

*The United Church of Canada*  
*Bathurst Pastoral Charge*  
**First United Church, Bathurst**  
[www.firstunited-bathurst.ca](http://www.firstunited-bathurst.ca)

**January 22, 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 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 4-9 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23	Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12
Today's bulletins are placed in memory of <b>Earl Grenville Smith</b> by Bill Stack & in loving memory of <b>Beth Lord</b> by Wayne and 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 of 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** (Based on 1 Corinthians 1:10-19) (responsively)

Now—I appeal to you, sisters and brothers, because we all come

**with so many questions, with so many things we need to ask God, and with so many things we don't quite understand.**

We bring all these unanswered questions together in our worship and praise of the One who reminds us we belong.

**We belong here in this community of faith. We belong to each other and the Holy One.**

**GATHERING PRAYER** (Based on Psalm 27:1, 4-9)

\***GATHERING HYMN** –

MV #10

"Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom"

Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,  
she who danced when earth was new.  
Follow closely what she teaches,  
for her words are right and true.  
Wisdom clears the path to justice,  
showing us what love must do.

Listen to the voice of Wisdom,  
crying in the marketplace.  
Hear the Word made flesh among us,  
full of glory, truth, and grace.  
When the word takes root and ripens,  
peace and righteousness embrace.

Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;  
nurture all who seek rebirth.  
Spirit guide and close companion,  
bring to light our sacred worth.  
Free us to become your people,  
holy friends of God and earth.

**PRAYER OF HUMILITY** (*responsively*)

...to your affirmation of our gifts.

**Instead, we push forward.**

...We then cross if off the list and move on to the next.

**Forgive us.**

...Call us again, we pray, to seek your face and follow the Christ.

**We are listening now.** (*Silence is kept*)

**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.

**In God’s justice is our peace.**

Jesus calls us to live in unity.

**We seek to live the Spirit of Christ.**

**SHARING A STORY** (*with those of all ages*)

**\*SINGING A SONG** – “Let There Be Light” – VU #679

Let there be light,  
let there be understanding,  
let all the nations gather,  
let them be face to face;

open our lips,  
open our minds to ponder,  
open the door of concord,  
opening into grace;

perish the sword,  
perish the angry judgement,  
perish the bombs and hunger,  
perish the fight for gain;

hallow our love,  
hallow the deaths of martyrs,  
hallow their holy freedom,  
hallowed be your name;

your kingdom come,  
your spirit turn to language,  
your people speak together,  
your spirit never fade;

let there be light;  
open our hearts to wonder,  
perish the way of terror,  
hallow the world God made.

*ENGAGING*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*Cheryl Brewster*

Isaiah 9:1-4

Matthew 4:12-23

## REFLECTION

### MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

### GIFT OF MUSIC - "A Light is Gleaming"

*RESPONDING*

### MINUTE FOR MISSION

*Anne Wilson*

### 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, we are called to follow,  
yet sometimes, are slow to respond.  
Many of us are blessed with more  
than we can ever use or need  
and yet find ourselves reluctant  
to part with even a portion of it.  
As we offer our gifts, we pray,  
remind us that learning generosity  
is part of our call to follow the One  
who models graciousness in every word,  
every gesture, every day.  
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 – "Jesus Calls Us" – VU #562

Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild restless sea,  
day by day his clear voice sounding,  
saying, "Christian, follow me."

Long ago apostles heard it  
by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and toil and kindred,  
leaving all for Jesus' sake.

Jesus call us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying, "Christian, love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
"Christian, love me more than these."

Jesus calls us: by your mercies,  
Saviour, may we hear your call,  
give our hearts to your obedience,  
serve and love you best of all.

