
BETHANY UNITED CHURCH

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Organist: Ms. Leslie Forward

Supply Organists: Sharon Dean, Ruth Davidge & Louise Drover

Caretaker: Wayne Parsons Secretary: Lisa Butt

Ministerial Staff: Rev. Beverly Matthews (Youth & Christian Education)

Rev. Stephen Matthews (Worship & Pastoral Care)

Advent 2 - Sunday - December 6, 2009 - 11am

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Introit:

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, who orders all things
mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show, & teach us in her ways to
go.

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship:

L: Come, for God is calling! Let us answer in love!

P: **God has called us from our homes, called us here
together! God calls us into loving relationship and
faithful service! We come in answer to God's call!**

Opening Prayer: **O God, we come to you this day in love. We
turn to you, that your arm might embrace us and your
hand might lead us. Loving God, you know our needs
this day. According to our need, may you give us
comfort, courage, hope and guidance. May your Spirit
prepare our hearts to receive your truth, and may our
spirits be strengthened to serve you faithfully in joy-filled
living. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Candles (see back cover)

Hymn: "There's a Voice in the Wilderness" - VU #18

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Readings: Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 3:1-6

Sermon

Hymn: "Here I Am, Lord" - VU # 509

ORDER OF CONFIRMATION

Introduction: At various moments on the journey of our life in
Christ, we have opportunity to reaffirm and renew the faith
proclaimed in baptism. At this time, we celebrate in and with
Christ, those who make such vows this day.

Presentation of Candidates for Confirmation -

(As their names are read, the candidates come forward.)

Elder: On behalf of the congregation of Bethany United Church,
I present the following persons who seek to renew the faith
proclaimed in their baptism: Katie Olivia **Ash**, Trent Timothy
Res **Clarke**, Stephen Glenn **Crocker**, Daniel Donald **Curran**,
Abbigayle Elizabeth **Fong**, Kyle Paul **Hamilton**, Mitchell Shawn
Howell, Kerri Ann **Noel**, Samantha Jean **Penney**, Nicole
Rebecca Winnifred **Slade**, Danielle Renee Lilian **Thomas**,
Brittany Nicole **Tucker**, Michael Tasker **Tucker**.

Confirmation Vows:

I ask these questions that you may publicly profess the faith
proclaimed in baptism:

1. Do you believe in God, Source of love; in Jesus Christ, love
incarnate; and in the Holy Spirit, love's power? **I do, by the
grace of God.**
2. Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, will you resist
oppression and evil, seek justice, and witness to God's love
for all creation? **I will, God being my helper.**
3. Will you proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, in your words
and actions? **I will, God being my helper.**
4. Will you join with others of faith to share in the life, work,
and ministry of Jesus Christ? **I will, God being my helper.**

Congregational Commitment:

You have made these promises of your own accord, yet you
live them out within the wider community of faith and, in
particular, within a nucleus of family and friends. In
appreciation of the part these people play within the wider
community of faith, we now invite representatives of your
family and friends to come forward. ... We now invite the
congregation to pledge to these persons our continued
support and care.

(Congregation remains seated)

**ALL: We will continue to support you and walk with you.
With God's help, we will live out our baptism as a loving
community in Christ: nurturing one another in faith,
upholding one another in prayer, encouraging one
another in God's work!**

A Profession of Faith: (Congregation stands.)

L: Together, let us share in a common profession of our faith:

ALL: We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our joy and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. (Congregation is seated)

Laying on of Hands: Confirm, O God, your servant, _____. May the power of the Holy Spirit continue to work within him/her, that being born of water and spirit, he/she may continue to be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Blessing: The grace of Christ attend you, the love of God surround you, the Holy Spirit keep you. **Amen.**

Presentation of Bibles and Certificates: Receive this book, our Holy Scriptures, and hear what the Spirit is saying to you and to the Church. *(The Confirmands and their families may be seated.)*

Call to Offer Our Gifts and Tithes: -

We have proclaimed our faith, and renewed our commitment to follow the Way of Christ. Let us now give our gifts as expressions of that faith and commitment. Our offering will now be received

as we sing the hymn, "One Bread, One Body."

Offertory Hymn: "One Bread, One Body" - VU #467

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless;
and we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

- 1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more.
- 2 Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.
- 3 Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one, for all.

Offertory Prayer:

**ALL: Leading, Loving God, bless the giving of these gifts in
Christ's name. With them, we offer again our very selves.
Feed our hunger, quench our thirst, and help us to use our
gifts with love, to share your love with the world. Amen.**

Hymn: "One Bread, One Body" - VU 467 - chorus only

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless;
and we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer:

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us lift up our hearts to God.

We lift them with love and faith.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We thank you, God, Creator of us all, that from the beginning you made the world and all its creatures. You made people to live for you and for one another.

We praise you, O God.

Throughout the ages, your creative power stirred through your people, as you sent prophet after prophet to teach us your way.

We praise you, O God.

On the bank of the Jordan, John the Baptizer proclaimed the coming of your greatest Gift: the gift of your coming in Jesus, your Son, in whom you revealed your Way, Truth, and Life.

We praise you, O God.

