

**First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge**

**December 31, 2023**

**Praise Medley:** The Little Drummer Boy, Manger  
Throne, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem, We Three Kings

Greetings and Announcements

**Introit:** 'Twas In The Moon Of Wintertime - Verse 3 VU 71

**Call to Worship**

This is the place,  
**The place where God is joyfully worshiped.**

This is the time,  
**The time we know that God is with us in the coming year.**

These are the friends,  
**The friends who celebrate with us and stay with us when  
the testing comes.**

This is the faith,  
**The faith in Jesus Christ, which challenges us and shapes  
our future.**

**Prayer of Approach**

**This is the time for new beginnings, this is the time for  
reflection. This is the time for taking stock, this is the time  
for setting New Year goals. This is the time for putting old  
grudges and resentments to rest. This is the time for  
seeking new friends and fresh avenues of Christian  
service. This is the time for renewing our faith in Jesus  
Christ, this is the time to rejoice in Christ's presence  
amongst us. Thank you God for this time. Amen.**

**Hymn:** The First Nowell VU 91

**Prayer of Confession**

**Gentle God, you came as a child to give us the perfect  
example of faithfulness. Asked to be perfect in simplicity,  
we have become sophisticated. Asked to be perfect in  
humility, we have become proud. Asked to be perfect in  
tranquility, we have become anxious. Look into our hearts  
and see the brokenness of each of us, and forgive us anew,  
we pray. (Silent reflection)**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Christmas is a vivid reminder that God, indeed, comes to us to  
assure us that we are loved and forgiven. God sent Jesus that  
we might be saved from all brokenness.  
**Thanks be to God! Amen**

**Hymn:** Jesus Our Brother VU 56

Offering: As These Of Old Their First-Fruits Brought –  
Verse 3 VU 518

**Offertory Prayer:**

**Great and glorious God: you have shown your infinite  
wisdom in coming to us as a tiny child. In his helplessness  
we learn how to depend on you. In his fragility we learn to  
give you thanks for the miracle of our lives. In his  
humanness we learn to treasure all humanity. May what we  
give be a blessing to all. Amen**

**Scripture Readings**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm 148 on page 871 of voices United

Luke 2:22-40

**Hymn:** He Is Born VU 50

Meditation

Prayers of the People

Prayer Response: Bread For The Journey MV 202

**Hymn:** Joy To The World VU 59

Benediction