



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

January 6, 2019

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)

Worship Leader: Marg McCulley

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:	Arlea Harper
Scripture Reader	Margaret Laing
Minutes for Mission Reader	Gerald Weiss
Greeters:	Sandra McDonald & Wayne Harper
Coffee Hosts:	Linda Kisell
Sound Operator:	Melanie Rattai
Power Point Operator	Kathy Nielson

Thanks to Rev. Don Reid for playing for us today

Prelude

CALL TO WORSHIP: (*Prayers for Worship Gathering A/C/E 2018-2019*)

One: We follow a great light:

All: the light that shines in the shadowed places of creation

One: But there is another light:

All: the light that is the spark of the Divine in each of us.

One: So then let our light shine.

All: and cast away the shadows.

One: Come, let us worship God.

Don Uhryniw, Emmanuel U.C., Peterborough, Ont

✚ PROCESSION OF THE CHRIST CANDLE: "I am the Light World" (VU 87 Refrain, vs 1, Refrain)

Refrain " I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!"

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.

Vs.1 When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home, the work of Christmas is begun:

Refrain " I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!",

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.

OPENING PRAYER: (*Prayers for Worship Gathering A/C/E 2018-2019*)

One: Holy One, you have guided and accompanied us throughout the year, and today, at the beginning of a new year, we give thanks for your blessings.

All: Our faith draws us into the heart of life:

**to rejoice with those being born
to pray with those dying,
to offer support and care
to those who are on the threshold
as life changes, as light fades, or dawn comes.**

One: You meet us there and welcome us.

All: We are your Bethlehem: the place you are born.

One: As we consider our passing year, may we be inspired by your call

All: to serve you as your church and to love you as your body, blessed, bewildered, and beloved. Amen.

Wendy MacLean, Christ U.C., Lyn, Ont.

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: **“The First Nowell”** (VU 91)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (*Prayers for Worship Gathering A/C/E 2018-2019*)

One: God, we confess that sometimes we think our lives should be easy, forgetting that you walked a difficult road.

We confess that sometimes we become enchanted by our own pain, forgetting that you were broken open to feel the pain of the world.

Hear us as we make our silent confession to you now.

(Silence)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

One: Jesus came to set us free from suffering, so let us turn away from sin!

Turn to the Light of the World and together let us proclaim the goodness of our God!

Kate Crawford, Huron Shores U.C. Grand Bend, Ont.

INVITATION TO PRAYER: **“Lord, Listen to your Children Praying”** (VU 400)

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.**

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 60:1–6**

Hymn (no anthem): **"As With Gladness Men of Old"**(VU 81)

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

A Story: **"Home For Christmas"**(Sandra McDonald)

Message: **Kings of Orient**

✠HYMN: **"Arise, Your Light is Come"** (VU 79)

LIFE AND WORK:

MINUTES FOR MISSION: Surprised By Joy

OFFERTORY:

Invitation (*Prayers for Worship Gathering A/C/E 2018-2019*)

One: We remember those who brought gifts, gifts that were special and unique, gifts that were part of the culture of their day, gifts meant to show the importance and significance of the birth of Jesus. Now is our opportunity to respond with our gifts of significance: gifts that show how we seek to live the teachings of Jesus and share the love of Christ, in our community, in our region, and in our world through Mission and Service. The gifts we now give show how valuable the birth of the baby Jesus really is in our lives and the lives of others we meet and serve. Let us present our offering.

Bill Steadman, St. Andrew's U.C., Sudbury, Ont.

Offering Prayer: (*Prayers for worship Gathering A/C/E 2018-2019*)

All: All that we are is yours, Loving God, all that we have been and all that we will be. Bless these gifts of money and bless our time and talent, that your name may be glorified, and your just and compassionate way worked out, in our time and in all the ages that lie ahead. Amen.

David sparks, Summerland, BC.

✠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: "A Light is Gleaming" (VU 82)

✠ COMMISSIONING: (*Prayers for Worship Gathering A/C/E 2018-2019*)

One: Go into the New Year with confidence, for God goes with you.
Know peace in the midst of turmoil know patience, when challenges come, know friendly support, in the lonely moments,
Know purpose, when you are drifting,
And know God's limitless love, when you deeply feel the limits of this time and space.
Go into the New Year with confidence, for God goes with you.
David Sparks, Summerland, B.C.

✠ BENEDICTION:

✠ CHORAL AMEN: (VU 967)

Amen, Amen, Amen.

✠ SENDING FORTH: "**Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light**" (VU 83 vs 2)

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.

The 2019 donation envelopes are ready for pick up. Please DO NOT use them for this year 2018. Some numbers had to be changed, so you may have a new number. You can still sign up for PAR (Pre Authorized Remittance) or ask for envelopes. With both these methods, you receive a Charitable Donation Receipt. Thanks. Contact Donna Scharf by e-mail rdscharf@shaw.ca or phone 403-526-1555

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on February 24, 2019. A reminder that reports need to be submitted to the church office for inclusion in the 2018 Annual report.

The funds that are contributed at coffee time this month are donated to the Champion Centre.