

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

January 10, 2021

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

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<u>Lectionary for Today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Genesis 1:1-5	1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)
Psalm 29	Psalm 139
Acts 19:1-7	1 Corinthians 6: 12-20
Mark 1:4-11	John 1: 43-51

*We welcome Rev. Blair Lewis who is leading us today in worship.
Thank you for filling in on short notice.*

*We welcome our guest vocalist, Amanda Godin and thank her for
enhancing our service with music.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with Rev. Palmer, Jini and his family
during this most difficult time.*

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

Musical Prelude:

Welcoming:

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord"
Psalm 122:1

Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD and on the Internet.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (in unison)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

**Not only does the Word inform us of the will of God,
it serves as a light on a path and it shows us
how to follow the right and avoid the wrong way.**

Epiphany Centering: "A Light Is Gleaming" VU # 82

*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:

One: From the waters of Creation, the earth sprang forth.

**All : From the waters of creation
God's blessed Son was given to us.**

One: From the waters of a river,
people were baptized and marked as God's children.

**All: Praise be to God, whose loving
gifts and presence have called
us together.**

One: Let us shout our love to God for God's abundant love.

All: AMEN.

Prayer of Approach (in unison):

**Creating, Calling, and Faithful God,
we come to this time and place to be with you,
to worship you, and to learn from you.**

**May our time together be like your creation of light
in the expanding universe that you called good.**

**May it be that you would call us good while we respond to
your call and as we listen to you.
Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: "Arise, Your Light Is Come" VU # 79

Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey,
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door,
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken hearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song.
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

Time with Children of all Ages:

Children's 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.

Prayer of Confession (in unison):

**O God, we hear your voice and we see the way of
Jesus set before us.**

**It's hard, dear God, to try again and again to live
up to our baptismal vows and maintain our
resolve to be your people in the world.**

In repentance we ask you to forgive us.

**Set us once again on a holy path that leads to you.
Amen.**

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.*

Assurance of Pardon:

One: Friends, God hears our prayers and sets
before us the way of Jesus.
God calls us and gives us enough grace and
mercy to follow the way.

All: Thanks be to God

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding (in unison):

**Come, our Light, and enlighten our understanding.
Come, our Truth, and give us wisdom.
Come, our Love, and shape our lives.
Come to us so that we may learn to follow
you in all your ways.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:4-11 Bev Murphy

Jesus is baptized by John

Message: "The Chapters of Life"

GIFT OF MUSIC "My Peace" Amanda Godin

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

Minute for Mission: Bev Murphy

Presentation of Gifts and Self to God:

Choral Response:

(Tune, Praise God from whom all blessings flow.)

*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):

**Faithful God,
bless us in our baptismal calling to be in ministry of
showing hospitality to others.
We offer the gifts that we have been given to be used
not for conquest and dominance,
but for use in liberating the poor and hurting people
who pray for our liberation as well as their own.
Receive and multiply our gifts for life-giving ministry.
Amen.**

Silent Prayer / Reflective Music:

Pastoral Prayer:

Creator God, when everything first began,
water became a symbol of refreshing,
of washing away, of renewing.
Through the waters of creation,
you brought forth abundant life.

We have gathered this day to remember Jesus' baptism,
how when he came up out of the water your Spirit
proclaimed that He was your beloved Son in whom you
were very well pleased.

Our spirits resound with that proclamation.
In His baptism, Jesus' ministry was initiated.
He dedicated his life to you completely
and without reservation.

Help us to dedicate our lives to you,
to offer our best for you,
to be of service to you by serving in your world.

As we have lifted before you the names of people
near and dear to us who need your
healing touch and your tender mercies,
we have also lifted ourselves up as people in need of your grace.

Our world is in the midst of strife,
pandemic, wars, oppression, famine, hunger, alienation,
situations in which we have abused the world and each other.

Heal us and this world, Lord.
Renew us with your life-giving waters
and re-affirm our baptisms as your children.

Let us go forth to be people of peace and mercy.
For we ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

And now let us bring before God the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**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.**

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

Closing Hymn: "Will You Come and See the Light" VU # 96

Will you come and see the light from the stable door?
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.
It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are;
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you step into the light that can free the slave?
It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.
By the pyramids of greed there's a longing to be freed;
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?
Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.
When the truth is cut and bruised, and the innocent abused,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you join the hope, a light in the young girl's eyes,
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?
When the lowest and the least are the foremost at the feast,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?
In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,
and the darkness all about is too dim to put it out:
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Benediction:

Thank you for removing our reluctance, doubt,
and fears, by replacing them with courage and compassion.
We go forth with your calling, direction, and blessing.

Amen.

CHORAL SENDING FORTH **MV # 211** **"Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light"**

***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

Organ Postlude:

Church News

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 As of January 8, 2021, 12 jars of Peanut Butter have been collected to go 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.

Our thoughts and prayers are with any members of our congregation, their families and any others who are experiencing illness at this time.

Mark 1:4-11
New Revised Standard Version

⁴ John the baptizer appeared^[a] in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with^[b] water; but he will baptize you with^[c] the Holy Spirit."

The Baptism of Jesus

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved;^[d] with you I am well pleased.