

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

January 8, 2023

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Margaret Daniels **Custodian** Lester Scott
Greeters Peter & Edie Gammon

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17	Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42
Today's bulletins are in loving memory of Donald McLean placed by wife, Alice, and the family	

*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

...May this candle and the light it produces be a symbol and sign of all these things...

The Christ Candle is lit.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP - "Come Touch Our Hearts"

MV #12 (Verse 2)

***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 (*responsively*)

When we're reluctant to dip our toes into faith's river,

Jesus comes to teach us how to swim.

When we're hesitant to cup our hands to drink from the fountain of grace,

Jesus comes to reach in and splash our faces with God's joy.

When we're unwilling to be the pipeline of hope,

Jesus comes to turn on the faucets God has installed in our hearts.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING HYMN** – "Called by Earth and Sky" – MV #135

Refrain

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.

This is our sacred living trust,

treasure of life sanctified,

called by earth and sky.

Precious these waters, endless seas,
deep ocean's dream,
waters of healing, rivers of rain,
the wash of love again.

Precious this gift, the air we breathe;
wind born and free.
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,
our gathering and our grace.

Refrain

*Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.*

Precious these mountains, ancient sands;
vast fragile land.
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,
Creation's faithful song.

Precious the fire that lights our way,
bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone,
our faith and justice one.

Refrain

PRAYER OF HUMILITY (*responsively*)

Holy One...

you'd have *all* people hear of your grace, but sometimes...

we hinder your efforts by hoarding the word for ourselves.

You'd have hope flow through our neighbourhoods, but sometimes...

we thwart your plans by damming up hope in our hearts.

You'd have us skip into your realm, but sometimes...

**we frustrate your future by clinging so tightly to those
grudges we've carried for so very long.**

Forgive us, we pray, and unlock the shuttered doors of our hearts.

**Remind us that at baptism, you touch us with the waters of
life, promise to be with us always, and call us your beloved.**

(Moment of Silence)

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.***

***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** – "God of the Sparrow" – VU #229

God of the sparrow God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbour God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

ENGAGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Brenda Parrott

Isaiah 42:1-9

Matthew 3:13-17

REFLECTION

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

GIFT OF MUSIC - "I Have Called You by Your Name"

RESPONDING

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Ronalds Family

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)*

**By your grace, God of the Waters,
we can open our eyes to see those in need.
By your abundance, what we offer
can bring hope and healing
to more people than we could ever imagine.
By your blessing, others are invited to the waters of life too.
Amen**

SHARING OUR CONCERNS

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.**

GOING OUT (as Spirit people)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** – “Behold a Light” (*Tune St. Thomas VU #715*)

Behold a light shall shine,
just as it did before,
a light to share with us the dream
of peace forevermore.

Behold a light shall shine,
a sign of joy for all,
may it reveal a future clear
for all who hear God’s call.

Behold a light shall shine,
through gifts that we now share,
God sends us forth, preparing us
to serve, to help, to care.

Behold a light shall shine
to guide us on this day.
Illuminate, O God, our paths,
disclose to us Christ’s way.

Behold a light shall shine,
despair shall be no more,
our mission is to show Christ’s love,
so hope may be restored.

***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

This Week at First United – Jan 9 th to Jan 13 th		
Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Wednesday	Office will open at 11 AM	
	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM

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

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

Thank you to everyone who so generously donated to the fundraisers during the Advent Season. We raised \$1,425 for the Benevolence Fund and \$2,640 for the Poinsettia Fund (less costs of the plants). And ***thank you to Brenda Parrott*** for attending at the church every few days to care for the plants.

Thank you to Gary & Elizabeth Branch, Beth Sullivan, Gwen Sturgeon, Brenda Parrott and Jini Palmer for assisting with the packing up of the Christmas decorations.

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)*

ISAIAH 42:1-9

1 Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

2 He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;

3 a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

4 He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

5 Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

6 I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,

7 to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

8 I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

9 See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

MATTHEW 3:13-17

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

14 John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.

16 And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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