

January 1st, 2023 Epiphany of Our Lord – Email/At Home Missal

The ZOOM link for today's service, which opens at 9.30 am on January 1st, 2023, can be found here:
Sunday Worship January 1st, 2023 09:30 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 am.

Join Zoom Meeting click here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86144723429?pwd=bDM1S2Q5ZVY3eGxhdlhuWG9UOHlvUT09>

Meeting ID: 861 4472 3429 Passcode: 701596

You don't have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of our church Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply): (All Canadian numbers). You can also access the ZOOM from your telephone by using the "One tap mobile" option:

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kHrnL3MpQ>

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Pastor Laura concludes the Advent Series 'Finding Our Way: A Journey Through Advent'. On January 1st, we continue the Journey with 'Finding our Way With the Magi'. We welcome you to join us in person or on ZOOM!

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK:

PASTORAL VISITS: Pastor Laura Sauder is available for safe visits with social distancing requirements in place, and also for telephone visits. Please reach out to her by calling the church office at 519-653-4721 to arrange a visit.

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IT'S ALMOST MAPLE SYRUP TIME...and you can order your own Maple Syrup from St. Peter's. Our partner is a 5th generation Woolwich Township farm that has been producing maple syrup for over 100 years. They adhere to the production guidelines issued by the Ontario Maple Syrup Association, which state the number of taps per tree (max. of 2) for best forest management practices. Handling of the sap and syrup is minimized to reduce the chance of contamination. Their syrup is pure with nothing added, only the water has been removed. As of 2018 their maple syrup is certified organic.

1 litre Mason Jars of maple syrup are \$23.00.

Please contact Alex Black or St. Peter's Cambridge ([519.653.4721](tel:519.653.4721)) to place an order.

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Here are the YouTube links for our recent services:

Prayer Service for the Longest Night-Holden Evening Prayer-Wednesday December 21st, 2022:

<https://youtu.be/6bERdKIQyrg>

Christmas Eve-Saturday December 24th, 2022: <https://youtu.be/fLWQgTNceDE>

Christmas Day-Sunday December 25th, 2022: <https://youtu.be/UVjOFdpQKXw>

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Church Office Hours – Thursdays 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

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Organ Recital Series

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Wolff Opus VIII Organ

Sundays at 3:00pm

Dr. Peter Nikiforuk January 22, 2023

RCCO Members' Recital February 19, 2023

Bradley Moggach March 19, 2023

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Pastor: Laura Sauder

Organist/Director of Music: Bradley Moggach

Guest Organist: Rev. Don Nevile

Call to Worship:

L: Christ is born, Emmanuel!

C: *Christ's birth doesn't end our journey; it is a new beginning.*

L: It's ok if we still feel confused or lost.

C: *We are committed to staying the course.*

L: We are ready to seek the star of God's vision.

C: *We remember that we don't chart this path alone.*

L: Come let us worship the God of hope and peace. Amen.**

Confession & Forgiveness:

L: Though we have turned a corner into this new year, God's call remains in front of us. When we lose our way, God calls us back. We share in reconciliation today to stay true to that calling.

L: Holy God, we enter the dawning of this new year with a mix of hope and anxiety. We are afraid nothing will change, but we hope and pray for renewal and healing. As we admit our faults and long for reconciliation, help us to transform into our best selves, so that we might help transform the world around us.

C: *Forgive us when we have not found our way to you. Forgive us when we have set boundaries where you have set no borders. Forgive us for hoarding from our fellow travelers- our wealth, our resources, our love, and our very light. Help us to open ourselves once again so that we can shine. Amen.*

L: God is making all things new. God always goes in front of us, lighting our path as our source of love and peace. Amen.**

Hymn: ELW # 275 'Angels, from the Realms of Glory'

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,

watching o'er your flocks by night,
 God with us is now residing,
 yonder shines the infant light.
 Come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the newborn king.

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
 brighter visions beam afar;
 seek the great desire of nations,
 you have seen his natal star.
 Come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the newborn king.

4 All creation, join in praising
 God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
 evermore your voices raising
 to the eternal Three in One.
 Come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the newborn king.

