



**Westminster United Church  
Worship Service for January 5th, 2020**

Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Helen Reid  
Epiphany Communion

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

CALL TO WORSHIP:

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

*Isaiah 60:1-2*

Let us worship God together.

✠Lighting of the Christ Candle: **"Will You Come and Follow Me" (VU 567 vs 1&5)**

OPENING PRAYER:

Gracious God, blessed are we  
**who come to humble ourselves before you.**  
Blessed are we,  
**who acknowledge that we do not know everything.**  
Blessed are we,  
**who yearn for your restorative love.**  
We come together today to be attentive to your presence,  
to receive and delight in your Word  
and in the teachings of Jesus.  
**Blessed are we, as we worship you,  
our Gracious God. Amen.**

**Sandra Litt, St. James U.C., Waterdown, Ont.**

CELEBRATIONS

SHARING THE PEACE

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**Loving God, we are created in your image,  
yet too often in this world,  
we do not reflect your light.  
Instead of being beacons in the night,  
sometimes we are in danger of snuffing out  
what light is left.  
Loving God, free us from the shadows  
that lie in all our hearts,  
so we will reveal to the world  
the light that is your love  
and together renew this world. Amen.**

*(a time of silent reflection)*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

People of God, hear the Good News!  
The light that is God's love never falters.  
Through this light, we see that we are not alone, that God shares in our journey  
and guides us towards the day  
when we will share in the love the light reveals.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.  
**Sandy Ferguson, Strathearn U.C., Edmonton, Alta.**

INVITATION TO PRAYER: **"Called by the Earth and Sky" (MV 135 vs 4)**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

**"The Lord's Prayer" (Spoken)**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Ephesians 3:1-12

One: This is the witness of the Church.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72 **(VU 790)**

Part One (1-8)

Give the ruler your justice, O God,

and your righteousness to the royal heir,  
**for judging your people rightly,  
and upholding the poor with justice;**  
that the mountains may bring forth peace for the people,  
**and the hills, prosperity with justice. R**

**Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.**

May your anointed defend the cause of the poor  
among the people,  
save the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.  
**May your anointed live as long as the sun endures,  
as long as the moon from age to age.**  
May your anointed be like rain falling upon the grass,  
like showers that water the earth;  
**may your anointed be one in whose days  
justice shall flourish and peace abound  
till the moon is no more. R**

**Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.**

Part Two (10-14)

May the rulers of Tarshish and the isles pay tribute,  
the monarchs of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.  
**May all rulers do homage, and all nations render service.**  
For your anointed shall deliver the needy when they cry,  
the poor and those who have no helper.  
**Your anointed shall have pity on the weak and the needy,  
and save the lives of the poor.**  
From oppression and violence your anointed shall redeem their life,  
**and count as precious their blood. R**

**Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.**

Part Three (18-19)

Blessed are you, O God, the God of Israel,  
who alone does marvellous things.  
**Blessed is your glorious name for ever.  
May the whole earth be filled with your glory. R**

**Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.**

One: This is the witness of ancient song-writers  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 2:1-12

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**ALL: Praise to Christ, the Living Word.**

SERMON: "**Epiphany**"

HYMN: "**Once in Royal David's City**" (VU 62)

LIFE AND WORK:

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:

Come, O Holy One, be our light. Come,  
O Sovereign One, be our guide. Receive our gifts. They are the work of our hands  
and the commitment of our hearts. We bring not gold but money. We bring not  
frankincense but our devotion. We bring not myrrh but our lifelong dedication. May  
we serve, through these gifts, with confidence and humility. Amen.

**Laura Turnbull, Penticton U.C., Penticton, B.C.**

OFFERING:

✠DOXOLOGY: "**O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word**" (VU 84)

✠A NEW CREED ( **SUNG** )

INVITATION TO THE TABLE:

Jesus said:

"The bread of God is that which comes down from heaven,  
and gives life to the world."

**They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."**

He said to them, "I am the bread of life.

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,

**and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.**

And no one who comes to me will I ever drive away."

*John 6:33-35, 37*

HYMN: "**One Bread, One Body**" (VU 467)

: God be with you

**and also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift our hearts in prayer**

Let us give thanks to God

**It is good and right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to  
you Mighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Before the mountains were brought forth or you had formed the earth, from  
everlasting to everlasting you alone are God. You created light out of darkness and  
brought forth life on the earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity and made covenant to be our sovereign God. You spoke to us through your prophets. and so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join in saying,

**Holy, Holy Holy God, power of life and love  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna through the ages.  
Blest is the One who comes to bring your justice to earth.**

Holy are you and blessed is your firstborn, Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. You sent a star to guide the Magi to where the Christ was born, and your signs and witnesses in every age and through all the world have led your people from far places to his light.

**In his baptism and in his table fellowship he took his place with sinners. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind. to set at liberty those who are oppressed and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people.**

**By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection you gave birth to your church, you delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.**

On the night before he died, it was Jesus who took a loaf of bread, gave you thanks, broke it and said, Take and eat. Whenever you do this, remember me. Likewise after supper, he took the cup, saying drink from this, all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

**We proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

Pour out your Spirit on us, gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine, Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honour and glory is yours, One God forever and ever,

BREAKING THE BREAD AND SHARING THE CUP:

The gifts of God for the people of God.

RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS:

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Gracious Lord You have gifted us with your real presence at this table. As we go forth into the new year, keep us mindful of your mercy and generosity. Empower us to treat others as you have treated us. Expand our circle of caring and deepen our

trust in you for the days ahead. Quicken our spirits by your Spirit that we may be a beacon of light and hope in the world you love. In the power of Emmanuel we pray, Amen.

✠CLOSING HYMN: "I Am the Light of the World" (VU 87)

✠COMMISSIONING:

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:  
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

**And he replied:**

**"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."**  
(Minnie Louise Haskins)

✠AMEN: **VU 974**

✠SENDING FORTH: **"Go Tell It on the Mountain" (VU 43)**

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

### **Drive a Friend to Church**

*We are fine tuning our Drive a Friend plan. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Pat Marshall or Jennifer in the church office.*

*Donations at Coffee Time during January are allocated to Haitian Coffee*

### **Assisting with the Service This Morning**

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<b>Elder-in-Charge:</b>	Marg McCulley
<b>Greeters:</b>	Linda Kisell
<b>Scripture Reader:</b>	Pat Marshall
<b>Coffee Hosts:</b>	Wayne & Arlea Harper, Carol O
<b>Sound :</b>	Hayley McKim
<b>PowerPoint Operator:</b>	Kathy Nielsen
<b>Wheelchair Lift Operator:</b>	Pat Marshall