to give us faith
 Grace of God to save us
 This day and forevermore.*

***Choral Closing**

*When you walk from here,
 When you walk from here,
 Walk with justice, walk with mercy,
 And with God's humble care.*

Organ Postlude:

Upcoming Events

Jiggs Dinner – Jan. 28, 2010
 Valentine Luncheon – Feb. 12, 2010

January 3,2010

The bulletin today has been donated *in loving memory of Mary and Sterling Anderson* by their daughter Ruth and family.

The bulletin today has been donated *in loving memory of Norman Scott* by Doris and family.

The bulletin today has been donated *in loving memory of Stella McLean* by Byron & Marion and Billy & Betty-Ann and families.

January 10,2010

The bulletin today has been donated *in loving memory of Harry and Evelyn Russell* by Wayne, Clara and Melissa.

The bulletin today has been donated *in loving memory of Lillian Chamberlain* by Clinton, Dorothy and Donald.

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2010	900
Total to Date	13

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

Thank You is extended to Helen Knowles and Lillian Jagoe for being our counters and to Wayne Cormier and Doug Henderson for being our greeters for the month of December.

TAB resumed last week. There is Cro-knitting and Crocheting, Cross-stitching, Knitting, Quilting and Painting. Newly added - Card Games with Wayne Clowater.

First United Church Events
Hosted by Ways and Means
2010 Schedule

Thursday, Jan 28, 2010	Jiggs Dinner
Thursday, Feb 25, 2010	Ham & Scallop Supper
Sunday, March 28, 2010	Sunrise Breakfast
Saturday, April 24, 2010	Beverley's Hillbillies
Saturday, Oct 2, 2010	Musical Event
Thursday, Nov 18, 2010	Turkey Supper

All dates and events are subject to change

Isaiah 43:1-7 (New International Version)

Israel's Only Savior

- ¹ But now, this is what the LORD says—
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
- ² When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.
- ³ For I am the LORD, your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;
I give Egypt for your ransom,
Cush ^[a] and Seba in your stead.
- ⁴ Since you are precious and honored in my sight,
and because I love you,
I will give men in exchange for you,
and people in exchange for your life.
- ⁵ Do not be afraid, for I am with you;
I will bring your children from the east
and gather you from the west.

⁶ I will say to the north, 'Give them up!'
and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.'
Bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the ends of the earth-
⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

Luke 3:15-17

¹⁵The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ.^[a] ¹⁶John answered them all, "I baptize you with^[b] water. But one more powerful than I will come, the things of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Luke 3:21-22

The Baptism and Genealogy of Jesus

²¹When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²²and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."