(Title: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*); Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4; Public Domain
 Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)

Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Hymn of Praise: ELW # 289 'Angels We Have Heard on High'

1 Angels we have heard on high,
 sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 and the mountains in reply,
 echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

***Gloria in excelsis Deo;
 gloria in excelsis Deo.***

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
 Why your joyous strains prolong?
 What the gladsome tidings be
 which inspire your heav'nly song? ***Refrain***

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
 him whose birth the angels sing;
 come, adore on bended knee
 Christ the Lord, the newborn king. ***Refrain***

(Title: *Angels We Have Heard on High*; Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864; Public Domain; Music: French carol;
 arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)

Prayer of the Day:

Holy One, as we remember the story of the Star and the Magi, shine in our hearts so that we might see what you dream for our future. Give us determination, imagination, and endurance for our quest that begins again today. In the name of the Christ child, Amen.**

Lesson Introduction: (Pastor Laura)

The Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise! Shine! Your light has come;
 the LORD's glory has shone upon you.
 Though darkness covers the earth
 and gloom the nations,
 the LORD will shine upon you;
 God's glory will appear over you.
 Nations will come to your light
 and kings to your dawning radiance.
 Lift up your eyes and look all around:
 they are all gathered; they have come to you.
 Your sons will come from far away,
 and your daughters on caregivers' hips.
 Then you will see and be radiant;
 your heart will tremble and open wide,
 because the sea's abundance will be turned over to you;
 the nations' wealth will come to you.
 Countless camels will cover your land,
 young camels from Midian and Ephah.
 They will all come from Sheba,
 carrying gold and incense,
 proclaiming the LORD's praises. (CEB)
 Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. **C: Thanks be to God.***

Gospel Acclamation: ELW Setting 1 (page 102)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
 Lord, to whom shall we go?
 You have the words of eternal life.
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 2:1-12

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him."

When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
 by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,
 because from you will come one who governs,
 who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route. (CEB)

The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.***

Sermon

(Pastor Laura's sermon text will be sent out early this coming week and the YouTube video of today's service will be uploaded sometime mid-week.)

Star Word Liturgy

(Star Words are distributed)

L: When extraordinary things happen in the sky, we stop and notice. We look for comets, shooting stars, full moons. We watch for rocket launches, satellites drifting in space, and the space station circling our orbit. The Magi were paying close attention to the sky when they saw something different—a star that shone so brightly, they were compelled to follow it. Just as the Christmas star once shone for all people to see, the light of Christ still shines for all people. May we use these star words as reminders of the Christmas star we invite into our lives so that we might be led toward Jesus Christ.

L: We are seekers—just like the Magi.

C: Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

L: We are looking for hope, peace, joy, love and so much more that Christ brings.

C: Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

L: We long for the abundant life God promises.

C: Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

L: May this star word be one of encouragement.

C: Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

L: May this word guide our intentions in the days to come.

C: Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

L: May we pay attention to where God is present.

C: Light our paths and lead us closer to you.

L: May God use these words to show us how to live and love in the world.

C: Light our paths and lead us closer to you. Amen.

(Liturgy by Courtney Mills Jones Willis, 2020 Permission is granted for home and congregational use.)

Hymn of the Day: ELW # 300 'The First Noel'

- 1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
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. **Refrain**

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. **Refrain**

4 This star drew near 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. **Refrain**

5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. **Refrain**

*(Title: The First Noel; Text: English traditional; Public Domain; Music: English traditional, arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901; Public Domain
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Prayers of Intercession:

A: With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

Guide the whole church with your wisdom, revealing God. Nurture ecumenical and interreligious understanding around the globe, especially in places of ethnic and religious strife. We pray for Canadian Lutheran World Relief and other organizations that provide humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and health care. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

Restore your glory to the earth, creating God. Protect fragile ecosystems: rain forests, coral reefs, wetlands, prairies, and shorelines. Guide us to treasure the rich variety of animals and plants that share the world with us, especially those that are endangered. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

Bring the nations into the way of justice and peace, righteous God. Strengthen those who work for human rights, equality, and the protection of the most vulnerable. We pray for all in public office, that they may serve with honesty and honor. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

Help those who have no helper, delivering God. Rescue any who suffer from abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Deliver adults and children who are caught in cycles of poverty. Transform social systems that enable racism and discrimination of any kind. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

Grant healing and wholeness to all who are in need, sustaining God. Especially we pray for Bill, Don, Tammy, Alice, Don, Lynn, Bryan, Nansea, Helen, Sharon, Donald, Katherina, Creena, Shirley, Maya, Karen, Clara, Carol, Jeff, Aaron, Mackenzie, Rhett, Linda, Pat, Jan, Ken, Lena and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts...). God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

Accompany the ministries of this congregation in the coming year, abiding God. Inspire those who lead worship, teach, visit, pray, administer, and serve. Keep us mindful of the needs of others in our communities and neighborhoods. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. Amen.*

Share the peace of Christ:

Angels said it to startled shepherds,
 Jesus said it to frightened followers,
 And now these words which come from heaven
 are shared to make us whole and make us one.
 Peace be with you. **C: And also with you.*****

(A Wee Worship Book – Liturgy for Holy Communion A #30810; Type: Words; First Line: Call to worship – Gather us in; Language: English (pages 80-92); Contributors: Iona community; Text: © 1999, WGRG, Iona community, GIA Publications, Inc; exclusive North American agent. All rights reserved. Used by permission.) Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)

Our worship continues with the offering of our gifts.

