

GIBSON MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH  
FREDERICTON, N.B.

December 08, 2019

11:00 a.m.

Advent 2

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**WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP**

\*denotes standing for those who are able

“We have an extraordinary God. God is a mighty God, but this God needs you. When someone is hungry, bread doesn’t come down from heaven. When God wants to feed the hungry, you and I must feed the hungry. And now God wants peace.” Archbishop Desmond Tutu

**Lighting the Rainbow candle**

**\*THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE:**

One: Peace, it’s what I pray for...

All: All around the world...

One: Peace, shine your light on me!

All: Peace, shine your light on me!

Together: Peace, it’s what we pray for...

One: Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Yiyang Shi**

**\*OPENING HYMN: “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” 684**

**OPENING PRAYER:** (Silence) Gracious and loving God, we long for peace within ourselves and our world. Grant us the grace to be still so that we may quiet our hearts and believe yet again that peace is possible. We look to you for strength and hope as we follow your dream of peace. Amen.

**CHILDREN’S HYMN: “Like A Rock”**

Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet.

Like the starry night sky God is over our head.

Like the sun on the horizon God is ever before.

Like the river runs to ocean, our home is in God ever-more.

**CONVERSATION TIME WITH THE CHILDREN: “Stevie Wonder”**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**“The Advent of Our God”**

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Yiyang Shi**

**THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalm 130** Emma Huestis 853

**HYMN: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” vs. 1&2** 2

**REFLECTION: “Singing While We Wait”**

**PRAYER:** (all) God of Newness, help us to live with an expectant openness to your presence among us. Amen

**“Prepare the Way of the Lord”**

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC: Yiyang Shi**

**A GOSPEL STORY: Matthew 3:1-3**

**HYMN: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vs.1,4,5** 1

**REFLECTION: “Singing While We Wait”**

**PRAYER:** (all) Emmanuel God, help us to see you in the people that we meet. Amen.

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**A PRAYER FOR PEACE**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**HYMN: “A Candle Is Burning” vs. 1 & 2** 6

**OFFERTORY: Yiyang Shi**

**\*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:** Generous God, as we have been blessed, so we offer blessings here. May our gifts be used to bring hope to despair, love to hate, warmth to loneliness and food to the hungry. We pray in the name of the itinerant Jewish Rabbi, who spoke of welcoming strangers and loving enemies. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN: "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" 44**

**\*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"**

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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](http://www.gibsonmemorial.ca); email: [gibsonmemorial@nb.aibn.com](mailto: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 guest violinist Yiyang Shi.* Everyone is invited to share in **coffee/tea/juice and conversation** in the hall immediately following the service. **Greeters** today are Roberta & Lindon Miller and next week will be the Worship Committee. **Tellers** today are Brian & Marliese Cail and next week will be the Thomson & Small Team. **Taping** the service today is Chris Banks and next week will Lorne Henry. In the **Nursery** today is Trianda Fox and next week will be Heather Randall.

**Services & Meetings this week: Dec. 8 - 14, 2019**

<b>Today</b>	<b>12:15</b>	<b>Visioning Meeting</b>
Monday	9:30	Shuffleboard Group
	<b>1:30</b>	<b>Pie Day</b>
Tuesday	6:00	Catering to the Fredericton Quilters
	7:00	Study Group at Sherry Thomson's Home
Wednesday	<b>9:30</b>	<b>Pie Day</b>
Thursday	12:00	Catering to Dolphin Swim Group
Friday	7:00	Collective Theatrics Show & Turkey Dinner

**Upcoming Services & Meetings:**

Dec. 15	9:30	Council
Dec. 15	11:00	Third Sunday in Advent & Children's Pageant & a special visitor & <b>Potluck</b>
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 celebration of Gibson's awesome staff, *Rev. Kelly, Marsha, Heather & Brian.*

Sincere sympathy is extended to **Bill & Margaret Field** on the death of Margaret's sister, **Doreen "Dodie" Pond**.

A donation has been made to the **Living Memorial Funds** in memory of **Doreen "Dodie" Pond** by Bill & Margaret Field.

**Blue Christmas Service:** Gibson Church invites you to a special holiday service designed for those for whom the holidays might be difficult. If you have undergone a difficult loss, transition, or life change, our church family cares about you and invites you to a special time of music and worship on **Sunday Dec. 22 at 9:30 am** in the **Music Room**. Please bring a small ornament for the Blue Christmas Tree. All are welcome!

**Shuffleboard, Shuffleboard, Shuffleboard!** The group is looking for more players. If you are interested in "shuffling" on Monday mornings, please stop by at 9:30! All are welcome!

**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.

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!

**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 24<sup>th</sup>. The names of your loved ones will be printed in the bulletin on Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup> so please give your information to Marsha by Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup>. 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.
- **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. Donations can be dropped at the church. Thanks!
- **The Angel Tree** which is in support of the **Food Bank** is in the narthex. Please take an "Angel" home and return the item on or before Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, which is the Sunday School pageant.
- **Buy A Night** cards are for sale in the hall after the upcoming services. This \$10 per night card provides a night at the shelters for a homeless person. We are also collecting socks to be donated the shelters too



**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 \$7,592**

**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
Dec. 01	124	3,212	- 2,473

**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.**

**Office News:**

- Christmas letters have been sent out. If you are new to the Gibson Church Family and would like to be on our mailing list, please contact the office. There are extra Christmas letters on the table in the Narthex available for pickup. Thanks
- Marsha Daley will be on vacation on Dec. 17, Dec. 30. If you are in need of anything before those dates, please call/visit the office.

**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 30,000  
(which has been approved by the United Church of Canada)
- Funding from Gibson (hall exterior door paid): 4,603
- Funding from Living Memorial Fund (nursery renovations): 3,500

**Fundraising required: \$17,849**