

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

**January 11, 2026**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany - Baptism of Jesus**

**Minister** Rev. David Allan    **Music Director** Martha Vickers

**Office Adm.** Margaret Daniels    **Custodian** Lester Scott

**Greeters** Cheryl & Dave Brewster

**Audio & Visual Technicians** Shirley Allain & Lester Scott

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**Lectionary for today**

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 3:13-17

**Lectionary for next Sunday**

Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 40:1-11  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42

*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)**

Come, people of light!

**We come, witnesses to light's arrival!**

Come, people of love's power!

-1-

**We come, to the water's edge, where lives are turned to God!**

Come, people of God!

**We come, immersed in love, to worship and be made new!**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "Behold a New Joy"**

*Behold a new joy,  
that brushes the wind with gladness.  
And scatters the stars,  
with grace overflowing.  
Spirits will rise to greet them.  
Behold a new joy, behold a new joy.*

*Behold a new heaven  
that touches the earth, rejoicing.  
And gathers Your Dreams,  
called in to awakening.  
Justice cries out with Creation.  
Behold a new heaven, behold a new heaven.*

*Behold a new light  
that blesses our lives with courage.  
That fills every heart  
with wisdom and wonder.  
Laughter will come and Your songs be sung.  
Behold a new light, behold a new light.*

*Words: Pat Mayberry ©2025  
Music & arrangement: Shauna Sperry ©2025*

**GATHERING PRAYER:**

Loving God, we have been baptized into community. You water our way and we hear our name; you call us your beloved people.

-2-

Descend upon us now, in spirit, in grace and in blessing. Bathe us in light and grant us peace, embracing us as with the wings of a dove. This we pray in the name of the one who joins us at the river, where love and light flow, leading us into life in you. Amen

**\*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*

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*

## **LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE** (*The Christ Candle is lit...*)

Brighter than the first evening star, brighter still than the awakening dawn, the Christ light shines, the Love light glows, the light of the world illumines all people and all things. We light this candle as a reminder of the presence and the power of the light. We light this candle as a reminder that through the light, the beauty and the need of the world is revealed. This is the season of Epiphany! Through the light we respond, in love revealed for all.

## **CHORAL RESPONSE:** "Light of Christ"

***Light of Christ shine in and through me.  
Light of Love be with me now.  
Take these hands, healing hands.  
Light of Christ flow through me now.***

*Gathering, A/C/E 2025/26  
Pat Mayberry and David Kai*

## **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.*

**HYMN:** "Give Me a Name"

TLUS #12

Give me a name that's fresh and free  
and fitting for who I will be;  
God, bless with holy pow'r and grace  
my self, my scars, my form, my face.

Give me a heart that's brave and new,  
a tenderness that tried and true;  
God, save my soul from shame and scorn;  
I need your love to be reborn.

Give me a joy that sure and sweet  
to share myself, sincere, complete.  
God, spur me on to spark and shine,  
show forth in me with light divine.

-4-

Give me a path beyond the past  
To venture forth at peace at last;  
God, help me trust your ceaseless claim:  
just as I am, I bear your name.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:** *(in unison)*

**As the heavens opened to Jesus in the waters of the Jordan, may we too in the reading of our stories hear your voice, O God. May our hearts, minds and spirits be opened to your wisdom and your word. Amen**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** *Stephen Maisey*

Isaiah 42:1-9      God gives breath and spirit to the people

Matthew 3:13-17      Baptized and beloved

**A BAPTISM STORY:** *by Rev. Bev. Brazier*

**GIFT OF MUSIC:** "I Have Called You by Your Name"

**YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS** *Ronalds Family*

**INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING**

God's love and grace flow as a river runs, widening, deepening as they find life in the immensity of creation. We give too, that the generosity of life in God and the impartiality of unconditional love be revealed in light. Our offerings will now be 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** *(in unison)*

**God of blessing, in our baptismal vows we promise to love, and we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice, mercy and kindness. Bless us and all that we give here today, that our promises join with yours. May the love that we share work to fulfill, as Jesus said to John at the Jordan, all righteousness. Amen**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER OF JESUS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN: "Behold a Light"**

*Christmas / Epiphany Gathering, page 85 2009-2010  
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.

# Church News

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

## \*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

## \*CHORAL SENDING FORTH – "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!*

## SHARING THE LIGHT

*(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)*

## POSTLUDE

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 – RMR
	3:00 PM	Bible Study - RMR
Wednesday	7:00 PM	Property Management - RMR
	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice ( <b>This week only</b> )
Saturday	8:00 AM-1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market – GYM

**On Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>** immediately after the church service there will be a **Chicken Bouillion Luncheon** available to the congregation. The meal will consist of homemade chicken stew with homemade rolls, angel food cake with lemon sauce for dessert, tea or coffee. There will be a **free will offering taken at the door** with all proceeds going to support the church's food pantry. We hope you will be able to join us.

**Team Committee Reports** will be required in order to prepare **2025 Annual Report**. Would the individuals responsible for preparing each report please email them to the church office. The deadline for reports is February 13<sup>th</sup>. Thank You

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.

No matter what our background, our culture, our race, our identity, when we do what is right, we are all acceptable to God.  
May our gratitude overflow into generosity!

# Church News

**Thank you** to Peter Gammon, Bev Murphy, Beth & Bob Sullivan, Elizabeth & Gary Branch, Wayne Clowater, Debbie & Rick Watling and Lester Scott for assisting with the packing up of the Christmas decorations.

**Thank you to everyone who so generously donated** to the fundraisers during the Advent Season. We raised \$1,915 for the Benevolence/White Gift Fund, a large portion of which will go directly to the Bathurst Volunteer Center and \$1,530 for the Poinsettia Fundraiser (including costs of the plants). And **thank you to Anne Wilson** for attending at the church several times to check on/care for the plants.

**Peanut Butter** –Our quota for 2025 was to collect 1,000 jars of peanut butter for the Volunteer Center. Up to December 30, 2025 we received 1,009 jars. **Many thanks to everyone who assisted in reaching our goal!!**

## Community News

The annual **Robbie Burns Social**, organized by Bathurst Chapter, NB Scottish Cultural Association, will be held downstairs at *Bathurst Heritage Museum* on *Sunday, January 25*. A finger food potluck at 2 PM will be followed by an afternoon of Scottish entertainment and fellowship. Memberships for 2026 are due and can be obtained at this event. Bring your favourite finger food and pay \$10 at the door. For more information call Isabel MacLaggan at 506-546-5521. Everyone is welcome but advance notice is requested.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS – New International Version

### ISAIAH 42:1-9

#### The Servant of the Lord

**1** “Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations.

**2** He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets.

**3** A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

**4** he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope.”

**5** This is what God the Lord says—

the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it:

**6** “I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles,

**7** to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

**8** “I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols.

**9** See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.”

**The Baptism of Jesus**

**13** Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.

**14** But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

**15** Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

**16** As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, 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, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

*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.*