

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

January 1, 2023

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Dave & Cheryl Brewster

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Isaiah 60:1-6	Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Psalm 29
Ephesians 3:1-12	Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 2:1-12	Matthew 3:13-17

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

GATHERING

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

LIGHTING THE CRIST CANDLE

... we light the Christ candle, remembering the star, that led the wise ones to the Christ Child.

The Christ Candle is lit.



CENTERING FOR WORSHIP -

MV #12 (*Verse 2*)

"Come Touch Our Hearts"

***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 (*Based on Isaiah 60:1-6*) (*responsively*)

Arise, shine, for the light has come.

Light radiates.

Lift up your eyes and look around.

See how light shines here in your sons and daughters.

Light reflects the glory of God.

Look around.

Our hearts thrill and rejoice.

God is here again.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN –**

VU #36

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

Angels , from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:

*Come and worship, come and worship
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light:

Refrain:

*Come and worship, come and worship
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:

Refrain:

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear:

Refrain:

PRAYER OF HUMILITY (*responsively*)

...New understanding shifts our direction, but too often we think that nothing extraordinary ever happens.

Forgive us, we pray.

Too often, we fail to notice your revelation.

Forgive us, we pray.

Too often, we miss the amazing ways you become manifest.

Forgive us, we pray.

Too often, we ignore the guiding lights you've sent to intercede.

Forgive us, we pray. (*Moment of Silence*)

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 (*Matthew 2:1-2*) (*with those of all ages*)

***SINGING A SONG** – "Praise Our Maker"

VU #316

Praise our Maker, peoples of one family:
God is love, God is love!
Praise our Maker, peoples of one family:
God is love, God is love!

Love our Saviour, followers of Jesus:
God is love, God is love!
Love our Saviour, followers of Jesus:
God is love, God is love!

Care for others, children of the Spirit:
God is love, God is love!
Care for others, children of the Spirit:
God is love, God is love!

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jennifer Oliver-Lavigne

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Matthew 2:1-12

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC - "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Martha Vickers

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD

***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,
bless these gifts, we pray.
Bless our hands too
in the work of peace, love, and justice.
Amen

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(Based on Ephesians 3:1-12)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER – VU #921 (Ecumenical Version) *(in unison)*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kindom 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 kindom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** – “Joy Is Now in Every Place” – VU #45

Joy is now in every place,
Christmas lightens every face;
now be with us, in your grace,
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.

May the star that shone that night,
making your poor stable bright,
fill our hearts with love and light,
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.

Through the New Year let it stay,
leading us upon your way,
making Christmas every day,
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.

Now and ever may we find
your good news to fill our mind:
peace and love to humankind,
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL CLOSING** – “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!***

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

Church News

Church office hours - Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

The church office will be **closed** on **Monday, January 2nd** in lieu of New Year's Day.

Peanut Butter Update - Our goal was 900 jars for 2022 and we have supplied the Bathurst Volunteer Center with **920 jars** including what has been purchased with monetary donations.

