

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

January 18, 2026
2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Minister	Rev. David Allan	Music Director	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Margaret Daniels	Custodian	Lester Scott
Greeters	Beth Sullivan & Charlene Roy		
Audio & Visual Technicians		Shirley Allain & Lester Scott	

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Lectionary for today

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

Lectionary for next Sunday

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

*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)

Drawn from 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

To the church of God that is in this place,
to you who are made holy in Christ and

called to be servants and saints,
grace to you, peace and joy.

**Always we give thanks to our God for one another,
because of the grace of God that has been given to all
in Christ Jesus.**

For in every way we have been enriched in him,
in words and in wisdom,

**just as the teaching and testimony of Jesus
has been strengthened among us
so that we are not lacking in any spiritual gift.**

God is faithful; by Love we are called into the community of Christ.
**We too are faithful, we are grateful, and so we gather
as one for worship.**

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

***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: (responsively)

Creating God,
of shooting stars and rivers and bays icing over,
of drifting snow and the creatures that leave their tracks,
of each and every gifted one of us,
here and at home this new day,
teach us to pray...

with the bodies you've created,
with the hearts you've expanded,
with the voices you've strengthened
and the minds you've enlivened.

**May your purpose and pleasure be done in us and
through us, for the good of this earth
and for all your children.**

Called and in Jesus' name we pray. Amen

*Gathering Prayer adapted from one by Heather Ferrier, Trinity UC, Mahone Bay, NS.
Gathering, A/C/E 2022-23, p. 45. Used with permission.*

***GATHERING HYMN: "I Was There to Hear Your Burning Cry"**

VU #644

I was there to hear your burning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word,
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young.
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your burning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

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 illuminates 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*

Refrain:

*You put a new song in my mouth,
your name to glorify.*

I waited patiently for you, O God;
You bent down and heard my cry.

**You lifted me out of the horrible pit,
out of the miry clay,
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**

You put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.

**Many shall see and wonder,
and will put their trust in you.**

Refrain:

Blessed are those whose trust is in God,
**who have not turned to the proud,
nor to those who follow a lie.**

O God, my God, you have multiplied your wondrous deeds
**and your thoughts toward us;
none can compare with you!**

I would proclaim and tell of them,
but they are more than can be numbered.

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
**burnt offering and sacrifice
for sin you have not required.**

But you have opened my ears to hear,
and I said: "Here I am, ready to do what is
written in the scroll of the book."

**I delight to do your will, O my God,
your law is in my heart.**

Refrain:

I have told the glad news of deliverance in
the great congregation;
I did not restrain my lips, as you well know.

**I have not kept your goodness hidden in my heart,
but have spoken of your faithfulness
and your saving help.**

I have not concealed your steadfast love,
nor your truth from the great congregation.

**Do not withhold from me your tender care, O God;
may your love and truth ever preserve me.**

Refrain:

*You put a new song in my mouth,
your name to glorify.*

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: "Spirit Come"

(Seasons of the Spirit vol. 8)

(Refrain)

*Spirit come, Spirit come,
open our eyes, open our hearts,
come Spirit come.*

Chosen to bring good news to everyone poor, abused.
We are your hands, we are your voice.

Spirit Come.

To captives we shout, proclaim freedom in Jesus' name.
Fill us with love. Fill us with power.
Spirit Come.

(Refrain)

Good news that blind can see.
Oppressed ones can now be free.
We are your hands, we are your voice.
Spirit Come.

Announcing the time's arrived when God will save people's lives.
Fill us with love. Fill us with power.
Spirit Come.

(Refrain)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

God, who speaks and sings creation into being, as the story of your people is told, may it resonate with our stories. May we hear your voice, your word and your call. Through our hearing may our own voices be strengthened, that we be in harmony with all and with you, affirming of life, love, and light. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Isabel MacLaggan

Isaiah 49:1-7 The mission of the servant, called by God

John 1:29-42 Simon and Andrew become disciples

SERMON: What's your story?

GIFT OF MUSIC: "I Love to Tell the Story"

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Judy Losier

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

The gospel and the story of love are shared when we give abundantly. And so, we do this in faith, hope and love, always giving thanks to God. 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)*

We do offer our whole lives to you, O God. Like Simon Peter and Andrew, like Mary and Martha and Mary Magdalene, we want to follow Jesus and discover what you have done through him. *(continued next page)*

We want to know what you are doing and can do through us. Accept these gifts today that they might support the discipleship and discoveries of this congregation. As followers of Jesus, we pray in his faithful name. Amen

Offering Prayer adapted from one by Kate Gregory,
while at Belwood-Metz PC, Belwood, ON.
Gathering, A/C/E 2022-23, p. 49. Used with permission.

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF JESUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN:** "We Are Pilgrims (The Servant Song)"VU #595

We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

I will hold the Christ light for you
in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Church News

Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

*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	9:00-11:00 AM	Badminton – DEMH GYM
Thursday	4:15 PM	Choir Practice
Saturday	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bathurst Community Market – GYM

Today 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 13th. 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.

In Jesus you are loved and made holy, enriched in many ways: not lacking in any spiritual gift; ready and willing to share generously; called by God, as disciples of Jesus.

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.

18th Century Delights is the inaugural performance of the North Shore's newest early music ensemble, ***Ex Aevum***, featuring clarinetist Dave Scott and double bassist Jose Lopez, joined by Fredericton-based cellist Conor Britt. This program of trios and divertimenti invites audiences on a charming journey through the elegance, wit, and vitality of the 18th century, with music by Jean-Baptiste Bréval, Josef Mysliveček, Anton Albrechtsberger, and Michael Haydn. The concert takes place *Sunday, January 25th at 2:00 PM* at *St. Luke's Presbyterian Church in Bathurst*.

SCRIPTURE READINGS – New International Version

ISAIAH 49:1-7

NIV

1 Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the Lord called me; from my mother's womb he has spoken my name.

2 He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver.

3 He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendour."

4 But I said, "I have laboured in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. Yet what is due me is in the Lord's hand, and my reward is with my God."

5 And now the Lord says - he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honoured in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength -

6 he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

7 This is what the Lord says - the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel - to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation, to the servant of rulers: "Kings will see you and stand up, princes will see and bow down, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

30 This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'

31 I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

32 Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him."

33 And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'

34 I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples.

36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

37 When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

39 "Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

40 Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus.

41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).

42 And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).