



Welcome to Westminster United Church

"We are a faith community building relationships with God, all people and our world"

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Epiphany 1/ The Baptism of the Lord

January 7, 2018

We acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality and culture of the peoples of the Blackfoot Confederacy in whose traditional territory we worship. We honour also the heritage and gifts of Metis and Cree peoples. May we, as Treaty people, be wise stewards of these lands. Akwe Nia'Tetewá:neren [aw gway-- nyah day day waw-- nay renh] which means "All my relations".

The Peace Candle is lit as a reminder to Christians to pray for and work for world peace.

(When you see this symbol "✚", please rise in body or spirit, as you are able)

Clergy: Rev Jan Stevenson and Rev. Chelsea Masterman

Director of Music: Chris White

Book Keeper: Sara Stickel

Jr. Choir Leader: Anna Marie Hancock

Ministers: All the People

Secretary: Cheryl Finnie

Custodian: Chris White

Security: Kelly Grozell

Assisting with the Service This Morning

Elder-in-Charge:	Maureen Oster
Scripture Reader	Fay Moria-Fedrau
Minutes for Mission Reader	Hayley McKim
Greeters:	Arlene Scherer, Linda Kisell
Coffee Hosts:	Corriane & Melanie Rattai
Sound Operator:	Lorenz Fedrau

Prelude

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Arise, for the glory of God is shining on us. Shadows shall cover the earth, but the brightness of God's presence is upon us. Lift up your eyes and look around,

All: arise and shine for our light has come!

One: Nations will be drawn to our light, and rulers to the dawning of our new day; people are gathering to come home. Lift up your eyes and look around,

All: arise and shine for our light has come!

One: We will see this and be filled with joy; we will tremble with excitement. Great caravans will come, bringing gifts of praise. Everyone will tell the good news of what God has done. Lift up your eyes and look around,

All: arise and shine for our light has come!

PROCESSION OF THE CHRIST CANDLE: "**Let There Be Light**" (VU 679 vs 1,2,6)

- 1 Let there be light,
let there be understanding,
let all the nations gather,
let them be face to face;
- 2 open our lips,
open our minds to ponder,
open the door of concord
opening into grace;
- 6 let there be light;

open our hearts to wonder,
perish the way of terror,
hallow the world God made.

OPENING PRAYER:

All: O Shining Light, we give thanks for the light of this day, for the light of eternal love, for the light of the journey to justice and peace, and for the light of your grace in our lives. Shine through us, we pray, that the light of joy may spread through the world. Amen.

CELEBRATIONS (Birthdays, anniversaries, etc.):

We celebrate with you, we celebrate with you
May God richly bless you, We celebrate with you!

SHARING THE PEACE:

One: May the peace of Christ be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

One: Let us share a sign of peace with each other.

✠ OPENING HYMN: ***"There's a Spirit In The Air"*** (VU 582)

- 1 There's a spirit in the air,
 telling Christians everywhere:
 'Praise the love that Christ revealed,
 living, working in our world.'
- 2 Lose your shyness, find your tongue,
 tell the world what God has done:
 God in Christ has come to stay.
 Live tomorrow's life today!
- 3 When believers break the bread,
 when a hungry child is fed,
 praise the love that Christ revealed,
 living, working in our world.
- 4 Still the Spirit gives us light,
 seeing wrong and setting right:
 God in Christ has come to stay.
 Live tomorrow's life today!
- 5 When a stranger's not alone,
 where the homeless find a home,
 praise the love that Christ revealed,
 living, working, in our world
- 6 May the Spirit fill our praise,
 guide our thoughts and change our ways.
 God in Christ has come to stay,
 live tomorrow's life today.
- 7 There's a Spirit in the air,
 calling people everywhere:
 praise the love that Christ revealed,
 living, working, in our world.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

One: As the wise ones sought Jesus by following a star, let us follow the star-child in the Christ-light of peace.

All: Holy light of God, shine on us.

One: As the wise ones dared to trust in the wonders of the sky, let us walk in the ways of compassion together in the wonder of true community on earth.

All: Holy light of God, shine on us.

One: As the wise ones returned to their country by another road, let us travel a new path to justice and kindness.

All: Holy light of God, shine on us.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

One: The gifts of the star-child are healing of heart, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the abiding presence of the Spirit in suffering and joy, and power to live life anew.

All: Thanks be to God!

INVITATION TO PRAYER: ***“Christ, Within Us Hidden”*** (MV 162,v1 &3)

- 1 Christ, within us hidden.
Christ, in all and each.
Christ, who comes unbidden.
Christ, within our reach.
- 3 Christ, in friendship’s sharing
Christ, in stranger’s face.
Christ, reborn in caring.
Christ, in love’s embrace.

PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE: *(Worshippers are invited to light a candle and share a prayer concern with the congregation.) Response after each prayer: One: God of Love, ALL: Hear Our Prayer*

THE LORD’S PRAYER: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

One: Holy One, may your star of wonder guide us as it did ancient sages, so we too may hear your word directing us on another way. Amen

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 60:1–6**

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses’ arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

ANTHEM: ***“The Light of Christmas”***(from the Promise of Light)

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 2:1-12**

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,

²asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'

³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;

⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'

⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

CHORAL RESPONSE TO WORD: ***"I Know Your Word"*** (MV 108)

I know your Word,
your Word is a lamp to my feet, O God.
I know your Word, your Word is a lamp to my feet, O God.
I know your Word is a lamp, O God,
to light my path for ever.
I know your Word is a lamp, O God,
to light my path for ever.

