**St. Andrews**

 **United Church**



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Ministers: The people of St. Andrew’s

Pastor: Rev. Cheryl Bolton

Ministry of Music: Merna Edison/

**Brian and Lynn Sloan**

**January 5, 2025 Epiphany**

**WE GATHER**

**Welcome & Announcements**

We gather here this first Sunday of the New Year,

in a mixture of hope, anticipation, fear, excitement, and expectation.

We do not know what the year holds for us.There are things we are afraid of: worries about health and family, job security and finances.

There is much to look forward to: weddings or anniversaries or baptisms, holidays to enjoy,friends to laugh with.

The coming year is full of uncertainty and hope.

Whatever the year holds for us, we trust God, and we place every day of this year in God’s careknowing that, as in the past, God is with us,

caring for us with constant love.And so, we place ourselves into the Lord’s keeping and dedicate our lives to God’s service. Come**,** let us worship the Newborn King. Amen.

**Acknowledging Our Kinship**

As we begin today, we acknowledge the history, spirituality, culture, and stewardship of the land of the Indigenous People of this region. We seek to live in respect, peace, and right relations as we live, work, and worship upon Traditional Territory. We are mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.

**Candle Lighting**

We light this candle as a symbol of the light of Christ, which shines in and through each one of us, no matter where we are, where we from or where we are going.

**Call To Worship**

A new day has dawned, a new year has begun

**O Lord, call us so we may hear Your voice**

The world turns to hopes and dreams of the future

**O Lord, keep us in Your ways and on Your path**

We enter this new year with hope and excitement

**O Lord, remind us that You lead us**

O Lord, guide us as we look to You, and worship You. Amen.

**Gathering Hymn -** Will You Come and See the Light - 96 VU

**Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, you call us to be the light of the world. Yet sometimes our light flickers like a candle, threatened by the storms of life. We are frightened that if we don’t protect the light, it will go out and leave us in the shadows. So instead of sharing your light, we hoard it. Loving God, we pray for your light to open our hearts and free us from our fears. Renew our faith so we will be your light in the world! Amen.

**Reflection - O Those Quirky Camels**

**Hymn** - As with Gladness - 81 VU

**We Listen For God’s Word**

**Scripture Reading - Isaiah 60: 1-6, Matthew 2: 1-12**

**Ministry of Music**

**Meditation - Christmas Cards**

**Hymn -** A Light is Gleaming - 82 VU

**RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering**

Like the wise ones so long ago, we bring gifts from our hearts to honour the Christ child. Let us share these gifts.

***Offering Hymn - In the Bleak Midwinter - 55VU - Verse 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.

**Offering Prayer**

Holy One, we give our gifts and talents, just as the wise ones brought you frankincense, myrrh, and gold, when you were on your mother’s knee. We bring you our earthy treasures to help illuminate your presence on this earth. Amen.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

Bright Star, Holy One Hear our prayer.
Bright Star, Holy One, Be with those who suffer
struggle, cry out, weep are in pain of heart or soul or mind

From the darkness may the glory of God arise!

Bright Star, Holy One

Fill the hearts of leaders, nations, cities, and faith communities
With wisdom and grace may the glory of God arise!

Bright Star, Holy One
Lead our leaders in your way, your hope your love and your peace
enlighten the pathways with the Glory of God, arise!

Bright Star, Holy One
laugh with those who laugh this day, lift up our joys,

our hope is found in You,
May the Glory of God arise.

Bright Star, Holy One
help us in all we do, and say, and are
to be your love shining forth –
may the glory of God arise.
Bright Star, Holy One, hear our prayer. Amen.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Closing Hymn -** Go to the World - 420 VU

**Commissioning and Benediction**

Go now as a light to all the nations.

Honour the Lord; preach what you know of the risen Christ,

and fulfil all righteousness.

And may God strengthen you and bless you with peace;

May Christ Jesus bring forth justice for you and among you;

And may the Holy Spirit be alight within you

and affirm you as God’s beloved ones.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

**Amen.**

**Announcements**

**Coming Events**

**-Euchre January 9 at 1:30pm**

**-UCW January 14**

-Board Meeting January 16 at 10:30am

-Prayer Shawl January 15 at 10:30am



***January 12 Foodbank Collection is Noodles – any kind! Curvy, Straight, big or small- bring’em all.***

**Please Save your clementine boxes for summer camp. You can drop them off any time during office hours or any Sunday and we can store them here. Thank You.**



