

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

January 5, 2020

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Organist** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Isabel Clouston **Greeters** Cheryl & Dave Brewster
Custodian Steve White

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Lectionary for today	Lectionary for next Sunday
<i>Isaiah 60:1-6</i> <i>Psalm 72:1-7, 10_14</i> <i>Ephesians 3:1-12</i> <i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>	<i>Isaiah 42:1-9</i> <i>Psalm 29</i> <i>Acts 10:34-43</i> <i>Matthew 3:13-17</i>

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

GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

WELCOME (including our friends worshipping by CD)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP –

"Come Touch Our Hearts" MV #12 vs. 2

***Come touch our souls
that we may know and love you,
Your quiet presence all our fears dispel;
Create a space for spirit to grow in us,
Let life and beauty fill us,
come touch and bless our souls.***

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

A star shining brightly in the East,
discovered by those who have eyes to see the unusual and the challenging.

A journey into unknown territory,

taken by those who have courage and curiosity.

An encounter with an evil presence,
evil faced, yet resisted with care.

The Holy One recognized, in spite of humble origin,
the glory and gifts given, to the Chosen One.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – "As With Gladness Men of Old" VU #81

PRAYER OF HUMILITY (responsively)

...for all the guiding lights you've sent to intercede, but we've ignored...

we seek another chance.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION –

"And When You Call for Me" – MV #96

***And when you call for me,
I have already answered.
And when you call for me,
I am already there.***

***GREETING ONE ANOTHER** (responsively)

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

SHARING A STORY (with children of all ages)

***SINGING A SONG** – 'Take Up His Song' MV #213

Take up his song of peace
And go into the world
Take up his song of peace
in every moment.
In every moment of the journey,
We're laying down our lives;
Lay them down in peace,
Lay them down,
And take up his song.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12

Cheryl Brewster

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

ANTHEM – “Will You Come and See the Light”

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE OFFERING IS GATHERED

(in support of the ministry and mission of the church)

***OFFERING HYMN** –

*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*

***OFFERING PRAYER** (in unison)

Holy One,
please accept our humble offerings,
as a token of our commitment—
to your realm of peace, justice & love.
Amen.

SHARING OUR CONCERNS –

“Lord, listen to Your Children Praying” – VU #400

*Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your 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 (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** – “I Am the Light of the World” VU #87

***BLESSING**

***GOING FORTH** – “May the God of Peace” MV #224

*May the God of peace and of all good,
May the God of peace and of all good
Be always with you, Amen!
May God’s peace be with you. Amen!*

POSTLUDE

*Teach us to realize how short our lives are.
Then our hearts will become wise.
Psalm 90:12 NIRV*

Church News

This Week at First United –Jan. 6 – Jan. 11

Monday	9-11am	Badminton
Tuesday	1:30	UCW – Eddy Room
Wednesday	9-11:30	TAB – Rms 1,2&3
	9-11am	Badminton
Thursday	7pm	Christian Dev. - RMR

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2020 **900**

Total Collected **25**

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect 17-18 jars of peanut butter per week.

The Volunteer Center supplies, on average, 500 households monthly



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

Notice from the Property Management Team For security reasons, all doors to the sanctuary will be kept locked except the one closest to the office. To enter the church during business hours, please use the St. Patrick Street entrance.

Profession of Faith Chats

Do you have questions about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, the United Church of Canada, etc.? Things you'd like to discuss in a safe setting?

Are you interested in being baptized, confirmed, transferring your membership to First United, reaffirming your faith and/or simply introducing or reintroducing yourself to the United Church of Canada?

If so, we can make it happen. Please let the church office and/or Rev. Neal know as soon as possible and we'll look at getting something going in the new year. Sessions like this, generally, run for 6-8 weeks, but please know—that can and will be negotiated within the group itself.

Looking forward to it... :o)

Roast Pork Dinner

First United Church
309 St. Patrick Street

Thursday, January 30, 2020

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Takeouts available 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

\$15. Adults \$6. Children (under 12)

All tickets sold in advance

Tickets available from Ways and Means team members
and at the church office

Sponsored by Kent and White Insurance

Thank You to Audrey & George McGillivray for being the counters and to all those who were our greeters and candle lighters for the month of December.

Community Events

Family & Community Breakfast

Saturday, January 11, 2020 8:00 – 10:00 am

Saint George's Church Hall 432 King Avenue

*We spend January 1
walking through our lives,
room by room,
drawing up a list of work to be done,
cracks to be patched.*

*Maybe this year,
to balance the list,
we ought to walk through
the rooms of our lives...*

*not looking for flaws,
but for potential.*

~Ellen Goodman~

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.*

-Howard Thurman-

Matthew 2:1-12 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

The Wise Men Visit Jesus

2 Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea. This happened while Herod was king of Judea. After Jesus' birth, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem.

² They asked, "Where is the child who has been born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose. Now we have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard about it, he was very upset. Everyone in Jerusalem was troubled too.

⁴ So Herod called together all the chief priests of the people. He also called the teachers of the law. He asked them where the Messiah was going to be born.

⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied. "This is what the prophet has written. He said,

⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are certainly not the least important among the towns of Judah.
A ruler will come out of you.
He will rule my people Israel like a shepherd.'" ([Micah 5:2](#))

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the Wise Men. He found out from them exactly when the star had appeared.

⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem. He said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report it to me. Then I can go and worship him too."

⁹ After the Wise Men had listened to the king, they went on their way. The star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them. It finally stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy.

¹¹ The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, frankincense and myrrh.

¹² But God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they returned to their country on a different road.