We gather at this table to remember that on the night before he died, Jesus ate with his friends; he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying:

“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.

Each time you do this, remember me.”

That same night, Jesus also took a cup and, after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying:

“Drink. This cup, poured out for you, is the promise of God.

Whenever you drink it, remember me.”

As we remember Jesus’ death and celebrate his resurrection; we await with hope his coming again.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do, that we and these gifts, touched by your Spirit, may be signs of life and love to one another, and to the world. This we ask in the name of Jesus, as we share the prayer he taught his closest friends and followers, saying: **Our Father, who art in heaven,Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup
the Sharing of the Bread and Cup (*Confirmands and their families receive at the rail; others receive in the pew.*)

The Post-sharing Prayer (In Unison):

**For what we have shared, and the life we have received,
we thank you, God. Grant that we may leave this place,
strengthened in faith and courage, to serve you faithfully
in the world. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

Hymn: “On Jordan’s Bank” - VU #20

Commissioning and Benediction:

L: As we leave this place of worship, may we know that God is with us! As God has called us here, so God calls us forth! Let us continue to answer in love!

P: We leave this place, holding the hand of God, knowing we are not alone! We go in faith, to love and serve in Christ’s name!

L: As we go, may we know the peace, the blessing, the strength, and the life-giving joy of Christ - Emmanuel - God-with-us!

P: Amen! Amen!

Musical Postlude

The Confirmation Group is asked to stay for a picture following the Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memorials

Our Bulletins today have been donated to the glory of God and in loving memory of parents **Nicholas and Sophie Clarke** from Ethel and Carl Hodder. (Mt. Pearl)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO.....Joseph Noel who birthday is TODAY!!!! And to Joyce Trickett who is celebrating her birthday tomorrow (Dec. 11. Best wishes from your family and friends here at Bethany!

Reminders

TONIGHT - CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING at 7:00pm **CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE A MEMORIAL BY 5:00pm**

MONDAY, December 7th, 10:30pm- Bible Study and Closing
7:30pm - SENIO CHOIR

TUESDAY, December 8th, 6:30pm - UCW Christmas Party

THURSDAY, December 10, 8:00pm - Church Chums

FRIDAY, December 11 at 6:00pm - BEGINNER CHOIR
7:00pm - KOININIA KIN

Also, on SATURDAY at the Manse, the Matthews will be having a Moving Sale with all proceeds going to the M & S Fund & to Bethany Account

NEW SUNDAY - WHITE GIFT SERVICE at 11:00am followed by the SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Please Note: On Sunday, December 20th, Bethany Congregation will be hosting a fair well POTLUCK for Rev. Stephen & Rev. Beverly & Family. This will take place downstairs after the church service. See You All There!

SENIOR HOME SERVICES

INTERFAITH - December 13 at 2:00pm

LUXURY ESTATES - December 20 at 2:00pm

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS - 2009

If you can help with some of the items, please let Rev. Stephen know. If you or someone you know is in need of a Hamper, let Rev. Stephen know.

IF YOU WISH TO READ ON CHRISTMAS,

let Rev. Stephen or Rev. Beverly know.

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR Mission and Service Fund.

Our National Church has contacted Churches asking for a special Appeal. Put an extra loonie, two-onie, extra change in your envelope for M and S.

STELLA BURRY COMMUNITY SERVICES

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

-Dishes
-Pots and Pans
-Forks, Knives, Spoons
-Utensils
-Knives
-Cutting Board
-Kettle
-toaster

Single Sheets
Cups, Mugs and glasses
Dish Racks
Blankets and Pillows
Frying pans
Bath towels and face cloths etc.

*all items due by the 8th of Dec.

The following memorials have been received to the glory of God and in loving memory of Yvonne Davis from:

Sharon Dean
Charlie & Daphne Piercey
Shirley Lake

Frank & Betty Pike

Patsy Rodgers
Florence Swain
Peter Moore
Paul & Betty Priddle
Herman & Daphne Greening
Lorne & Doreen Squires
Bernice & Joe Hogan
Louise & David
Bert Parsons
Barbara and Carl Penney
Beatrice & Cecil Oates
Clara & Irving Wareham
Kurt & Mabel Peyer
Hudson Davis
Warrick & Clara Wareham
Ches and Marie Ash
Ronald Howell
Edwina Suley
Vera Penney
Karen & John Comerford
Christine Noel
Calvin & Ann Ash
Fran & Bob Pelley

June & Bruce Davis
Georgie & Eric Eddy
Arthur W. & Loretta Oates
Gordon & Sandra Saunders
Milton & Joan Peach
Anthony Moores
Callie Clarke
Lewis & Pearl Cole
Leslie & Bruce Forward
Carter Powers & Judy
Margaret & Kevin Earle
Bible Study
Mary & George Power
Gerry & Shari Strong
Glenys & Chris Baird
Bethany Senior Choir
Minnie Snow
Alliston Champion
George & Francis Earle
Tina & Carl Batten
Heber, Harriett & Bary
Carbonear Collegiate
Miriam Moore
Don & Peggy Brown
Sandra Adams
Ella, Wayne Marshall