

**GIBSON MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH
FREDERICTON, N.B.**

December 01, 2019 11:00 a.m. Advent 1

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

*denotes standing for those who are able

“I have one life and one chance to make it count for something...My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference.” President Jimmy Carter

Lighting the Rainbow candle

***THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE:**

Lynn & Kylee: In this season of expectant waiting, we pray for **hope** in a world that sometimes feels hopeless.

All: God be with us amidst the complexities and intricacies of our lives. (light the candle of hope)

Together: “A Light is Gleaming” (chorus, v1, chorus)

Kelsey: Let this light give us strength in hard times and be cause for celebration in the good times. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” 1**

OPENING PRAYER: (Silence) Gracious God, we come in the spirit of hope. As we enter into a season of anticipation and waiting, help us to appreciate each day of this sacred time. Prepare, our hearts, we pray, to receive the babe of Bethlehem. Amen

CHILDREN’S HYMN: “Love Over Hate” (see insert)

CONVERSATION TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD

FREDERICTON FLUTE CHOIR: “El Ensueno-Movement 111 of Pedazitos

A RESPONSIVE READING OF THE INNKEEPER (Lennie Gallant)
(see back page of the bulletin)

SERMON: “When Calls the Heart”

FREDERICTON FLUTE CHOIR: “Apres un Reve” by G. Faure

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

COMMUNION HYMN: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” vs.1 288

SHARING OF THE GIFTS OF BREAD AND WINE

PRAYER FOR THE ADVENT JOURNEY:

God of Hope, be with all those we hold dear, especially the ones whose lives are marked with pain, struggle, and deep anxiety, those whose lives bear ongoing heartaches, those whose difficulties threaten to overwhelm them with helplessness and despair. We pray asking that your hope be lit within us, that we may accompany one another by extending our hands in friendship and in peace. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER 959

OFFERTORY: FREDERICTON FLUTE CHOIR: “Oblivion” by A. Piazzolla

***THE DOXOLOGY: 541**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER:** God of the journey, walk with us this Advent season. Receive our gifts—the work of our hands, our hearts, our lives. May these gifts transform the world in hope. We pray in the name of the itinerant Jewish Rabbi, who spoke of welcoming strangers and loving enemies. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN: “God of the Bible” (see insert)

*COMMISSIONING and BENEDICTION

*SUNG BLESSING:

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
 God will go with you each hour of everyday.
 Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
 Know He will guide you in all you do.
 Go now in love, and show you believe.
 Reach out to others so all the world can see.
 God will be there watching from above.
 Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
 Amen. Amen. Amen.

POSTLUDE: “Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring”

MINISTER	REV. KELLY HIGGINS
ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR	HEATHER FYFFE
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	MARSHA DALEY
CUSTODIAN	BRIAN BUBAR

Sunday Worship & Sunday School: 11:00 a.m.

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30 – 12 noon and 1 – 3 p.m.

Rev. Kelly’s in-office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday mornings,
 9 – 12 noon. 183 Gibson St., Fredericton, N.B. E3A 4E4; Tel: 457-1951.

Web-site: www.gibsonmemorial.ca; email: gibsonmemorial@nb.aibn.com

CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION:

Good morning and welcome to EVERYONE. May this worship service be a blessing in your day. *A special welcome to The Fredericton Flute Choir and Genevieve MacRae.* The ladies in the flute choir are: Thea Loughrey, Suzanne Prior, Leslie Costello, Michelle Lane-Palk, Monique Roy, Mary Goggin, Melissa Akerley Meadows and Sheryl Bartlett. Everyone is invited to share in **coffee/tea/juice and conversation** in the hall immediately following the service. **Greeters** today are Maureen Betts and Reg Short and next week will be Roberta & Lindon Miller. **Tellers** today are Dale Horncastle & Wayne Alexander. Next week the tellers will be Brian & Marliese Cail. **Taping** the service today is Chris Banks and next week will be Lorne Henry. In the **Nursery** today is Melissa Banks and next week will be Trianda Fox.

Services & Meetings this week: Dec. 2 - 7, 2019

Monday	9:30	Shuffleboard Group
Tuesday	9:30	Pie Day
	7:00	Study Group Picaroons
Wednesday	6:30	Catering to Elm City Quilters

Upcoming Services & Meetings:

Dec. 8	11:00	Second Sunday in Advent: Bring a Friend, Blue Jeans and Coffee Sunday. Our Guest violinist is Yiyang Shi.
Dec. 15	11:00	Third Sunday in Advent & Children’s Pageant & a special visitor & Potluck
Dec. 22	9:30	Blue Christmas Service in the Music Room
	11:00	Fourth Sunday in Advent Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long
Dec. 24	7:00	Christmas Eve Family Service & Guest soloist, Charles MacTavish
Dec. 29	11:00	First Sunday after Christmas & Baptism Sunday

Today’s bulletin has been donated in memory of **Robert “Bob” Chase**, April 20, 1935 – November 28, 2013 by Florence Chase & Family. Also, Poinsettias have been placed in the sanctuary for the Advent & Christmas season in memory of **Bob** by Florence.

