

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

Jan 3, 2016

Clergy Rev. Blair Lewis **Organist** Martha Vickers
Office Adm. Isabel Clouston **Greeters** Cheryl & Dave Brewster
Custodian Alan Wilcox

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
<i>Jeremiah 31:7-14</i> <i>Psalm 147</i> <i>Ephesians 1:3-14</i> <i>John 1: (1-9), 10-18</i>	<i>Isaiah 60:1-6</i> <i>Psalm 72</i> <i>Ephesians 3:1-12</i> <i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

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

Organ Prelude:

***Choral Opening:** *'Gentle Mary Laid Her Child'* #46VU vs2
Angels sang about his birth.
Wise men sought and found him,
Heaven's star shone brightly forth,
Glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing,
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.

Welcoming

One: The word became flesh and lived among us

All: and we have seen his glory.

One: The true light that enlightens everyone
has come into the world.

All: Glory to God who has blessed us in Christ.
Glory to God forever.

Welcoming Friends Worshipping by CD:

Announcements:

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

One: Give me a candle of the Spirit, O God,
as I go down into the depths of my being.

**All: Show me the hidden things,
the creatures of my dreams,
the storehouse of forgotten memories and hurts.**

One: Take me down to the winter of my life
and tell me my nature
and my name.

**All: Give me freedom to grow in this new year
so that I may become that self,
the seed of which you planted in me at my making.**
Out of the depths I cry to you, O God.

Call To Worship:

Give us, our God,
a little sun, a little happiness, and some work.
Give us a heart to comfort those in pain.
Give us the ability to be good, strong, wise, and free,
so that we may be as generous with others
as we are with ourselves.
Finally, O God, let us all live as your own one family. Amen.
Mexico, 20th Century

Prayer of Approach:

One: Sculpting God,
you give galaxies their form, shape granite mountains,
and design butterfly wings.

**All: Dancing God,
you choreograph the paths of stars
and the flight of Canada geese.**

One: Singing God,
your divine song is sung by sparrows, mountain streams,
and the rushing winds.

**All: Wonderful God,
we rejoice to be a part of the divine world
which you love and sustain. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn:** *'Called by Earth and Sky'* **#135 MV**

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:

Precious these mountains, ancient sands;
vast fragile land. Seeds of our waking,
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:

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Prayer for Understanding: (in unison)

**O God, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that as the scriptures are read
and your Word is proclaimed,
we may hear what you are saying to us today. Amen.**

Scripture Readings:

New Testament Lesson: Helen Knowles
 Jeremiah 31:7-14
Responsive Psalm: Psalm 147 **#869VU** (part 2)
Gospel Lesson: John 1:1-18

***Hymn:** *'As of Gladness Men of Old'* **#81 VU**

Meditation: **"The word of life, the light that leads us home"**

Anthem:

THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS

Presentation of Gifts and Self to God:

Choral Response:

***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***

***Prayer of Dedication:**

Prayer Of Confession:

One: Forgive them all, O Lord:
our sins of omission and our sins of commission;
the sins of our youth and the sins of our riper years;
the sins of our souls and the sins of our bodies;
our secret and our more open sins;
our sins of ignorance and surprise;
and our more deliberate and presumptuous sins;

**All: the sins we have done to please ourselves;
and the sins we have done to please others;
the sins we know and remember;
and the sins we have forgotten;
the sins we have striven to hide from others;
and the sins by which we have made others offend;
forgive them, O Lord, forgive them all for his sake,
who died for our sins and rose for our justification,
and now stands at your right hand
to make intercession for us,
Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

John Wesley 1703-1791

Choral Response: *'How Deep the Peace'* **#95 MV**

***How deep the peace, the confidence,
Of those whose wrongs are forgiven.
How deep the peace, the confidence
Of those whose hearts are healed.***

Assurance of Pardon:

God forgives you and loves you eternally.

By the power of God's spirit, forgive yourself and forgive others as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Reflective Music / Silent Prayer:

Pastoral Prayer:

**All: We thank you, compassionate God,
that you hear the prayers of our hearts:
all who rejoice at a baby's new birth,
all who mourn when the circle is incomplete,
when a friend or loved one has died,
all who are grateful
when their work meets with success,
all who suffer because no work is to be found,
all who are bored, not having enough to do,
all who are tired, having too much to do,
all who are surrounded
by the love of family and friends,
all who are lonely.**

One: Thank you for hearing us in every situation of life.
Help us to support one another always:
rejoicing with those who rejoice,
and weeping with those who weep.
We want to be joined together
as members of the body of Christ,
loving one another and serving the world.
Like Jesus, we want to respond
to each human being who crosses our path
with sensitivity and compassion.

