

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

January 2, 2022

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Today's bulletins are placed in loving memory of Manford Sealy by Shirley, Harley Hadley, Emma, Gabrielle & Shae	

GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

...Come—into Christ's light.

The Christ Candle is lit.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP VU #82 (*Refrain Only*)
"A Light is Gleaming"

***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 (*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, commanding presence,

evil that was faced, yet resisted with care.

The Holy One recognized, despite humble origin,

the glory of the gifts, given to God's chosen child.

GATHERING PRAYER

GATHERING HYMN

VU #81

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright,
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore your splendour see.

As with joyful steps they sped,
to that lowly manger bed,
there to bend the knee before
Christ, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with eager pace
ever seek your throne of grace.

As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger crude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in the narrow way;
and, when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds your glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright
none shall need created light;
you its light, its joy, its crown,
you its sun which goes not down;
there for ever may we sing
hallelujah to our King.

PRAYER OF HUMILITY (*responsively*)

King Herod was frightened and threatened by the birth of the Christ child.

All of Jerusalem was frightened with him.

We all act out of fear, sometimes, in our lives.

We can be afraid of losing power, identity, privilege, things we value.

Fear can drive us away from all things good.

Help us, Holy One, to suppress our fears and to act out of love and light.

CHORAL RESPONSE- "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 those of all ages*)

SINGING A SONG - "And God Said Yes!" (*Verses 1, 2, 4 & 7*)
(*Seasons of the Spirit – volume 1*)

And God said, Yes! Yes! Yes!
Said yes to the world once more,
said yes with a cosmic roar
Said open that other door
Said Yes! Yes! Yes! Friend, Yes!

For God said, Yes! Yes! Yes!
Let's splash the sky with light,
let's float the earth in space,
Let's dance away the night
Said Yes! Yes! Yes! Friend, Yes!

And God said, Yes! Yes! Yes!
Let Jesus Christ be born!
Let's find him in the straw!
Let's blast the shepherd's horn!
Said Yes! Yes! Yes! Friend, Yes!

And God says, Yes! Yes! Yes!
Says open that other door!
Says yes when we say no!
Says yes with a cosmic roar!
Says yes, yes, yes with me!

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Jini Palmer

Isaiah 60:1-6 (*A poetic paraphrase*)

Matthew 2:1-12

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC

Martha Vickers

GOING OUT (as God's people)

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER *(responsively)*

As the magi brought gold, Holy One,

we bring these gifts.

As the magi brought frankincense,

we bring our prayers.

As the magi brought myrrh,

we bring our lives.

Amen

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

VU #400

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

*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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN

"Carol at the Manger"

(Tune Joyous Light VU 578)

Holy Child within the manger, long ago yet ever near;
come as friend to every stranger, come as hope for every fear.
As you lived to heal the broken, greet the outcast, free the bound,
as you taught us love unspoken, teach us now where you are found.

Once again we tell the story--how your love for us was shown,
when the image of your glory wore an image like our own.
Come, enlighten with your wisdom, come and fill us with your grace.
May the fire of your compassion kindle every land and race.

Holy Child within the manger, lead us ever in your way,
so we see in every stranger how you come to us today.
In our lives and in our living give us strength to live as you,
that our hearts might be forgiving and our spirits strong and true.

BLESSING

CHORAL CLOSING

"Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light"

MV #222

*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.)

POSTLUDE

Church News

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

UCW Open Circle meeting that was scheduled for Monday, January 10th, 2022 at 1:00 PM in the Ruth Morrison Room has now been cancelled due to COVID 19 and the suspension of services at the church.