Mission & Outreach News:

We have received a request for gently used *winter coats & winter boots* for men, women and children. We are looking for sizes medium to large for both men and women’s coats. Boot sizes for women: 7-9; Men: 6-11. Boys and Girls coats sizes 3T up to size 10 Youth. Donations can be dropped at the church. Thank you, everyone, for your ongoing support of outreach initiatives in our community.

The **Christmas Elves** of Gibson Church want to reach out to Lily Jewett and her family in Ottawa as we walk the Advent road to Bethlehem. We hold Lily in prayer each week. She has had many surgeries in her young life and this year the Christmas Elves want to send her a card to let her know that her church family in Fredericton is thinking of her. Lynn and Kelsey, the Christmas Elves, have a card for you to sign and as well if you want to make a donation to help Lily with the costs of her treatments and her travel to the children's hospital please speak to the elves today after church. Thanks so much!

Offerings & Attendance Update: 2019

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offerings</u>	<u>+/- to date</u>
Jan. – Mar.	86	2,399	- 2,719
Apr. - June	99	2,867	+ 527
July – Aug.	62	2,202	- 3,183
Sept.	83	2,377	- 4,296
Oct.	99	2,895	- 3,117
Nov. 3	140	2,316	- 2,833
Nov. 10	91	2,076	- 3,357
Nov. 17	117	2,647	- 3,310
Nov. 24	84	2,825	- 3,085

Finance Notes:

-We need approx. \$2,600* each Sunday to meet the Budget. PAR (\$861 per week) is included in the amount each week.

-Bulletins can be donated in memory of loved ones. The cost of bulletin covers is approx. \$20. Bulletins can also be donated for Anniversary, Birthday and for other Celebrations.

-**PAR**, Pre-Authorized remittance is available. Please contact the office for more information.

-\$2,600 is comprised of Local, Special Projects & Offering

-If you don't have offering envelopes for the 2020 year and would like to, please contact the office. The last day to submit offerings for the 2019 year is Dec. 29, 2019.

Announcements:

- The Worship Committee would like to remind you that we will be celebrating the Advent Season with our 2019 Memorial/Celebration Tree Lighting. You can donate a Christmas Bulb in memory of / in celebration of someone in your life. The cost of each bulb is \$5. All the details will be sent out in the Christmas Newsletter on November 24th. The names of your loved ones will be printed in the bulletin on Sunday December 22nd so please give your information to Marsha by Sunday December 15th. Wishing you **Hope, Peace, Joy** and **Love** of the Advent Season.



- The Nominations Committee for Council and Committee members for the calendar year 2020 has been initiated. **Jean Henry and Jessica Clement** will form part of the Nominating Committee. If you are interested in being on a Committee in 2020 please reach out to either Jean or Jessica. Information on Committee Chairs is posted on the bulletin board outside Marsha's office. Reach out to them or the Nominations Committee for more information on Committee mandates.
- A very BIG thank-you to all who made our Christmas Market a success. Special thanks to Valerie for all of her hard work.

Storm Closure Policy:

It's that time of year again! Gibson Memorial United Church will remain open for Sunday worship services unless the City Police or the RCMP recommend that people stay off the roads. Otherwise please use your own discretion and travel safely during the upcoming winter weather.



GIBSON goes **Green Energy...**
 Work has started on implementing energy efficiency and other improvements to the church building to upgrade it and make the church building more energy efficient. Funding has been obtained for majority of this work though there is a shortfall. Therefore, the Finance Committee is launching a campaign of a one-time special request to raise \$18,000 to cover the cost of 2 new boilers and 3 circulating pumps. We welcome your tax-deductible financial donation and all donations are greatly appreciated. An envelope was included in your bulletin last week and there are extra envelopes on the table in the Narthex. Thanks for supporting our **“Keep the HEAT ON”** campaign.

To date we have raised \$7,017

Progress report on Building Improvement Initiatives:

Total cost:	\$57,952
Less funding obtained to date:	
• NB Power LED Lighting Rebate	2,000
• United Church Faithful RETROFIT Grant (which has been approved by the United Church of Canada)	30,000
• Funding from Gibson (hall exterior door paid):	4,603
• Funding from Living Memorial Fund (nursery renovations):	<u>3,500</u>

Fundraising required: \$17,849

Upcoming Fundraising Events

- Dec. 3 Pie Day – 9:30 a.m.
- Dec. 4 Elm City Quilters Dinner – 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 9 Pie Day – 9:30
- Dec. 10 Fredericton Quilters Dinner – 6 p.m.
- Dec. 11 Pie Day – 9:30
- Dec. 12 Dolphin Swim Club Dinner – 12 noon
- Dec. 13 Pie Day – 9:30
- Dec. 13 Collective Theatrics Show & Dinner – 7 p.m.