**\*BLESSING**

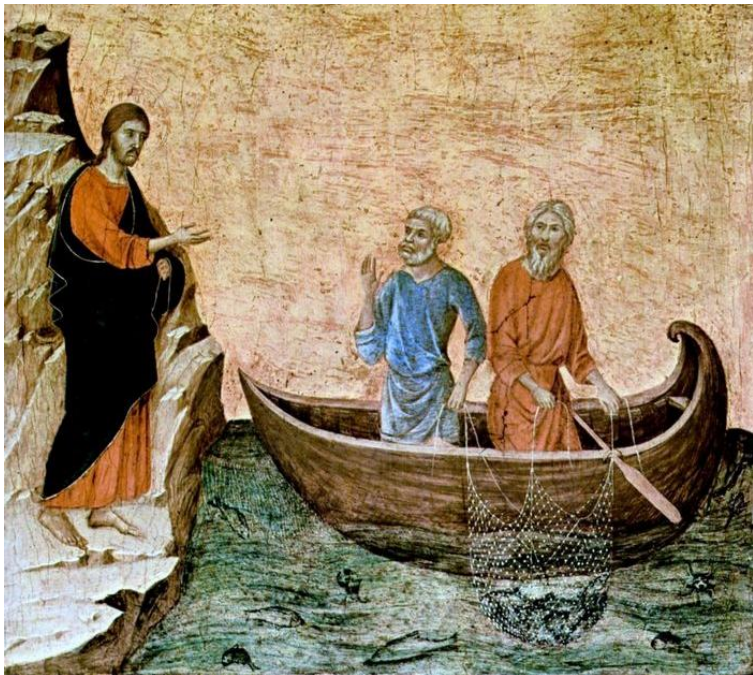
**\*CHORAL CLOSING** – “May the God of Peace” – MV #224

***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**

**Third Sunday after Epiphany**  
***Following the Call***



# Church News

This Week at First United – Jan 16 <sup>th</sup> to Jan 20 <sup>th</sup>		
Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Tuesday	2:00 PM	Trustees – Ruth Morrison Room
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM

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

**Peanut Butter** – Once again this year we are setting a goal of 900 jars of peanut butter to donate to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. Up to January 19, 2023 we have collected 19 jars.

**Please Note** - In an effort to assist the Bathurst Volunteer Center, should you wish to make a monetary donation you may now do so by **issuing your cheque to First United Church**, indicating it is to be used for the purchase of Peanut Butter. Your donation will be marked as such and will be included on your annual tax receipt. Your cheques can be dropped off at the church office or mailed. Periodically someone from our Community Outreach Team will purchase the peanut butter and have it delivered directly to the Volunteer Center.

**Time for Fellowship** - Would you like to assist the members of the Hospitality & Friendship Team to provide/serve refreshments following our church services? We are looking for families, individuals and youth interested in contributing to this enjoyable fellowship opportunity. Please feel free to add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Ruth Morrison Room and talk with a member of the Fellowship Team.

***Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered already.***

We welcome all for fellowship and refreshments following our church service.

Your *Hospitality & Friendship Team*,

Bill Stack, Debra Watling, Nancy Jagoe,  
Shirley Sealy, Gayle Ferron, Jini Palmer



## *Church News*

**Sunday School** will be resuming on January 29<sup>th</sup> and continuing up to and including Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be 2 Sundays during Spring Break where Sunday School will not be held.

**Team Committee Reports** will be required in order to prepare 2022 Annual Report. Would the individuals responsible for preparing each report please email them to the church office at your earliest opportunity. If so have already provided your report - thank you.

## *Community News*

This afternoon Central United will be featuring Roger Lanteigne, member of the NB Country Music Hall of Fame, and the Acadian Fiddlers. It will be an afternoon filled with lively music.

**When:** Today, January 22<sup>nd</sup> - 1:30-3:30  
**Where:** Central United Church, Clifton

Light refreshments will be available following the performance. A "free-will offering" to help support Central United Church, would be appreciated.



## SCRIPTURE READINGS *(New Revised Standard Version)*

### ISAIAH 9:1-4

1 But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

3 You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

4 For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

### MATTHEW 4:12-23

12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.

13 He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali,

14 so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

15 “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

16 the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”

17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen.

19 And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.”

20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

21 As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.

22 Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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