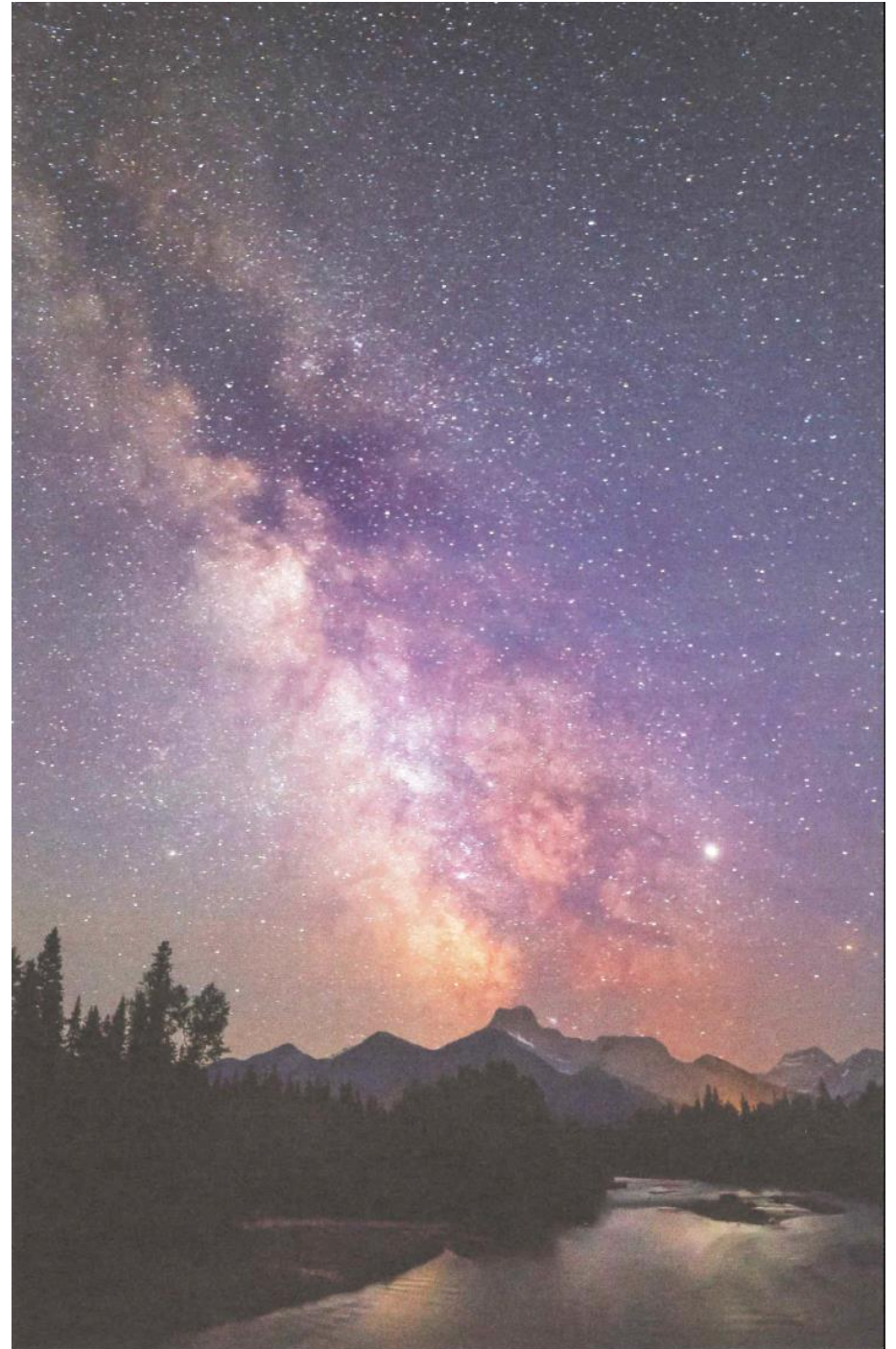
Reminder – Our on-line services will continue, on a delayed basis, as the worship service will be recorded and then uploaded to the church website and Facebook page in due course. When in person worship services resume you need to register with the church office, either by telephone or email, before noon each Friday for the following Sunday's service.

Peanut Butter Update – As of December 30, 2021, 588 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.

"Prayer for the New Year"

*Lord, as the New Year dawns today,
Help me to put my faults away.
Let me be big in little things;
Grant me the joy which friendship brings;
Keep me from selfishness and spite,
Let me be wise to what is right.
A Happy New Year! Grant that I
May cause no tear to any eye.
When this new year in time shall end,
Let it be said: "I've played the friend,
Have lived and loved and labored here
And made of it a happy year."*

~Edgar Guest (1881-1959)



SCRIPTURE READING – NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

ISAIAH 60:1-6

(A poetic paraphrase)

As rays of light
announce the dawn,
so shall your light shine forth.
Arise, shine!

Lift your eyes and look:
people everywhere seek illumination.
Allow God's glory to shine
and others will come, sharing precious gifts.

Your heart shall be filled with joy,
your vision shall be clear
and your whole being will be radiant.
Arise, shine!

MATTHEW 2:1-12

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,

2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;

4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road