

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

January 9, 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 43:1-7	Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalms 29	Psalms 36:5-10
Acts 8:14-17	1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	John 2:1-11

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*)

Through the waters of baptism, Jesus was called.

Through the sacrament of baptism, we too feel the call.

By the voice from heaven, Jesus was claimed as God’s own.

We too find ourselves marked by God’s love.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was commissioned to his ministry.

By the Spirit’s breath, we too take our place as servants.

GATHERING PRAYER

GATHERING HYMN

VU #96

“Will You Come and See the Light”

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, alight 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?

PRAYER OF HUMILITY

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*)

Brenda Parrott & Sandra Boone

SINGING A SONG - "I Am a Child of God"
(*Seasons of the Spirit – volume 8*)

Verse 1

I am a child of God, I am a glimpse of God's new creation.
I am a child of God, I am a child of God.

Verse 2

I am an endless prayer, I am a yearning for contemplation,
I am an endless prayer, I am an endless prayer.

Verse 3

I am an angry voice, I am compassion and consternation,
I am an angry voice, I am an angry voice.

Verse 4

I am a cry for peace, I am commitment and dedication,
I am a cry for peace, I am a cry for peace.

Verse 5

I am a song of joy, I am the moment of jubilation,
I am a song of joy, I am a song of joy.

Words & Music: Bruce & Cheryl Harding © 2002

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jini Palmer

Isaiah 43:1-7

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC "The Lord's My Shepherd" *Emma Vickers*
(*Previously recorded March 29, 2020*)

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bev Murphy

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER (*in unison*)

**Holy One,
we bring our gifts in love and expectation:
in love because you first loved us;
in expectation because your blessing
will increase these gifts many times over.
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 *(responsively)*

...In scarcity and uncertainty, when jobs disappear and worry about the future gnaws at us, please give us strength.

And bless us with peace.

In decline and despair, when social structures collapse and we wonder what will come next, please give us strength.

And bless us with peace.

In conflict and violence, when dreams are destroyed and justice is ignored, please give us strength.

And bless us with peace.

In dysfunction and fear, when we fail to share the waters of love with others, please give them and us strength.

And bless us with peace.

In sickness and aging, when the vulnerability of our bodies becomes evident, please give us strength.

And bless us with peace.

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

VU #644

"I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"

(Previously recorded July 12, 2020 by Emma Vickers)

I was there to hear your borne cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word,
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.

Church News

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young.
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your morning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

BLESSING

CHORAL CLOSING

"Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light" MV #211

***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

The regular church office hours are Monday to Friday 9 AM to 3 PM.

Please note the church office will **not open until at 11 AM** on **Tuesday, January 11th**.

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 will need to register with the church office, either by telephone or email, before noon each Friday for the following Sunday's service.

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.

"Good News" - West Bathurst Cemetery Update - On June 5, 2021, our committee was contacted by Bathurst City Police about a car accident that had caused damage to the gate, fence, and a gravestone at West Bathurst Cemetery. An estimate of \$10,322.40 to replace/repair the gate and fence was obtained from Expert Fence. Also, an estimate of \$517.50 was obtained from Maritime Monument Works to repair and place the gravestone back on its base. A police report was required to proceed, so with help from Hugh Schryer, this was obtained on August 5, 2021.

Since the driver was not insured, an application to the "Uninsured Automobile Fund" was completed and mailed on August 12, 2021, and then the wait began to see if we would get funding or not.

On December 7, 2021, the West Bathurst Cemetery Committee received a letter informing us that the estimates we submitted were **approved and will be covered** by the "Uninsured Automobile Fund". The repair work will be completed in the spring.

