



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

January 25, 2026
3rd 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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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for next Sunday</u>
Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:4-9 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23	Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12
<p> <i>We welcome the Men's Choir this morning</i> <i>and thank them for their gift of music</i> </p>	
<p><i>Today's bulletins are placed in loving memory of</i> <i>Lynn Vance</i> by Dale and family</p>	

*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 Psalm 27

We seek to dwell where God dwells,
to abide with Love all of our days.
Our desire is to behold the beauty of God's glory,
and to bring all that we are to worship.
We bring our stories and our questions;
we sing our songs and our praise.
We pray God's face shine upon us;
with raised heads and lifted hearts we worship.
We gather as disciples, as the Eternal Light dawns among us all.

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP: "Arise, Your Light is Come"

VU #79 (*verses 1 & 4*)

Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

GATHERING PRAYER:

Our story continues, God of life, and so in this sacred time, a time set apart and yet woven into eternity, speak to our hearts and hear us with yours. Lift our spirits to the heights of your love, and enlighten our minds with epiphanies of your presence and peace.
Amen

***GATHERING HYMN:** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

VU #288

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

(Refrain)

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

(Refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.

(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*

***PSALM 27:**

VU Page 754

Refrain:

*God is my light and saving health,
I shall not be afraid.*

Love is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?

**Love is the strength of my life,
of whom shall I be afraid?**

One thing I have asked of Love, that I shall ever seek:

**that I might dwell in the Heart of Love
all the days of my life,**

to behold the Beauty of my Beloved,

and to know Love's Plan.

For I shall hide in Love's heart in the day of trouble,

**as in a tent in the desert,
away from the noise of my fears.**

And I shall rise above my struggles, my pain,

**shouting blessings of gratitude in Love's Heart
and singing melodies of praise to my Beloved.**

Refrain:

*God is my light and saving health,
I shall not be afraid.*

Hear, O my Beloved, when I cry aloud,

be gracious and answer me!

You have said, "Seek my face."

**My heart responds,
"Your face, my Beloved, do I seek;
hide not your face from me."**

Do not turn from me, You who have been my refuge.

Enfold me in your strong arms, O Blessed One.

Refrain:

*God is my light and saving health,
I shall not be afraid.*

Psalm 27 paraphrase excerpted from one by Nan C. Merrill,
Psalms for Praying: An invitation to wholeness
(New York: Bloomsbury 2007) pp. 45-46.

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:** "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)*

We have come to listen. Not just to the one who reads scripture, not just to the one who preaches or shares a story. In the midst of a new day we listen for a new word, a word that is timeless, and yet in this moment sparks anew, in us. A word that enlightens our minds, that illumines our hearts, that brightens our hopes. We listen for you, for your creating words of love, O God, that are incarnated here, in our lives together as we reflect your light. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Anne Wilson

Isaiah 9:1-4	The people have seen the great light
1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Overcome divisions and find unity
Matthew 4:12-23	Jesus begins his ministry

SERMON STORY: Spirits sparked

GIFT OF MUSIC: "Guide Me, O Thou Great and Holy"

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

Anne Wilson

INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFERING

We give not only to keep the lights on. We give because the Light shines in us all. We give so that we might share the Light with all who seek, and who are seen by the God of all. 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)*

For those of us in this community walking in darkness, may through these gifts and our love a great light be seen. For those of us in God's Creation journeying through hunger and despair, may through these gifts and our love hearts be filled, spirits lifted, joy spilled out and hope brighten the lives of us all together. May the kingdom of heaven come near. Amen

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF JESUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN: "Jesus Calls Us"**

VU #562

SHARING THE LIGHT

(The Christ Candle is extinguished.)

POSTLUDE

Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
of our life's wild restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding,
saying, "Christian, follow me."

Long ago apostles heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus' sake.

Jesus call us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."

Jesus calls us: by your mercies,
Saviour, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.

***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!***

Church

*Church is a place to go and see
Our other loving family,
People who know the Lord, and who
With their love and care our strength renew.
That is why I think, each Monday:
"I'm looking forward to church on Sunday."*

~By Joanna Fuchs
www.poemsource.com

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 – 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

Food Pantry Update

Many thanks go out to the congregation for the wonderful response last Sunday to the Food Pantry fundraiser. Because of your overwhelming generosity we were able to raise \$735.00 to help support our church food pantry.

Thanks also to the volunteers who helped us make this happen: Lester Scott, Joyce and Glen Daley, Shirley Scott, Wilma Dempsey, Mick Knowles, Gayle Ferron, Charlene Roy and Beth Sullivan.

Your support is very much appreciated

~ **Sandra & Ed Boone** ~

Peanut Butter – Once again this year our goal is to collect 1,000 jars of peanut butter to donate to the Bathurst Volunteer Center. Up to January 21st we have received 29 with funds on hand to purchase 14+ 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.

Church News

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 order for you to grow closer to God,
what do you need to give away?

Community News

The annual **Robbie Burns Social**, organized by Bathurst Chapter, NB Scottish Cultural Association, will be held downstairs at *Bathurst Heritage Museum this afternoon at 2 PM*. A finger food potluck 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 *today at 2:00 PM* at *St. Lukes Presbyterian Church in Bathurst*.

Save The Date....



Roast Pork Dinner

Thursday, February 26, 2026

Donald Eddy Memorial Hall

309 St. Patrick Street

Take Out – 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Eat In – 4:30 to 6:00 PM

\$18. Adults \$6. Children (under 12)

Tickets will be available soon
from Ways and Means team members or at the church office

SCRIPTURE READINGS – New International Version

ISAIAH 9:1-4

NIV

1 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan -

2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

3 You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-18

NIV

10 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

11 My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you.

12 What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ."

13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul?

14 I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius,

15 so no one can say that you were baptized in my name.

16 (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.)

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel - not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

MATTHEW 4:12-23 NIV

12 When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee.

13 Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali –

14 to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

15 "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles –

16 the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

19 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

20 At once they left their nets and followed him.

21 Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James, son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them,

22 and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

