

# Sunday Worship

Westminster  
United Church



*celebrating 125 years of ministry in the community*

**Sunday, January 7, 2018**

**Epiphany**

Words printed in **bold type** are to be spoken by the congregation.

## Prelude

**Christ Candle is lit**

**Welcome and News**

**Introit** MV 1 Let Us Build a House

**Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured,  
taught and claimed as words with-in the Word.**

**Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:**

**All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

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## Call to Worship

The light shines in the deepest night and the night has not overcome it. (John 1:5)  
“I am the light of the world,” Jesus said. “Whoever follows me will have the  
light of life.” (John 8:12)

## Opening Prayer

Almighty God as your Son our Saviour was born of a Hebrew mother, but rejoiced in the faith of a Syrian woman and of a Roman soldier, welcomed the Greeks who sought him, and suffered under a man from Africa to carry his cross;  
so teach us to regard the members of all races and nationalities as fellow heirs of your light. Amen

**Hymn VU 81**          As with Gladness Men of Old

## Prayer of Confession

God of light and love. We ask again for your forgiveness; your mercy and your help in our muddled lives.

**Forgive our sins. Send a messenger of your compassion. Let us rest in your arms, never send us away empty.**

For only you can quench our thirst for forgiveness as we live in this desert world of unbelief. We ask you to raise us up as beacons of belief, in your everlasting and steadfast name we pray.

*(Marlene Salmonson Master of Divinity Student St. Andrew's College)*

*Moment of silence for personal reflection.*

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

## Words of Assurance

“Love one another as I have loved you.” In Christ God says to us,  
“Your sins are forgiven you.” Thanks be to God for love and hope!

**Anthem**

All Bells in Paradise

by John Rutter

## **The Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Scripture Reading:** Lynn E. Soens

Matthew 2:1-12

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn** VU 371      Open My Eyes That I May See

**Message**      “God with us in our Detours”      Rev. Don McIntyre

**Solo**      Ave Maria by JS. Bach      arr. C.Gounod  
given by Rebecca McIntosh

## **Collection of Offerings**

*After the offering is introduced, an offertory will be played and the collection taken. Thank you for your gift, whether given today or through other means of supporting ministry at Westminster Church.*

**Offertory**      Though we do not bear gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we offer ourselves and what we have. A story of a detour...

**Offering Doxology** MV 49      When We Seek Language

**When we seek language to praise you, O God,  
all we can utter seems stale, tame, or odd.  
Tongue-tied and word-lost, we struggle to find  
Phrases that slight neither heart, soul, nor mind:  
Infinite intimate unbounded friend,  
cosmic companion who loves without end,  
Nearer than heartbeat, more subtle than breath,  
Keener than insight, and stronger than death.**

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## **Prayer of Dedication**

### **The Prayers of the People**

Source of Light, Source of Love, God whose Word brings Life.

In this time of preparation we echo the old hymn\*,

“open my eyes that I may see, open my ears that I may hear,”

**Help us see and hear what You are up to in the world around us.**

**Help us see signs of peace and love when our news is full of violence and fear and also “open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share”.**

**Open our souls, illumine us, Spirit divine.**

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

**Our father/mother, 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.**

**Hymn VU 97            When a Star is Shining**

**Commissioning and Sending Forth**    May God, who led the Magi, lead us also, in our pilgrimage.

**Choral Response** VU 93 Vs. 1 When Heaven's Bright with Mystery  
When heaven's bright with mystery  
and science searches nature's art,  
When all creation yearns for peace  
and hope sinks deep in human hearts,  
appear to us, O Holy Light,  
lift from our eyes the shades of night.

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**Organ Postlude** *If departing before the end of the postlude, please do so quietly for the benefit of those remaining to enjoy the music.*

## **Lectionary Readings**

### **January 6 – Epiphany (Saturday)**

*Worship materials for January 6 through January 21 were contributed by the Cross-Country Preachers: Beth Johnson and Juanita Swinamer, Hantsport P.C., Hantsport, N.S.; Barbara Cairns, York-Covehead P.C., Stratford, P.E.I.; Monica Rosborough, Athabasca U.C., Athabasca, Alta.; Don Sellsted, Oak Lake U.C. & Griswold U.C., Oak Lake, Man.; and Brian Thompson, St. Paul's U.C., Carp, Ont.*

**Isaiah 60:1–6** - Arise, shine; for your light has come.

**Psalms 72:1–7, 10–14** (VU p. 790 Parts One and Two) - God's anointed defends the poor.

**Ephesians 3:1–12** - Boldness and confidence through faith.

**Matthew 2:1–12** - The visit of the magi.

**To Ponder** - How do you shine in this world? How does your light add to the light of others?

### **January 7 – Baptism of the Lord**

**Genesis 1:1–5** - The first days of creation.

**Psalms 29** (VU p. 756) - God's voice is over the waters.

**Acts 19:1–7** - Paul baptizes with the Spirit.

**Mark 1:4–11** - Jesus is baptized by John.

**To Ponder** - What does your baptism mean to you?