

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

December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent - Peace

Minister	Rev. David Allan	Music Director	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Margaret Daniels	Custodian	Lester Scott
Greeters	Julie & Harvey Spence		
Audio & Visual Technicians	Brenda Parrott & Lester Scott		

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Lectionary for today

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

Lectionary for next Sunday

Isaiah 35:1-10
James 5:7-10
Luke 1:47-55
Matthew 11:2-111

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

MUSIC AS WE GATHER

WELCOME

***TERRITORY 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.

CALL TO WORSHIP: (*responsively*)

We are welcomed by Christ, for the glory of God.

We welcome one another, in the advent of love, the coming of life.

The anointed one comes; with joy the reign of peace is promised to all.

A new light dawns, leading us, giving us hope.

We have come even as we wait, we gather in expectation.

We come to worship, remembering, revealing, preparing for God's peace.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "As We Are Waiting"

Tune While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks

As we are watching for a sign

As we long for new life.

We trust your word revealed to us

An end to all earth's strife.

© Catherine MacDonald 2010

GATHERING PRAYER:

God of all, just as your Spirit swept over your new creation, over a manger and through followers and the faithful across the generations, may it rush into this time, this place, into all of us gathered here. May the Breath of Life and the Wind of Change enter into all who join in worship this day. May this be a time of your continuing creation, of hope, of peace, of joy and of love.
Amen

***GATHERING HYMN:** "While We Are Waiting, Come"

Gathering, A/C/E 2012/13 Page 83

While we are waiting, come:

While we are waiting, come.

Refrain:

*Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting come.*

With pow'r and glory, come;
With pow'r and glory, come.

Refrain:

*Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting come.*

Come, Savior, quickly come;
Come Savior, quickly come.

Refrain:

LIGHTING THE 2ND ADVENT CANDLE: (responsively)

Gary Branch, Leif & Sadie Larsen

Today we light a candle of peace,
**the kind of peace that we have all been hoping for,
waiting for.**
We work for peace, and we work for justice without which there
can be no peace.
Together, we set a table for all.
**Peace is made real when we prepare for the coming of
the light of peace.**

Peace is made real as we look for the light of the world.
**Peace is made real as we share the light with all who
are waiting.**
(The second candle is lit.)



CHORAL RESPONSE: "We Light This Candle"

*We light this candle for Peace.
Await the new life within.
May our hearts now live each day,
so Peace can find a way,
so Peace can find a way.*

*Words and music: Pat Mayberry © 2016
Arrangement: David Kai © 2016*

WE OPEN OUR HEARTS: (responsively)

In this time of waiting, even as we busily rush about, we are
acutely aware of the need of the world and the brokenness of
which we are a part. We turn to God.

**As we approach a season of abundance, we recognise
in this our own need, our desire for healing and
wholeness. We open ourselves to God.**

We pause for a moment of reflection...

OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED:

And so, God opens to us, the Heart of All first opens to God's
beloved creation. Ever faithful, God fills our hearts and spirits and
our very lives with giftedness and grace, that we may be open to
one another. As Paul long ago wrote to the first churches in
Rome, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in
believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the
Holy Spirit."

CHORAL RESPONSE: "Breathe into this Moment of Peace"

*Breathe into this moment of peace
with courage to let go, daring to dream.
For the days are surely coming,
when we'll rise strong together once again in peace.*

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST: (responsively)

...The peace of Christ be with you all!

And also with you!

Please share with one another words and signs of peace.

***ADVENT HYMN:** "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 judgment,
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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: (in unison)

Advent God, as we hear the words of a prophet, may we be blessed with vision. As we listen to the words of an apostle, may we be encouraged to share our faith. God of life, as we receive the words of an evangelist, may we be opened to your good news in new ways. And as we reflect

upon the words of a preacher, may we together grow in discernment and in discipleship. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Cheryl Brewster

Isaiah 11:1-10	The peaceable reign of God
Romans 15:4-13	The root of Jesse and hope of Gentiles
Matthew 3:1-12	John the Baptist preaches

REFLECTION: Prepare and repair

GIFT OF MUSIC – “Let There be Peace on Earth”

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Martha Vickers

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

We have gathered in anticipation and we give with hope. We give with faith and the assurance of the Prince of Peace. We give because we too are a gift. Our offerings will now be gathered.