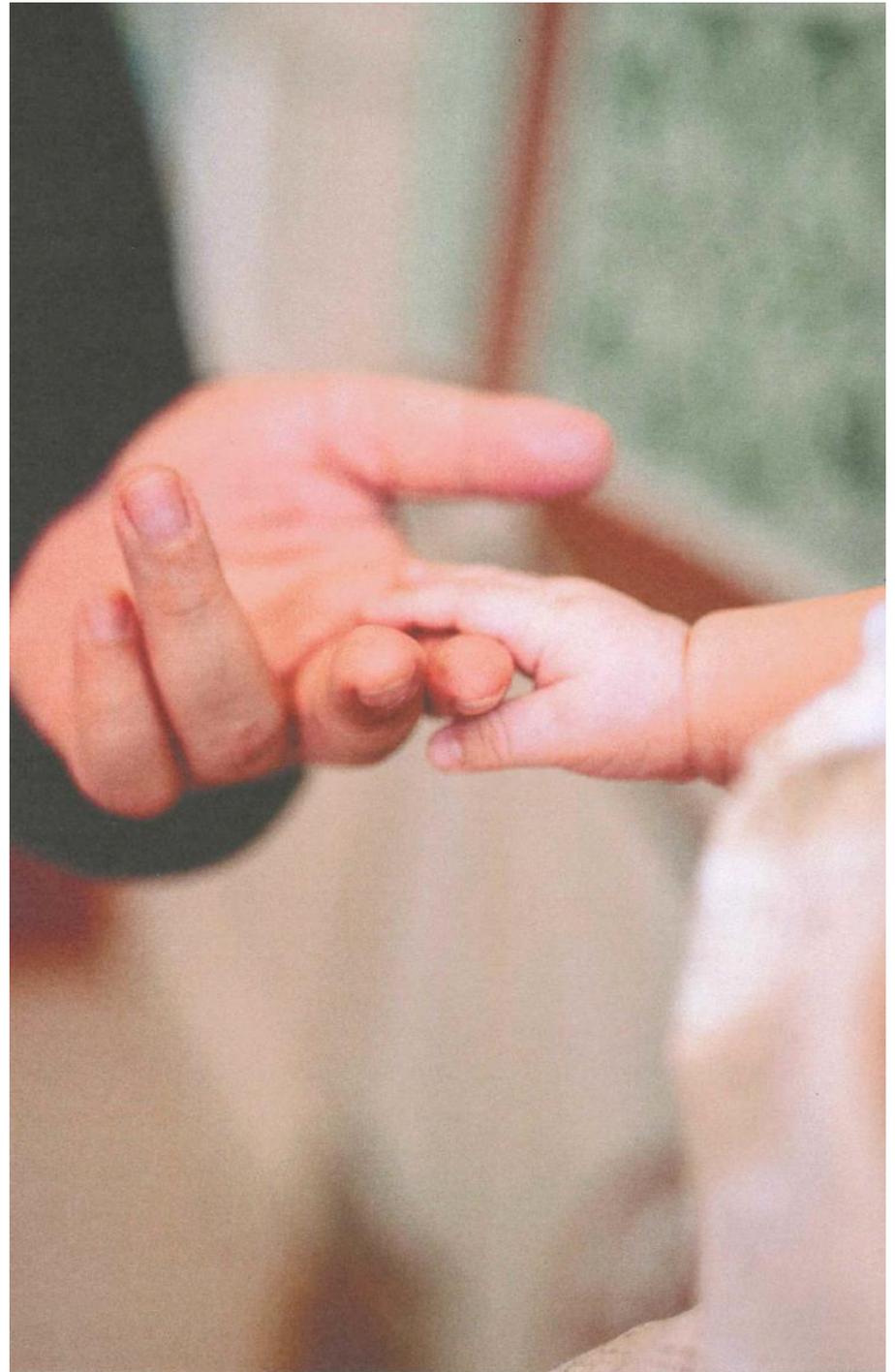
Thank you to everyone who so generously donated to the fundraisers during the Advent Season. We raised \$1,415 for the Benevolence Fund and \$2,245 for the Poinsettia Fund (less costs of the plants). And *thank you* to *Elna Scott* for attending at the church every few days to care for the plants.

January

Sparkling winter sunshine,
Faces all aglow
Making resolutions,
And angels in the snow ~
Steaming cups of cocoa,
A year that's fresh and new...
All of this is magic ~
Unfolding just for you.



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SCRIPTURE READINGS *(New Revised Standard Version)*

Isaiah 43:1-7

1 But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

3 For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

4 Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

5 Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;

6 I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—

7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Acts 8:14-17

14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.

15 The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit

16 (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus).

17 Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

16 John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

17 His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened,

22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."