

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

**Transfiguration Sunday - March 2, 2025**

**Clergy** Rev. David Allan     **Music Director** Martha Vickers  
**Office Adm.** Margaret Daniels     **Custodian** Lester Scott  
**Greeters** Shirley Sealy & Wilma Dempsey  
**Audio & Visual Technicians** Shirley Allain & Donald Eddy

*All musical selections reprinted under license #4-606499, One License for Churches*

<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12--4:20 Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)	Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
We welcome Rev. David Allan and look forward to sharing our life here at First United with him and his family.	

*The asterisk \* identifies those times in the service where you are invited to present yourselves, body, mind, and spirit, as is comfortable for you today*

**Music for Gathering**

**Welcome**

**Territorial Acknowledgement** *(in unison)*

**...As we gather to worship, let's respectfully pause to remember we live and love, and work and worship on lands that are, by law, the unceded territory of the original peoples, the Mi'kmaq. May we live with respect on this land, and live in peace and in friendship with its people.**

**Lighting the Christ Candle:**

Love wings its way into the world, with a glow and a spark that attracts and gives hope to the spirits of all. Love pours in, shining brightly to illumine the hearts of all. And so, we light this candle as a reminder of the lovelight that makes us one, of the light of Christ that shines within and among all of us, so that together, we with Christ are indeed the light of the world. We light this candle as a sign of a love that is never overshadowed, never overcome, a love that never fails. We light this candle in faithful thankfulness, as a reminder of the light that shows us the way.

*The Christ candle is lit...*

**Centering for Worship:** "I Am Becoming Peace"

***I am becoming peace.***

***I am becoming peace.***

***A well of patience, well of grace,  
make my soul a holy place.***

***I am becoming peace. (x 2)***

***I am becoming, I am becoming, I am becoming peace.***

Words and music: Linnea Good. Copyright © 2007 Borealis Music.  
[www.LinneaGood.com](http://www.LinneaGood.com) From CD *Momentary Saints*. Used by permission.

**Call to Worship:**

In this season of light, of epiphany and revelation, we are called to be people of light.

**So we come to pray, to present ourselves in God's presence.**

We come to seek understanding, with bright and blinking eyes, and with minds open to wonder.

**We come to sing into the silence, like glowing shafts of glory's light.**

It is good for us to be here.

**Let us in and among ourselves make a dwelling place for Christ, for the eternal light that is love.**

Let us worship, let us pray...

### **Gathering Prayer:**

As with many things, when we gather for worship, sometimes we do and sometimes we don't come with high expectations. And yet, Loving One, we do desire to be renewed, to know something of holiness.

**God of the heights and our inner depths, may we today have a mountaintop experience. In awe may we better feel your presence and desire, where we listen for the voice of healing and hope, and are transformed by your luminous love. This we pray as your people in the name of your chosen one, the light of the world that in faith, we have chosen to follow. Amen**

### **\*Gathering Hymn – "Let Us Build a House"**

MV #1

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

*(Refrain:)*

*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
All are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

*(Refrain)*

Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground,  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

*(Refrain)*

Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

*(Refrain)*

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

*(Refrain)*

### **We Open Our Hearts:**

By the glow of our TVs, laptops and smartphones we are confronted with so many shadowed stories. Crisis, cruelty, corruption... We shake our heads, at times in disbelief, at times in despair, and we wonder at the changes in the world. We wonder if change for the better, change for the good of all is even possible.

**We wonder if God's love can still transfigure creation, deeply touching all lives everywhere so that we might shine for one another. We sing for open hearts, so that the light may enter in.**

**Sung Response:** "Spirit, Open My Heart"

MV #79

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.**

### **Our Hearts are Filled:**

God speaks from the mountaintop, and sings from the seas, from the valleys and level places God still says "Let there be light." And creation moves and glows with the First Word and the First Love. God speaks from your heart: You are radiant! The word of hope is yours today. Because in the thin air of all that worries us, that distracts and makes us gasp, God's Spirit breathes into us new life. On the precipice of all that holds us back and summons old falls and fears, God embraces us with a saving and steadfast love. We may tremble, the earth may seem to quake, life's rocky challenges may seem insurmountable, but when we listen with our hearts, we can hear a voice from heaven saying, "I love you." Listen, God grants you a holy peace...

### **The Peace of Christ**

**Sharing Our Stories** *(with those of all ages)*

**\*A Song for the Young at Heart:**

VU #225

"We Praise You For the Sun"

We praise you for the sun,  
the golden shining sun,  
that gives us healing, strength and joy;  
we praise you for the sun.

We praise you for the rain,  
the softly falling rain,  
that gives us healing, strength and joy;  
we praise you for the rain.

We praise you for your love,  
your patient, endless love,  
that gives us healing, strength, and joy;  
we praise you for your love.

### **Prayer for Illumination:**

Loving God, you speak to us in so many ways:

**in the glare of the sun in the white of winter,**

and in the fresh cold air and wind-whipped snow,

**in faces brightened with the colours of hope and joy,**

and in the warmth of loved ones around the old wood stove,

**in shared questions, concerns and opened hearts,**

and in the stories and promises of the Bible.

