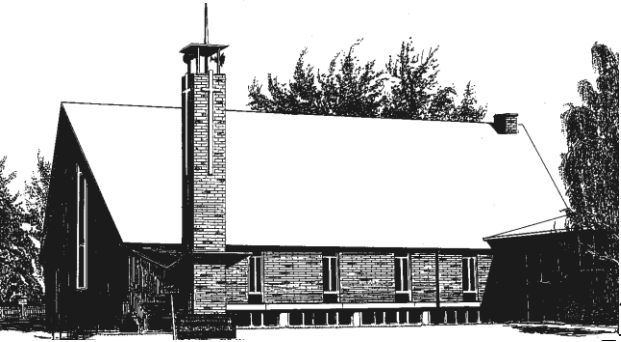


Westminster United Church



Ministers: All the people
Clergy: Rev. James Farrell
Director of Music: Chris White
Jr Choir: Anna Marie Hancock
Secretary: Kim Sherring
Treasurer: Murray Bell
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*“We are a faith community building relationships
with God, all people, and our world.”*

January 8, 2012 Epiphany Communion

Today we celebrate the Epiphany. Epiphanies are sudden realizations and intuitive new understandings of ordinary occurrences. They are often viewed as the coming of a brilliant light with the power to transform – a gift from God. On Epiphany Sunday we celebrate magi, influential leaders, being led by the light of a star to the place Jesus was, and rejoice that God is revealed among us in unexpected places and in people.

If you would like to stay seated for any or all of the “standing” parts of the service, please feel free to do so.

Need a refuge? Our Nursery is located off Memorial Hall, has a speaker system through which to hear the service, and exists for all who may need this space. Memorial Hall approach is via the pulpit side exit.

Friendship Rosters: Please sign the Friendship Roster this morning.

Prelude / Sharing Announcements / A Time of Greeting A Time of Silent Preparation—Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship (Responsive)

One: A star shining in the East:

All: discovered by those who have eyes for the unusual and the challenging.

One: A journey into unknown territory:

All: taken by those who have courage and curiosity.

One: An encounter with an evil presence:

All: evil faced yet resisted with care.

One: Once recognised, in spite of humble origin:

All: the glory and the gifts given to a special child.

Opening Prayer (Responsive)

One: O that we had the faithfulness of the Magi!

All: Then nothing would stand in the way of our search for the highest good.

One: O that we had the gifts of the Magi!

All: Then we would present what is appropriate to Jesus.

One: O that we had the wisdom of the Magi!

All: Then we would see the hidden threat of the evil ones and quietly avoid it.

One: O that we had the joy of the Magi!

All: Then our encounter with Jesus would leave us exhilarated, thankful, and ready for committed discipleship.

Hymn #79 “Arise, Your Light is Come”

Conversation Time

Colouring packets for the children are available in the first pew on the pulpit side of the church.

Prayer for Transformation (Unison)

The Magi left home and the familiar pattern of life to follow their dream. May the star be revealed to which we aspire and enable us to follow faithfully. May we reflect on the shadowed aspects of ourselves and let the starlight of new intentions replace the darkness. May we be alerted to the deep division between rich and poor and let the starlight of understanding bring sharing. May we have warmth and security in the faith community and enable us to change the ways that need changing...(time for silent reflection)

Words of Assurance (One)

In the light of the Bethlehem star, life changes: the way ahead shines with opportunity, dreams come to reality, choices appear, and decisions are clear before us. May the light of the star illumine our lifestyle, flood our spirits, and enliven our faith community. Amen.

Biblical Notes / Prayer of Illumination

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 from the Hebrew Scriptures Pg. 577

*Other lessons for your personal consideration from today’s lections are:
Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12 or Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Mark 1:4-11;
Acts 19:1-7.*

Anthem “Love’s Perfect Light”

Matthew 2:1-12 from the Christian Scriptures Pg. 4 (NRSV)

Reflection

Hymn #82 “A Light is Gleaming”

Our Church Tithes and Offerings / Offertory

Dedication Hymn #541 “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Prayer of Dedication (One)

These gifts will bring light. May these gifts and the givers be blessed. Amen.

Sacrament of Communion

Hymn #469 “We Gather Here”

Thanksgiving

One: We gather together conscious that raising our hearts and minds is a gift of the Spirit of Life at work in the depths of our being.

All: For the presence of that Spirit in us, we give thanks.

One: We gather together conscious that our actions give the Spirit a way of breaking into word and song unique in all the universe.

All: For the words and songs within each of us, we give thanks.

One: We gather together mindful of men and women throughout human history who allowed the Spirit of Life to work in them for the betterment of our world and humanity.

All: For their lives and their inspiration, we give thanks.

One: And so we offer our thanks and praise inviting the Spirit of Life, Love, and Goodness to move freely in our words and actions.