***ADVENT OFFERING RESPONSE: (Tune Old 100th)**

***Peace is our hope for all the earth,
Peace in the promise of new birth.
Peace for those both far and near.
Peace now and all throughout the year.***



***OFFERING PRAYER (in unison)**

O God, just as the green shoot sprouts from the roots of Jesse, so too may these gifts allow for new growth to spring forth in the work of the church. Help us also to grow, in faithfulness and in love for our neighbours. We

give to make Jesus' promise of peace real, when the wolf shall live in harmony with the lamb, and when a little child shall lead us. Amen

Acknowledgement:

*adapted from an offering prayer by Taylor Croissant,
Southminster UC, Lethbridge, AB.
Gathering, A/C/E 2022-23, p. 31. Used with permission*

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF JESUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN: "He is Born"**

VU#50

Refrain:

*He is born, little Child divine;
play on the reeds while the lutes are strumming.
He is born, little Child divine;
Join the song to announce the day.*

Through long ages of the past,
prophets have foretold his coming;
through long ages of the past,
now the time has come at last!

(Refrain)

O how lovely, O how pure
is this perfect Child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure,
gracious gift to humankind!

(Refrain)

Lowly lodged in a stable poor,
laid on straw for his infant cradle.
Lowly lodged in a stable poor,
God came down to our mortal aid.

(Refrain)

Jesus, Lord of all the world,
coming as a child among us,
Jesus, Lord of all the world,
grant to us your heavenly peace.

(Refrain)

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL SENDING FORTH–**

MV #221

"I Am Walking a Path of Peace"

*I am walking a path of peace,
I am walking a path of peace,
I am walking a path of peace,
lead me home, I am home.*

SHARING THE LIGHT

(The Advent Candles are extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

Church News

This Week at First United Church

Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday to Friday

Monday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Tuesday	9:30 AM-11:30 AM	Quilters – DEMH Downstairs office
	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Knitting Group – Eddy Room
	3:00 PM	Bible Study
Wednesday	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 AM-1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market – GYM

Peanut Butter –Our quota for 2025 is to collect 1,000 jars of peanut butter for the Volunteer Center. Up to December 4, 2025 we have received 865 jars with funds on hand to purchase 65+ jars.

TODAY at 2 PM – Memorial Hymn Sing



To celebrate the **100th Anniversary** of The United Church of Canada, First United Church along with special guests, will be offering an afternoon of Christmas Carols that mean so much to us as we remember our loved ones. A reception will follow. Free-will offering at the door

Tell your friends & family to come and join us for this musical event!

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT FIRST UNITED:

December 7th at 2 PM – Hymn Sing

December 14th at 10 AM – Advent 3 *White Gift Sunday*

December 21st at 10 AM – Advent 4 *Service with Communion*

December 24th at 4 PM – Family Christmas Eve Service

December 24th at 7 PM – Christmas Eve Service

There are a few **2026 United Church of Canada calendars** available for any congregants who wish to have one. Clara Carroll submitted a picture of St. John's United Church on Miscou Island and this picture was chosen for the month of March. We congratulate Clara on her submission and thank her for the generous gift of these calendars to our congregation.

Ways & Means Team would like to thank everyone who assisted, either by working in the kitchen, setting the tables, baking, serving the food, clearing the dishes, buying and/or selling tickets, with the recent Turkey Supper. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Kenny's Trucking Ltd. and The Shine House the team realized a profit of \$7,502.44. The next event is planned for February, the **Roast Pork Supper!**



Once again this year we are hoping to have the beauty of our sanctuary enhanced with poinsettias for the Christmas season. Those wishing to contribute to the **Annual**

Poinsettia Fundraiser may place an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please mark clearly on the face of the envelope – Poinsettia Fundraiser with your name, PAR or envelope number. List the names that you wish to have printed in the Christmas bulletin insert. Donations will also be received in the church office – *deadline is Wednesday, December 10, 2025.*

Annual Christmas Benevolence Fund: - It's that time of year!