**Speak to us now through the reading of scripture. Help us to hear your voice, and follow the way of Jesus. Amen**

**Scripture Readings:**

*Brooke Knowles*

Exodus 34:29-35 Moses' face shines as he descends the mountain

Luke 9:28-36 The transfiguration of Jesus

**Sermon:** Transfiguration and transition

### **Gift of Music**

**Our Generosity Matters**

*Martha Vickers*

**Invitation to Make an Offering:**

Yes, it is good to be here! Good to be blessed with the gifts of the Spirit and the grace of our generous God. Inspired by our inner light and shown the way by our teacher, let us give from the heart...

**The Offering is Gathered**

**\*Offering Response:** – "These Gifts We Bring"

***These gifts we bring with grateful hearts,  
to reconcile, make new.***

***Gather us in grace, show us the way,  
to live our lives in Truth  
to share Your love in all we do.***

*Words & Music: Pat Mayberry ©2016*

*Arrangement: David Kai ©2016*

**\*Offering Prayer:**

**Creator God, transfigure these offerings of money and our lives, that they may shine with the power of your love. Through these gifts may we, our community and the world better know your presence and the brightness of your desire. Amen**

**Prayers of the People**

**The Prayer of Jesus**

**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Announcements**

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

Come, O Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing your grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing  
call for songs of endless praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning,  
giving thanks for having come,  
come to trust, at every turning,  
God will guide me safely home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God,  
came to rescue me from danger,  
precious presence, precious blood.

O, to grace how great a debt,  
or daily I am drawn anew!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to you.  
Prone to wander, I can feel it,  
wander from the love I've known:  
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,  
seal it for your very own.

**\*Commissioning and Benediction; Sharing the Light**

**\*Choral Sending Forth:**

MV #211

"Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light"

***Go now in peace,  
guided by the light of Christ,  
so you may be  
nourished by the Word of Life.***

**Postlude**

## *Church News*

<b>This Week at First United Church</b>		
<b>Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday to Friday</b>		
Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Tuesday	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Knitters - RMR
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Thursday	4:15 PM	Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market

If you are aware of **anyone in the hospital or needing a visit**, please let the office know (506-546-3532) and the message will be forwarded to the Pastoral Care Team.

**Peanut Butter** – We have increased our quota for 2025 to collect 1,000 jars of peanut butter. Up to February 27th we have received 162 jars and have funds on hand to purchase another 90 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, put in the offering plate or mailed. Periodically the office will purchase the peanut butter while on sale and have it delivered directly to the Volunteer Center

**Ways & Means Team** would like to thank everyone who assisted, either by working in the kitchen, baking, serving the food, buying and/or selling tickets, with the recent Roast Pork Supper. Thanks to McDonald’s for their generous sponsorship, \$4,483.50 was cleared. The next event is tentatively planned for March 30th, a ***Sunrise Breakfast!***

As part of our **Stewardship Program** here at First United, information on Planned Giving through Wills and Bequests is available to our congregational membership. All members are encouraged to review this information and take the appropriate steps pertaining to your wishes. The information is available from the church office.

Below you will find a stewardship quote relating to the same.

Living in God’s presence changes us. We will become more generous, more caring, more loving.

**A Saint Patrick’s Gathering** sponsored by the Pastoral Care Team will be held at First United Church, 309 Saint Patrick Street, Bathurst, on ***Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 1 PM to 3 PM.*** (Snow date Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>)

Music will be provided by The Treble Makers. There is no admission fee. A voluntary donation towards the life and work of First United Church or a non-perishable item for the church pantry would be appreciated. Everyone is welcome!

Members of the group include: Linda Knowles MacPherson - Piano; Donald Eddy- Clarinet & Guitar; Ann Marie Hocquard - Voice & Percussion; Julia Henry - Trumpet & Voice; Charles Ramsey - Voice; Karen McCrea - Violin & Voice; Hazen McCrea - Bass Guitar

## *Community News*

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER** will be held at St. George’s Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$10.00 each and can be purchased in advance from the Church Office or they are available at the door. Take-outs will also be available.

**A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST** will be held at St. George’s Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 – 10:00 AM. As this community event serves to fund our local mission projects, we rely on donations and ask that you consider a minimum donation of \$ 8.00 to help defray costs. We appreciate your kindness and support. Come and enjoy fellowship and great food.

**Exodus 34:29-35**

NIV

<sup>29</sup> When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD. <sup>30</sup> When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. <sup>31</sup> But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. <sup>32</sup> Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the LORD had given him on Mount Sinai.

<sup>33</sup> When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. <sup>34</sup> But whenever he entered the LORD's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, <sup>35</sup> they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the LORD.

---

*Our Gospel reading picks up after Jesus asks the disciples who not only the people say that he is, but they themselves. Then he speaks of what is to come in Jerusalem, and that to be his followers, they too must take up their cross.*

**Luke 9:28-36**

NIV

<sup>28</sup> About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. <sup>30</sup> Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendour, talking with Jesus. <sup>31</sup> They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup> Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. <sup>33</sup> As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters - one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.)

<sup>34</sup> While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup> A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." <sup>36</sup> When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

*May the Lord bless to our understanding the reading of this scripture*