Offering**Offertory Music: ELW # 296 'What Child Is This'**

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
 on Mary's lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
 while shepherds watch are keeping?
 This, this is Christ the king,
 whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 haste, haste to bring him laud,
 the babe, the son of Mary!

- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate
 where ox and ass are feeding?
 Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
 the silent Word is pleading.
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
 the cross be borne for me, for you;
 hail, hail the Word made flesh,
 the babe, the son of Mary!

- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
 come, peasant, king, to own him.
 The King of kings salvation brings;
 let loving hearts enthrone him.
 Raise, raise the song on high,
 the virgin sings her lullaby;
 joy, joy, for Christ is born,
 the babe, the son of Mary!

(Title: What Child Is This; Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898; Public Domain; Music: English ballad, 16th cent.; Public Domain Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)

Offering Prayer:

A: As travelers laid their gifts before the Christ child long ago, we too bring our gifts with great joy. Gracious God, use our gifts today for your justice and love, so that oppression and violence will cease, and peace will flourish. Amen.

Meal: Click here for the communion liturgy from worship on YouTube:
<https://youtu.be/O0YEYAO080U>

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

L: Holy God, we bless you for creating all things and pronouncing them good. We thank you for this new year, a new path of healing and possibility. You have given us many good gifts, but sometimes we do not see your star in the sky. We feel stuck, afraid, and lost. When we have ignored or misused your direction signs, you have not left us alone, but continued to reach out for us, offering us all of yourself in your Son, born in Bethlehem.

We are committed to finding our way as people of hope and justice. In this work and in our worship, we join all those in heaven and earth and throughout time who have sought the Christ child – shepherds, Magi, and angels. We join together with them in singing praises to the newborn King.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - ELW Setting 1 (page 108)

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.*

L: Wonderous God, we thank you that Jesus grew into a man, healing, teaching, and showing us the way. He continued the way of the star to death and past death. Before that, he offered fellowship and community to his friends. He took bread, broke it, and said, "This is my body broken for you, do this in remembrance of me."

And in the same way, after supper, he took the cup saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood and poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink of it in remembrance of me."

The bread we break and the cup which we drink reminds us that Christ, though crucified, lives. By the gift of your Holy Spirit, make Christ known again to us that we may take fresh hope at the table today. Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. **Amen.**

Communion:

This is Christ's table. No matter where you are on the journey, you are welcome here to receive God's good gifts of love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness.

I invite those at home, and those in the building communing by fellowship cup, to take your bread or cracker as we say together, "The body of Christ, given for us."

And, as we take our cup we say, "The blood of Christ, shed for us."

Communion Music: ELW # 269 'Once in Royal David's City'

- 1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3 And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heav'n above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.
- 4 Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

(Title: Once in Royal David's City; Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895; Public Domain; Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876; Public Domain; Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Prayer after Communion:

A: Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table and shared with us your light. Shine your star in our lives and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, so all may know your welcome and love. Amen.**

Blessing:

As the Magi faithfully sought Christ,
may we also find our way, birthing God's love;
taking risks for God's call;
and working for a world where justice reigns.
The blessing of God, + Be upon you this day and this year. **Amen****

Sending Hymn: ELW # 302 'As with Gladness Men of Old'

- 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 be led by thee.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy seat.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.
- 4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry 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 thy glory hide.
- 5 In the heav'nly country bright
need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing
alleluias to our king.

*(Title: As with Gladness Men of Old; Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.; Public Domain; Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872; Public Domain
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Dismissal:

A: Go in peace and purpose today.

C: Thanks be to God.**

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***Liturgy by Rev. Amber Henry Neuroth. "Finding Our Way Advent Series," 2021.
Graphics by Ellen Ebeling.*

****Rev. Holly Jackson & Rev. Amber Henry Neuroth, "Finding Our Way Advent Series," 2021.*