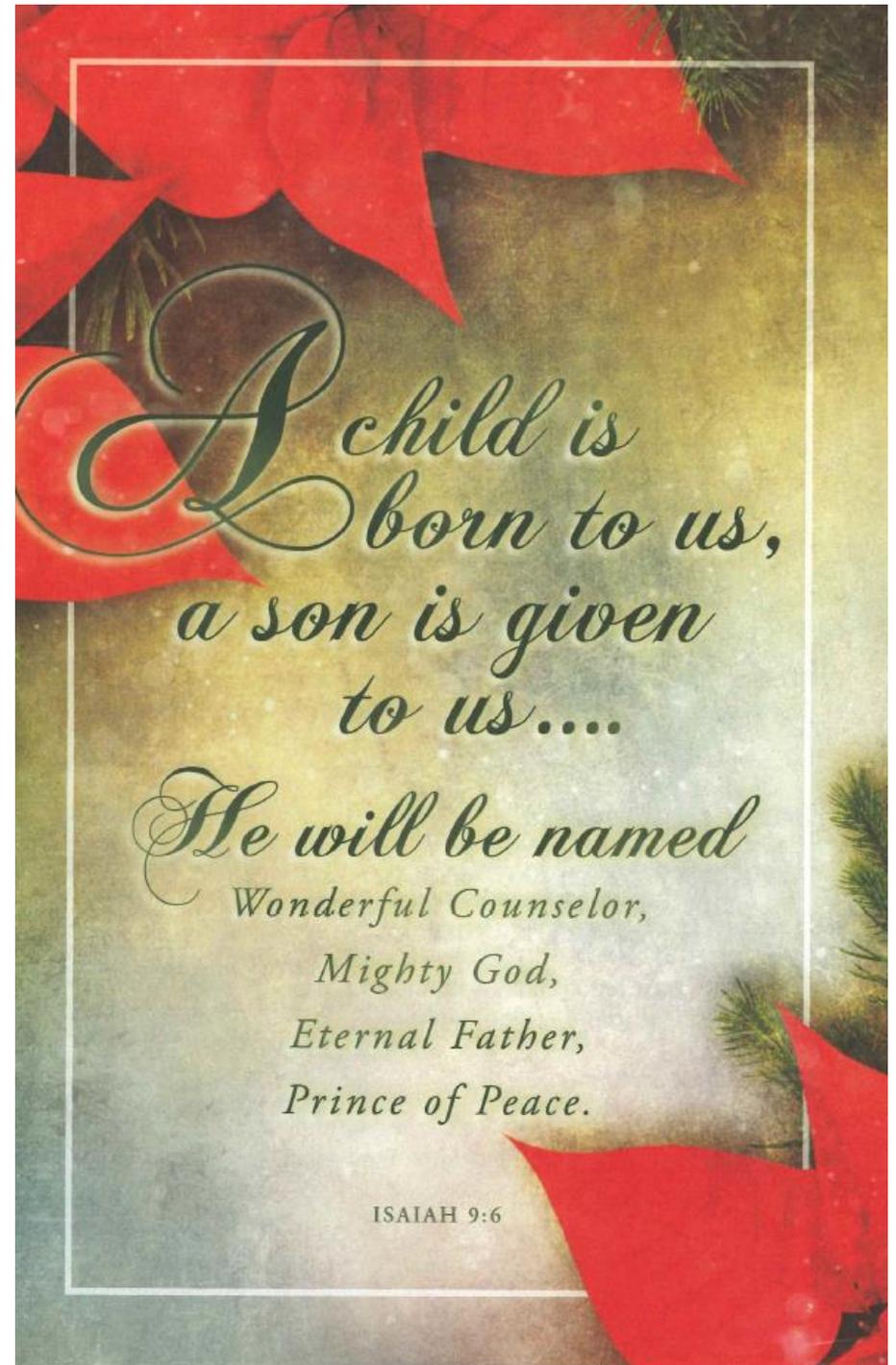
Appreciation donations have been received by First United Church celebrating the baptism year of Archie, son of Josh Smith and Tiara Folkes, and of Genisee and Navayah, daughters of Brad McKay and Sarah VanReenen.

Thank you to our volunteers in December:

Counters – Margaret Payne-Chénard and Mike Kierstead;
Greeters – Harvey and Julie Spence & the Lavigne family; **Advent Candle Lighters** – the Woods, McLellan, Scott & Ronalds families;
Christmas Eve Candle Lighters – Addison MacLaggan, Charlotte Woods, Chloe McLellan, Cameron MacLaggan, Grace & Autumn Ronalds; **Minute for Mission** – Helen Knowles and Bev Murphy;
Scripture Readers – Anne Brooks, Helen Knowles, Mya Brewster, Cameron MacLaggan & Jini Palmer; **Sharing a Story** – Jennifer Oliver-Lavigne & Chelsey MacLaggan; **Sound System** – Brenda Parrott, Ralph Jamieson, Lester Scott & Don Eddy; and
Videographer – Don Eddy as well as to Josh Gammon for uploading our services to the website and Facebook.

Community News

St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, will be holding "A Family and Community Breakfast" on Saturday, January 14th from 8 AM to 10 AM. Come and enjoy fellowship and great food - Free will offering at the door.



SCRIPTURE READINGS *(New Revised Standard Version)*

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14

1 Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

2 May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

3 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

5 May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

7 In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

11 May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

12 For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

13 He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

14 From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

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.

May God bless to our understanding these significant parts of our Christian story...