**All: This morning we remember all loved ones
especially those who are no longer with us.
Our prayers are with our family members
and our friends.
We share in a moment of silence
our personal petitions and prayers.**

(Silence)

This we pray in the name of Jesus.

***The Lord's Prayer:**

THE COMMUNITY GOES FORTH

***Closing Hymn:** *'Come, O Fount of Every Blessing'* #559 VU

***Commissioning:** (in unison)

**Heavenly Father,
receive, we pray, the prayers of your people.
Grant that we may not only understand
the things we ought to do,
but have the grace and power faithfully to do them.
This we pray through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

8th Century Sacramentary

***Blessing:**

Thank God, the fount of all wisdom,
bless you and guide you
this day and always.

*** Choral Closing:** *I am Walking a Path of Peace'* (#221 MV)

***I am walking a path with heart
I am walking a path with heart
I am walking a path with heart
lead me home, lead me home.***

Organ Postlude:

Church News

This Week at First United –Jan. 4 –Jan. 9

Monday	6:15	Beavers – Rms. 1,2&3 DEMH
Tuesday	Cancelled	Bible Study – Eddy Rm
	6:15	Cubs & Scouts – DEMH GYM
Wednesday	9-12pm	TAB – Rms. 1,2&3
Saturday	11am	Refugee info. meeting- Eddy Rm

Peanut Butter for Volunteer Centre

Commitment December 31, 2016 **900**

Total to Date **17**

To meet our obligation, we will need to collect 16-17 jars of peanut butter per week.

The Volunteer Center supplies, on average, 430 households monthly with that amount growing to over 530 during the Christmas season.

Notice from Nominations Team

The Nominations Team would like to take this opportunity to invite all who support the life and work of Christ's Church in the world to serve on a working team of our faith community. A complete list of Teams and Sub-Teams is posted in the Narthex for your convenience in volunteering for a specific team. Those presently serving on teams are also encouraged to review the lists to ensure their names have not been omitted in error and to verify that their choice of team has not changed. If you have any questions as to the role of a specific team, please contact one of the Nominations Team members or the Church Office. We thank you in advance for your continued support, and for your feedback by January 6, 2016. This would give the Team sufficient time to prepare their report for the Annual Meeting for approval.

Notice: Sound system units for hearing impaired individuals are available. Please ask the soundboard operator for assistance.

2016 Envelopes: The Givings Envelopes for 2016 are located in the narthex. Please insure that envelopes for the correct year are used as individual contribution #'s may have changed.

The Upper Room for Jan. and Feb. are in the Narthex. Please feel free to take one. A container for donations is located with the publication.

Notice from the Property Management Team For security reasons, all doors to the sanctuary will be kept locked except the one closest to the office. To enter the church during business hours, please use the St. Patrick Street entrance.

Thank You: The Community Outreach team would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Benevolence Program this year. With your generous support \$1421.00 was raised to help those in our congregation who are in need and the Volunteer Center with their programs for the year. The Peanut Butter goal was met for 2015 with a few to start the New Year.

Community Events

Family & Community Breakfast

Saturday, January 9, 2016 8:00 – 10:30 am
Saint George's Church Hall 432 King Ave

Jeremiah 31:7-14 New International Version (NIV)

⁷ This is what the LORD says:

“Sing with joy for Jacob;
shout for the foremost of the nations.
Make your praises heard, and say,
‘LORD, save your people,
the remnant of Israel.’

⁸ See, I will bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the ends of the earth.
Among them will be the blind and the lame,
expectant mothers and women in labor;
a great throng will return.

⁹ They will come with weeping;
they will pray as I bring them back.
I will lead them beside streams of water
on a level path where they will not stumble,
because I am Israel’s father,
and Ephraim is my firstborn son.

¹⁰ “Hear the word of the LORD, you nations;
proclaim it in distant coastlands:
‘He who scattered Israel will gather them
and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.’

¹¹ For the LORD will deliver Jacob
and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they.

¹² They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion;
they will rejoice in the bounty of the LORD—
the grain, the new wine and the olive oil,
the young of the flocks and herds.
They will be like a well-watered garden,
and they will sorrow no more.

¹³ Then young women will dance and be glad,
young men and old as well.
I will turn their mourning into gladness;
I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.

¹⁴ I will satisfy the priests with abundance,
and my people will be filled with my bounty,”
declares the LORD.

John 1:1-18 New International Version (NIV)

The Word Became Flesh

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

² He was with God in the beginning.

³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was
made that has been made.

⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not
overcome^[a] it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John.

⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that
through him all might believe.

⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the
light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the
world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through
him, the world did not recognize him.

¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive
him.

¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his
name, he gave the right to become children of God—

¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a
husband’s will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We
have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came
from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the
one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has
surpassed me because he was before me.’”)

¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace
already given.

¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came
through Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is
himself God and^[b] is in closest relationship with the Father, has