SERMON: ***"The 4th Magi"*** by Mel Spence

HYMN: ***"We Three Kings"*** (vss 1,2,3)

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Frankincense to offer have I.
Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising all men raising,
Worship Him, God on high.

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.

LIFE AND WORK:

MINUTES FOR MISSION: **Family Resources Close to Home**

Our gifts for Mission & Service support community ministries for families, like this ministry in Nova Scotia. In 1986, Fairview United Church in Halifax opened a family resource centre in its building. The programs the church initiated focused on providing education and support in a safe and welcoming environment.

Let's hear from one long-time participant, now board member Tia Forsythe, about the cen-tre's lasting impact:

"I first heard of Parent 'n' Tot (as it was called then) when we first moved here in 2006. While my husband went to work every day, it was hard for me and my three children to make connections.... I was told there was a great playgroup, so off we went.

"It is a decision I am thankful for every day. My children made friends that they still are connected to over 10 years later. I met people who became my support system in the city.... I have been privileged to watch not only my children grow and achieve amazing things, but also the children they met all those years ago.

"The Family Resource Centre has had to move out of the church to a new, larger building. Programs and services offered today include advocacy and referrals, health and wellness, youth, preschool, adult skill development, health and safety, pre-kindergarten, parenting skills and support, and community partnerships.

"I want to say a big thank you to Fairview United Church and also to the people of The United Church of Canada. Through your generous gifts to Mission & Service, you are making a true and lasting impact on communities and in the world, in Jesus' name."

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

OFFERTORY:

✠DOXOLOGY: *In the Bleak Mid Winter* (VU 55, Verse 4)

4 What can I give him, poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
 yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

✠DEDICATION:

O Shining Light, we give thanks for the light of this day, for the light of eternal love, for the light of the journey to justice and peace, and for the light of your grace in our lives. Shine through us, we pray, that the light of joy may spread through the world. Amen.

A NEW CREED (VU 918, spoken)

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

✠ HYMN : **"The First Nowell"** (VU 91, vs 3, 4, 5)

3 And by the light of that same star
 three wise men came from country far;
 to seek for a king was their intent,
 and to follow the star wherever it went.
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 born is the King of Israel.

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest;
 o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
 and there it did both stop and stay,
 right over the place where Jesus lay.
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 born is the King of Israel.

5 Then entered in those wise men three,
 full reverently upon their knee,
 and offered there in his presence
 their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 born is the King of Israel.

✠ COMMISSIONING:

One: Let us go now by another road – the road of constant trust and faithfulness to God.

All: Let us be watchful – for those whose way is fearful; let us be ready – to stand beside the outcast; let us be prepared – to stay the course with those who suffer.

One: Let us go to the world in the power of the Spirit to fulfill our high calling as disciples of Christ, who shines on us now and forever. Amen.

✠SENDING FORTH: **"Go Make a Difference"** (MV 209 Chorus Only)

Go make a difference,

We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world
Go make a diff'rence,
We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

✠BENEDICTION:

✠CHORAL AMEN: (VU 969)

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Help us keep the air we share healthy and fragrance-free. The chemicals used in scented products can make some people sick, especially those with asthma, allergies and other medical conditions. Please do not wear perfume, cologne, aftershave and other fragrances.

Thanks to videographer David Gue (FAM) and actor Mel Spence (GMUC) and the ongoing visioning/collaboration team for putting this presentation together. This is the first experiment in congregations sharing worship together with the assistance of video technology.

JOIN US IN MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE! The Westminster United Church Junior Choir is open to ALL children ages 5 – 12. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to learn music basics in singing, play instruments, and have fun doing it! Anna Marie Hancock, Junior Choir Director, is a very talented musician. The choir practises most Sundays from 12:00 – 12:30 pm, and performs a song once a month in church at 10:25 am. There is no fee to join the choir, and the only commitment is the time and energy on the part of the children. The choir will start practise on Sunday, January 14, 2018. If you are interested in having your children/grandchildren attend, please contact the office at 403-526-5247.

Annual Reports are due Monday, January 15, 2018. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held during regular worship service on Sunday, February 25, 2018.

Consider experiencing wellness of your body, mind and spirit through Healing Touch. Treatments are available on Fridays at Fifth Avenue Memorial UC. Contact Loy for more information or to book an appointment at (403) 487-1150.

Are you interested in learning more about why and how giving of our time, talent and treasure is meaningful to our life of faith? From January 14-February 11, we will be exploring this question through the theme of "We Sing Thanksgiving" in our worship, Sunday School and youth/adult study opportunities. There are two study groups who will be meeting: one on Wednesday mornings at the church during the regular Bible Study time (9:30-11am). The other study group is meeting for five Tuesday evenings at Arlea and Wayne Harper's home at 7pm, on January 16, 23, 30 and February 6 and 13. If you would like to participate in this evening program (and get the house address!) please speak directly to Arlea or Rev. Chelsea - or call the church office at 403-526-5247.

Donations at Coffee Time for January are allocated to the Champion Centre.