

GIBSON MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH
FREDERICTON, N.B.

2

December 15, 2019

11:00 a.m.

Advent 3

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

*denotes standing for those who are able

“In the dark of the year
I will light a candle...
for Christmas, coming soon...
for Jesus, born in Bethlehem...
for the angel’s message of peace and goodwill...”
A Child’s First Book of Prayers

Lighting the Rainbow candle

***THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY:**

Katie: Today we light the third candle of Advent, the candle of JOY. (Stella will light the candle of Joy.)

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come. This is good news for all people.

Together: “Joy to the World” vs.1&2 **59**

OPENING PRAYER: (Silence) Wondrous God, be with us as we journey to Bethlehem yet again this year. May we be filled with joy as we follow the light of the star. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: “A Candle Is Burning” vs.1.2.3 **6*

“THE NIGHT LOVE WAS BORN”

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:1-19

HYMN: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” **64**

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: “The Story of Old”
(based on the Gospels of Matthew and Luke)

SOLO: “Away In a Manger” Caileigh Sullivan
CHILDREN’S CHOIR: “Silent Night” (led by Caileigh) **67**

“SINGING AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE”

PIANO SOLO: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” Kylee Ridler

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree”

YOUTH CHOIR:

“O Christmas Tree”

“Jingle Bells”

“We Wish You a Merry Christmas”

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: This is where the Christmas story ends, but it is not the end of the story. We know that Jesus’ story continues to touch people of all backgrounds, just as it touched the people in Bethlehem and the Magi from away. Jesus’ story is a gift, not of gold nor wrapped in paper and bows, but of light and life. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

**PRAYER FOR THE ADVENT JOURNEY:
THE LORD’S PRAYER **959****

**OFFERTORY
*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: “There’s a Voice...” vs.1&3 **18*

CLOSING HYMN: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” **333*

GRACE before the POTLUCK

***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

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. Everyone is invited to share in a POTLUCK lunch **and conversation** in the hall immediately following the service. **Greeters** today are the Worship Committee and next week will be Beth Arsenault and Barb Long. **Tellers** today are the Thomson & Small Team and next week will be Brian & Joy Venio. **Taping** the service today is Lorne Henry and next week will be Chris Banks. In the **Nursery** today is Heather Randall and next week will be Erin Price.

Services & Meetings this week: Dec. 16 – 21, 2019

Monday	9:30	Shuffleboard Group
Tuesday	7:00	Study Group, Picaroons

Upcoming Services & Meetings:

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 Christmas and in loving memory of **Bob Jewett** by Judy Jewett & Family. Merry Christmas everyone from the Jewett Family!

A poinsettia has been placed in the sanctuary in loving memory of Grampy (Bob Jewett) from granddaughters Annabelle and Veronica.

Donations have been made to the **Living Memorial Fund** in memory of **Doreen "Dodie" Pond** and **Hazel (Watling) Williston** by Barbara & David Morrison.

A donation has been made to the **"Keep The Heat On"** fund in memory of **Virginia MacDonald** by Ian MacDonald & family.

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!

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.

Announcements:

- **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!
- **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 to the shelters too!
- Marsha Daley will be on vacation on Dec. 17 and Dec. 30. If you are in need of anything before those dates, please call/visit the office.
- **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!

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!



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 \$7,842

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

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.	108	2,466	- 3,085
Dec. 1	124	3,212	- 2,473
Dec. 8	104	2,818	- 2,255

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.



Today we light **116 bulbs** for a **total of 294 bulbs** on our 2019 Memorial/Celebration Tree!

Again this year our tree will shine brightly so all who enter or pass by may experience the **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love** of the Advent and Christmas Season.



“Love Divine”
Read John 3:16-21
“For God so loved the world that [God] gave...”
John 3:16a

Sing “*Love Divine*.” “Happy Birthday to you,” sang the little boy on the other end of the phone. I smiled in surprise. He had asked me about my birthday some time ago as he was leaving church, but I never dreamed that he would remember. But he did, and my day was filled with joy. Remembering important events in people’s lives was one of Marshall Palmer’s special gifts. For a boy of 10 years, he had a very big heart. He always had an encouraging smile, a helpful hand, and a kind word. Every children’s story I ever told at St. Andrew’s United Church has some memory of him. Nine years have passed since I was ordained and sent to serve as the minister for Marshall’s home Congregation. And although I have gone on to serve God in other ways, every time I sing “*Love Divine*” I remember the compassionate heart of a beautiful brown-eyed little boy. Marshall died shortly after I accepted a call to another congregation. So now when I sing this song I remember the “joy of heaven” that came to me because Marshall touched my life with his love.

God of love, thank you for the loving hearts of little children. Amen.

Kelly D Higgins

These Days

November-December 1996

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