

Dunsford United Church  
January 7, 2024 – Epiphany  
Presider: Rev. Anne Hepburn

†= stand as you are able

WELCOME AND CELEBRATIONS (Birthdays/Anniversaries, etc.)

† GATHERING HYMN: VU #81 "As with Gladness Men of Old" (William C. Dix)

- 1 As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright,  
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore your splendour see.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped, to that lowly manger bed,  
there to bend the knee before Christ, whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with eager pace ever seek your throne of grace.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare at that manger crude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heavenly King.
- 4 Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;  
and, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glory hide.
- 5 In the heavenly country bright none shall need created light;  
you its light, its joy, its crown, you its sun which goes not down;  
there for ever may we sing hallelujah to our King.

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE AND THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION CANDLE

Each Sunday morning, we gather around this candle, a symbol of Christ. This ritual brings focus to our time of worship; a time when we pause to renew our faith and spiritual life with our Creator.

May the light shine, gathering us in and bringing us to a place of calm and shalom.  
*Written by Jim McKean, Gatherings 2023-4, p. 42. Used with permission.*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LANDS (Unison)

**We acknowledge, honour and respect this land and the Anishinaabe / Mississauga peoples with whom Treaty 20, Williams treaty, was signed, on the lands where we are. We acknowledge and give thanks for the lands and people of treaties and unceded territories of all who are worshiping. It is up to all of us to live into truth, respect and reconciliation with all our relations.**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

In the midst of the shadows and despair, the chaos and uncertainty that existed before the world was born,

**God said: "Let there be light."**

In the trials and tribulations of everyday life, we seek assurance that we are not alone...

**God says: "Let there be light."**

In the journey to the future inspired by mentors from the past, remaining open to guidance of prophets, we live with anticipation...

**God will say: "Let there be light."**

*Written by Bill Steadman Gatherings 2023-4, p. 39. Used with permission.*

† HYMN: VU #79 "Arise, Your Light is Come" (Ruth Duck)

- 1 Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

- 2 Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;  
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.
- 3 Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,  
bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.
- 4 Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison):

**In a world filled with noise,  
You are a place of quiet, O God.  
In a world filled with complexity,  
You are wisdom.**

**In a world filled with brokenness and loss,  
You are the sturdy ground of our being.**

**Through this time together through the love of Christ,  
may the world be changed and may all be made whole.**

*Written by Richard Bott, Gatherings 2023-4, p. 43. Used with permission.*

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

INVITATION TO GIVE: Let us bring forward the offering.

† HYMN OF DEDICATION: VU #96 v 5 (Brian Wren)

Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?  
In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,  
and the darkness all about is too dim to put it out:  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy One, bless all that we offer;  
Our time and finances,  
Our energy and ideas,  
Our care and compassion,  
Our praise and prayers.

Together may we create a community of faith, hope and love in Jesus' name. Amen  
*Written by Catherine Elsdon, Gatherings 2023-4. P. 49. Used with permission.*

## STORY AND PRAYERS FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART Happy New Year – Resolutions and Reality

### **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

#### MINUTE FOR MISSION

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Old Testament Isaiah 60:1-6 Arise, shine for your light has come.  
Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup> 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 in their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant;

your heart shall thrill and rejoice,<sup>[a]</sup>  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
<sup>6</sup> 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.

New Testament Matthew 2:1-12 The visit of the Magi

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi<sup>[a]</sup> from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east<sup>[b]</sup> and have come to pay him homage.”

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah<sup>[c]</sup> was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘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<sup>[d]</sup> my people Israel.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi<sup>[e]</sup> and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then 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.” <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east,<sup>[f]</sup> until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped,<sup>[g]</sup> they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On 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. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

† HYMN: VU #91 “The First Nowell” (English trad. Carol)

1 The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;

in fields where they lay akeeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*R* Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star, shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. *R*

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. *R*

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. *R*

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. *R*

6 Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought. *R*

MESSAGE: Epiphany Revelations

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen**

## **WE ARE SENT OUT IN FAITH TO SERVE**

### COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

† CHORAL RESPONSE: “Go Now in Peace” (Words: D Besig and N Price)

Go now in peace, never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see God  
will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen, Amen,  
Amen

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

November Financials:

Income: \$4,717 (\$408.74 to Memorial Fund)

Expenses: \$5,868.94

Net Loss: \$1,151.94

Stewardship Second: How can we be light in the world, shining in the shadows and offering our gifts to the world?

FROM THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

[God's Mission Our Gifts: Your January Mission and Service Stories and more! \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

[E-ssentials: Happy New Year! \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

## **DUNSFORD UNITED CHURCH**

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