

PRAYER OF HUMILITY (*responsively*)

Sometimes, Holy One, we look around at all we've been entrusted with, and feel uneasy. On land and water, high and low, where creatures once teemed and filled the air with cries of joy, we hear eerie silence.

Forgive us, Holy One, for not always being signs of new hope.

Sometimes, non-native species invade and mar our native landscapes, a sea of hungry faces, hour upon hour of television full of activity, yet somehow, empty of content.

Forgive us, Holy One, for not always being signs of new hope.

Likewise, when we look within, we're often uneasy, aware of our failure to love one another, your creation, and ourselves.

Forgive us, Holy One, for not always being signs of new hope. Transform our hearts and set us on pathways of justice and righteousness, where necessary, that we might become even better servants of healing in the world.

CHORAL RESPONSE - "The Advent Prayer Song"

***Breathe into this moment of peace
with courage to let go, daring to dream.
For the days are surely coming
when we'll rise strong together again in peace.***

***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** - "O Come, Little Children"

O come, little children, O come one and all,
to Bethlehem haste, to the manger so small,
God's son for a gift has been sent you this night
to be your redeemer, your joy and delight.

He's born in a stable for you and for me,
draw near by the bright gleaming starlight to see,
in swaddling clothes lying so meek and so mild,
and purer than angels the heavenly Child.

See Mary and Joseph, with love beaming eyes,
are gazing upon the rude bed where He lies,
the shepherds are kneeling, with hearts full of love
while angels sing loud hallelujahs above.

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Sandra Boone

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Luke 21:25-36

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

John & Isabel Clouston

"Dream a Dream"



RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Pat MacIntosh

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

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

Generous One...

accept these gifts, in thanksgiving for all we've received.

You journey with us, wherever we go, and promise to bring us into new days and new ways as well.

We look forward to the road ahead.

Amen

SHARING OUR CONCERNS *(Meditative music)*

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 -**

"I Have Called You by Your Name"

MV #161

I have called you by your name, you are mine,
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

I will help you learn my name as you go;
Read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul can claim,
Offer Jesus' body given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go;
Feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt,
Hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children whole;
Go and tell my precious people they are mine.

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL CLOSING**

MV #221

"I am Walking a Path of Peace"

***I am walking a path of hope,
I am walking a path of hope,
I am walking a path of hope,
lead me home, lead me home.***

(The Advent Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE



Church News

The church office hours are Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Peanut Butter Update – As of November 25, 2021, 525 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.

First United Church is looking for a part-time custodian to work 20 hours per week. This position will begin immediately. The successful candidate will be required to provide proof of full vaccination for the Covid-19 virus, and provide a Criminal Check at his/her expense.

The job will require regular cleaning of the church premises, including sanitizing when necessary. It will include keeping the St. Patrick and parking lot entrances clear during a snowstorm. A more detailed list of duties will be available upon request.

Remuneration will be at the rate of \$15.00 per hour, and will include vacation and benefits.

Interested candidates should contact Wayne Lord at 543-1476 or the church office at 546-3532.

Thank you! On behalf of the “Lesotho Initiative” Committee of ASD - N, a special ‘thank you’ is extended to you for your support of our recent calendar drive. A total of 171 “Help Lesotho” 2022 calendars were sold, and this will raise \$2,565 for the work of “Help Lesotho” with Grandmothers and vulnerable children in the tiny mountain kingdom of Lesotho, Africa. (There are additional calendars available for anyone else who would like to support this cause.) Gary Branch

Pastoral Care Team will meet on Tuesday, November 30th at 9:30 AM in the Ruth Morrison Room. Physical distancing will be in place and wearing of a mask is mandatory.

Ways & Means Team will meet on Monday, November 29th at 9 AM in the Ruth Morrison Room. Physical distancing will be in place and wearing of a mask is mandatory.

Church News

Annual Christmas Benevolence Fund: - It’s that time of year! Giving to this fund is even more important than ever because COVID-19 is still affecting lives. Once again this year the process is a bit different, but we hope the results will be the same or better as previous years. Should you wish to give you will find an envelope on the tree in the narthex. Then you may drop it in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office during the week. Make your cheques payable to First United Church. Please mark clearly that this donation is for the Benevolence Fund. The proceeds from this fund support the Bathurst Volunteer Center and people in our congregation who need assistance.

***We thank-you for you generosity
– Community Outreach Sub-Team***

White Gift Sunday – December 5, 2021

The tradition of White Gift Sunday has its roots in a small Methodist church in Ohio in 1904. What began as a humble way to reflect on the love and devotion of the giver and not the value of the gift has grown into today’s white gift services in many churches across several denominations. The story is told that a minister’s wife initiated the idea to solve the problem of inequity of gifts given at the Sunday school Christmas party. Instead of focusing on receiving gifts, the focus shifted to bringing gifts to Jesus that could in turn be shared with people around the world who did not have much. All the gifts would come wrapped in plain white paper so that no one would know which one was an expensive gift and which was a more modest one. No one would feel ashamed of their gift and everyone would share in the joy of giving to others.

In keeping with the spirit of the first White Gift service all those attending bring a gift wrapped in white paper to be given to someone in need.

Some suggestions from the Volunteer Center are pasta, cereal, canned meat, canned milk, canned fruits and canned vegetables. It is also suggested that \$5 gift cards from places such as Burger King or McDonalds could be placed in small boxes and gift wrapped for children. They love to unwrap something at Christmas.

Church News



Poinsettia Fund: Once again this year we are hoping to have the beauty of our sanctuary enhanced with poinsettias for the Christmas season. Those wishing to contribute to the annual poinsettia fund may place an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please mark clearly on the face of the envelope – Poinsettia Fund with your name, PAR or envelope number. List the names that you wish to have printed in the Christmas bulletin insert. Donations will also be received in the church office – deadline is December 15, 2021.

Gifts with Vision: Are you looking for a gift to celebrate someone special for Christmas, Birthday, Anniversary, Congratulations - for that someone who has everything, or who doesn't want anything more to add to their 'clutter'? **Gifts for Vision** is the perfect gift for you to give! The United Church of Canada has put together a catalogue and online 'store' of gifts that make a difference in people's lives throughout Canada and the world. Each 'Gift with Vision' provides support for remarkable Mission and Service partners for special projects that address many life-changing issues, such as hunger, poverty, anti-racism, well-building, environment, vaccines.

There are catalogues (a sample of what is in the on-line store) at the back of the church for you to take - we can get more! The on-line store is at giftswithvision.ca.

Thank you for being part of these life-changing activities!

Reminder – If you plan to attend the service in-person, please call the church office at 546-3532 by **Friday** morning, and give Margaret the name(s) and phone number(s) for yourself and anyone in your bubble who will be sitting with you. A seating plan will be pre-arranged based on the required physical distancing rules. On-line services will continue, on a delayed basis, as the in-person service will be recorded and then uploaded to the church website and Facebook page in due course.

SCRIPTURE READING – NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

JEREMIAH 33:14-16

14 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

LUKE 21:25-36

25 "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

27 Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory.

28 Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

29 Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees;

30 as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.

31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

32 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

34 "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly,

35 like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.

36 Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."