Volunteers are needed for each event. If you haven’t volunteered for an event and would like to, please let me know and we will welcome you! Otherwise volunteers will receive an email before each event! **And each year we ask families of the congregation to donate \$20 towards the cost of purchasing supplies.**

Upcoming Community Event: (see bulletin board for more info.)

- Dec. 2, 9, 16 Advent Series with Bishop Bill Hockin and Friends 12:15 – 1 p.m. at the Crown Plaza Hotel
- Dec. 4 Advent Carol Festival (Local church and community choirs) at St. Paul’s United Church, at 7:30 p.m. Freewill offering in support of Fredericton Food Banks.
- Dec. 4 Memorial Tree Lighting at Oromocto Funeral Home, at 7 p.m. If you would like to place your loved one’s name on the Honour roll, please contact 357-5100
- Dec. 5 Memorial Tree Lighting at McAdam’s Funeral Home, at 7 p.m. If you would like to place your loved one’s name on the Honour roll, please call 458-9170.

God of the Bible

God of the Bible, God in the Gospel, hope seen in Jesus,
hope yet to come, you are our centre, daylight or darkness,
freedom or prison, you are our home.

Chorus: Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
 God always faithful, you do not change.
 Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
 God always faithful, you do not change.

God in our struggles, God in our hunger, suffering with us,
taking our part, still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit,
feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.

Those without status, those who are nothing, you have
made royal, gifted with rights, chosen as partners,
midwives of justice, birthing new systems, lighting new
lights.

Not by your finger, not by your anger will our world order
change in a day, but by your people, fearless and faithful,
small paper lanterns, lighting the way.

Hope we must carry, shining and certain through all our
turmoil, terror and loss, bonding us gladly one to the other,
till our world changes facing the Cross.

LOVE OVER HATE

(words and music by John Oldham & Pat Mayberry
Arrangement by David Kai, 2019)

**Love over hate, our sacred song.
Sing in our hearts, our voices strong.
All of the earth, each race, faith,
each one belongs.**

*Chorus: You of my heart,
 You of my soul,
 You are the Love that makes us whole.
 You of my heart,
 You of my soul,
 You are the Love that makes us whole.*

**Love over fear, our common dream.
Justice that flows, a mighty stream.
Kindness and mercy calling,
for one and for all.**

Chorus

**Love over lies, our promise true.
Healing and hope held high anew.
Strengthen our lives with courage to journey---through.**

About "Love Over Hate"

The words and music of our children's hymn "Love Over Hate" were written in response to the shootings at the Mosque in New Zealand on March 15th, 2019. Words by John Oldham and Pat Mayberry; music by Pat Mayberry; arrangement by David Kai.

The Innkeeper

By Lennie Gallant

It was cold the night it happened, I was tired, it was late
I'd served too much wine to travelers, I could barely tolerate
Through the shouts and drunken laughter, heard a knock upon the door
There was something desperate in the sound, that I chose to ignore
Then again I heard the knocking like a hammer on my heart
Flung the door open in anger, I peered out into the dark

I could tell there was no profit, to be made from what was there
Nothing but a tired and worried man, so dusty and threadbare
On a donkey there behind him, sat a woman full with child
Her time has come, he said to me, might we rest here for a while
Again I heard the knocking like a hammer on my heart
But I said I had no room for them, and bade them to depart

Was the light from lamps within the inn, or somewhere in the sky
I saw her face turn towards mine, I looked into her eyes
My knees began to weaken, my hands began to shake
Then I felt I'd be forgiven, for all of my mistakes
And again I heard the knocking like a hammer on my heart
But voices beckoned me inside the inn, and I left them in the dark

Through the night I felt the lifting, of some weight upon my soul
By some power that was stronger than, the darkness could control
I ran out into the street, enquired at every other inn
It seemed that they'd been turned away, from every place they'd been
Again I heard the knocking like a hammer on my heart
Then I heard a baby's cry, from somewhere in the dark

I found them in a stable, kings and shepherds gathered around
It seemed there was no room, for the likes of me there to be found
I could not understand it, but I had to see the child
When the mother bade me to come near, I swear I saw him smile
**Then I heard what sounded like a thousand chains breaking apart;
and a door now swinging open letting light enter my heart**
Enter my heart, enter by heart

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