All: Holy, holy, holy, celebrating God, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

One: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

All: Hosanna in the highest.

One: Jesus is the story we gather around and give thanks for. Human like us, he discerned where this Spirit of Life is found: in the everyday, in human interaction, in caring, in sharing, in being a neighbour.

He urged people to work together to establish the 'reign of God' by wholehearted generosity, by eliminating boundaries between people, by trust in the goodness of people, and by working for peace and justice in all human endeavours.

All: We remember his total commitment to living fully and loving totally, and his faith in a God to be trusted whatever twists life could take. (Adapt. M. Morwood/pns)

One: We also remember the meal tradition of Jesus and so we share this bread and this wine

All: mindful of the Spirit at work in our lives, in the ordinary, in the everyday, and in our desire to love as generously as Jesus loved.

Bread and Wine

We break this bread giving our Amen to the Holy living and loving in us.

We fill this cup with the fruit of the vine, reminding us of promises to love, of love generously shared, of Jesus who loved so totally, and our call to love as courageously as Jesus loved.

Communion is Served.

After Communion (Unison)

We give thanks for the Spirit of Life visible in Jesus, visible in us, visible in people in all walks of life. We give thanks for faith that recognises and names this presence and this bonding of all people. We pray that we will allow the life and the teaching of Jesus to motivate all that we do so that what we profess to have seen in his life and heard in his teaching might be evident in our living and loving. Amen.

Commissioning (One)

Let us go from here as those who have seen the Bethlehem star. Return joyfully to your homes and proclaim by word and deed that justice and compassion rule.

Choral Amen

Hymn #649 “Walk with Me”

Postlude

Welcome to Westminster this morning.

Please gather for coffee in Memorial Hall, following worship.

www.westminsteruc.com/calendar

This Week at Westminster (January 8th – 13th)

Sun.	Music & Worship	9:00 a.m.	Lounge
	Local Food Needs	10:00 a.m.	Narthex
	Worship—Communion	10:25 a.m.	Sanctuary
Mon.	Property	7:00 p.m.	Westminster Room
Tue.	Prayer Shawl	1:30 p.m.	Lounge
Wed.	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.	Nursery
Thu.	UCW Meeting	1:30 p.m.	Lounge
	Senior Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary

Next Week at Westminster (January 14th – 20th)

Sun.	Worship	10:25 a.m.	Sanctuary
	Jr. Choir Practice	11:45 a.m.	Lounge
Tue.	Prayer Shawl	1:30 p.m.	Lounge
	Board of Elders	7:00 p.m.	Lounge
Wed.	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.	Nursery
Thu.	Senior Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary

www.westminsteruc.com/bulletins

The removal of Advent/Christmas decorations from the Sanctuary will take place this Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. Please consider volunteering. Many hands make for light work.

UCW will hold their monthly meeting this Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in the Lounge.

As of January 1, 2012, the U.C.W. will no longer be responsible **for flowers in the sanctuary** on Sunday mornings. Members of the congregation are still welcome to place flowers, but you will now be responsible for ordering, paying for, and getting the flowers to the church. You may still have them delivered to the church, but they must arrive before 4:00 on Friday afternoon (before the office closes). The sign-up sheet is still in the Narthex. Please sign on the appropriate date if you are going to be placing flowers and please phone the church office with the information you would like printed in the bulletin.

Thank You to all who participate in the **Life & Work of the Church**—your contribution is to be celebrated—and we continue to need your help! If you are interested in:

- Greeting & Ushering
- Hosting Coffee
- Reading Scripture
- Counting the Offering after Worship
- Singing with the Junior or Senior Choirs

Please **volunteer your time on the sign-up sheets** by Memorial Hall and remember to mark the date on your calendar! Please contact the church office for further information.

Celebrations This Week

Our condolences go out to the family of Dorothy Wilkinson who passed on December 25, 2011. A service will be held on January 12, 2012 at Pierson Funeral Home at 4121 – 17 Avenue SE in Calgary.

Birthdays: *Marilynn Piotrowski, Darcy Fox, Bea Hirsch, Stan Bohnet, Anne Maier, and Brent Carlson.*

South Alberta Presbytery: *Our prayers this week are requested for McKillop Pastoral Charge and the Rev. Trevor Potter.*

Our Order of Ministry This Morning

Sunday School Co-ordinator	Jackie Carlson
Greeters & Ushers	Scott, Angie, Alex & Ben Irvine (Offering: Darcy Fox and Murray Bell)
Coffee Hosts	Doug & Velma Pearson Pat Evans, Sharon Clay
Scripture Reader	Rae Wahl
Elder-in-Charge	Darcy Fox

Next Week's Readings: *1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; John 1:43-51; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20.*

Stewardship Thought for Today

*Praise the Lord! From God's fullness we have all received
grace upon grace.*

by the Rev. Sheila Campbell