Giving to this fund is even more important than ever. The costs relating to feeding families, and having a warm place to live is still very prevalent in our area. Should you wish to give you will find an envelope on the tree which is set up in the narthex. Then you may drop the envelope in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office during the week. Make your cheques payable to First United Church. Please mark clearly that this donation is for the Benevolence Fund. The proceeds from this fund support the Bathurst Volunteer Center and people in our congregation who need assistance.

We thank-you for your generosity
– Community Outreach Sub-Team

Thank you to our volunteers in November - Counters – Margaret Payne-Chenard and Mike Kierstead; **Greeters** – Linda Knowles MacPherson, Charles Ramsey, Beth Sullivan, Gary Branch and Brenda Parrott; **Your Generosity Matters** – Martha Vickers, Ronalds family, Bev Murphy, Anne Wilson and Judy Losier; **Scripture Readers** – Isabel MacLaggan, Wayne Lord, Anne Wilson, Judy Losier and Gary Branch; **Hospitality & Friendship** – Shirley Sealy, Wilma Dempsey, Lola Nelson and Gayle Ferron; **Sound System** – Brenda Parrott, Shirley Allain, and Ralph Jamieson; **Audio Specialist** – Don Eddy for preparing audio for CDs; **Videographer** – Lester Scott and Margaret Payne Chenard and to Josh Gammon and his staff at WebSolutions.ca for uploading the YouTube link to the website and Facebook.

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.

The path to peace has many routes.
Giving generously is one of them.

Community News

A FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BREAKFAST will be held at St. George's Anglican Church, 432 King Avenue, on **Saturday, December 13th 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.

St. George's Anglican Church invites you to be a part of our **annual Christmas Carol Sing** evening on Thursday, December 11 at 7:00 pm. Come celebrate the season with music and light refreshments following.

The Downshore Community choir, which consists of the Anglican and United Church choirs and friends, will present "An Evening of Christmas Carols" on **Saturday, December 13, at 7 PM at Central United Church** in Clifton. Please mark the date on your calendar and join us for some familiar favourite carols. Admission at the door will be \$10.00, under 10 years free. Proceeds will be shared by both local churches.



SHRINERS – Give help and hope for kids

Shriners are a brotherhood of men committed to family, engaged into ongoing personal growth, and dedicated to providing care for children and families in need. Our backgrounds and interests are diverse, but we are bound together by our shared values and a desire to have fun, do good and build

relationships that can last a lifetime.

Once again, this year you can help the Shriners with their fundraiser. Purchase a calendar for \$20 and have a chance to win prizes every day of the year. The fruitcakes are delicious and you can get a box of three for \$25. Or a package Milk Chocolate Almonds for \$5. All the money from this fundraiser goes to help the children in our area. Contact Harvey Spence at 506-546-2742 for reservation.

A prayer of thanksgiving and for preparation and peace

For the wisdom that fashioned the universe
and can be read in the earth's dark depths
and in heaven's infinity of lights
thanks be to you, O God.

For the wisdom of teachers before us
and their words and imaginative seeing,
for the wisdom of those we have known
and their silence and humility of speech,
and for wisdom's wellspring in our own soul
and in the soul of every human being
from which ancient truths and new realisations spring forth
thanks be to you.

Let wisdom unfold in our heart and mind
and in the men and women of every nation.
Let us see the foundations for a new harmony
within us and between us,
the foundations for a recovered unity
with the earth and all its creatures,
for the ground of life is in you, O God,
the ground of all life is in you.

Sounds of the Eternal: A Celtic Psalter

©2012 John Philip Newell

SCRIPTURE READINGS – New International Version

Isaiah 11:1-10

11 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD -

3 and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;

4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

5 Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

6 The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.

7 The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

8 The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

9 They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

Romans 15:4-13

⁴ For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. ⁵ May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶ so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed ⁹ and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name." ¹⁰ Again, it says, "Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people." ¹¹ And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; let all the peoples extol him." ¹² And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope." ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:1-12

3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" ⁴ John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us all, thanks be to God.