
St. John's United Church

An Affirming, Fully Inclusive Ministry



January 6, 2019

Welcome to all worshipping with us today.

You are invited to come downstairs to share in a cup of coffee or tea and some conversation after the service. If you are visiting with us this morning, please sign the guest book in the church entryway and include your email address if you would like to receive our weekly newsletter.

St. John's Welcomes Children into Worship

Families with babies/toddlers are invited into the Family Room (opposite the main entrance to the Church, at the back of the Sanctuary). Older children are welcomed into Worship with the rest of the congregation. Activity packs are available for them to take into Worship.

Epiphany Sunday

Hymnals indicated by: **VU**–Voices United & **MV**–More Voices

**You are invited to stand, if it is comfortable for you.*

Prelude

Ken Dalglish

Welcome

Rev. Alan Claassen

Lighting the Christ Candle

May the Light of Jesus Christ **become the light in our hearts.**

May the light in our hearts, **become the peace in our world.**

Gathering Song

Light is Returning

by Charlie Murphy

Light is returning, even though this is the darkest hour

No one can hold back the dawn.

Call to Worship

based on Isaiah 60:1-7

Don Currie

Arise, shine; for the light has come,

And the glory of our Creator has risen upon us.

Precious in God's sight are the widows, widowers and orphans of war;

Precious in God's sight are the addicted and confused.

Precious in God's sight are the abused and neglected;

Precious in God's sight are the poor and the refugee.

Precious in God's sight are all who sit on the margins;

Precious in God's sight are all who long for sustainable peace.

The glory of our Creator will rise upon them.

The glory of our Creator will rise upon us all.

***Hymn**

I Am the Light of the World

VU# 87

***Opening Prayer**

Don Currie

As Mary opened her heart to the child in her arms

and the magi opened their hearts to a star-guided journey,

may we open the doors of our hearts

to the unplanned for, twists and turns of life,

lived in the mysteries of faith.

May our love guide us, on the way back home. Amen.

***Sharing the Peace of Christ saying:**

Rev. Alan Claassen

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*You are invited to share the peace with your neighbours
with a handshake, a hug, or with hands together in prayer.*

Regathering Song

I Am the Light of the World (Refrain)

VU# 87

"I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!"

If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery

of what you were meant to do and be.

Scripture Reading Matthew 2:1-12 *Don Currie*

May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder,
as we ponder the meaning of these words for our lives.
Thanks be to God.

Light Music *More Light* by Christopher Grundy
Performed by Donna Currie, Alan Claassen, Rob Samson, Ken Dalglish
More light, more truth is breaking through your Word
More light, more truth;
Holy Spirit, help us hear what needs to be heard.

Reflections Epiphany Windows *Rev. Alan Claassen*

Hymn *In the Bleak Midwinter* **VU# 55**

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus in Song **VU# 959**

Presentation of our Gifts and Offerings

Offertory *Ken Dalglish*

***Doxology** *This Little Light*

***Prayer of Dedication** *Rev. Alan Claassen*

God of splendour, your goodness sustains us,
and your graciousness gives us hope.
May we, through our gifts of time, money, knitting, cooking,
planning, building, fixing, hugging, and singing
increase your ever-loving light
in this crazy, mixed-up and beautiful world. Amen

Blessing the Bread, the Cup and the People *see insert p. 7*

Hymns *I Come with Joy* **VU# 477**
Sent Forth by God's Blessing **VU# 481**

Blessing Station *at the Sanctuary Entrance* *Patricia Baker*
During this time of Communion you are invited to receive
a blessing for yourself, or for someone else.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

***Blessing**

***Hymn** *A Light is Gleaming (Refrain)* **VU# 82**
A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night,
living in the light.
Come share it's gladness, God's radiant love is burning bright,
living in the light.



We gratefully acknowledge that we are gathered on
the unceded ancestral lands of the shíshálh First Nation.



Thank you to those who contributed to our worship service this morning:
readers, greeters, refreshment makers, musicians, to name just a few!

HOUSEKEEPING NOTES:

- ♦ The chairs **do NOT need to be put away** after the service today.
- ♦ Clean-up brought to you by the letters: **A, M, T, W**
Those whose last name begins with these letters are asked to help with
cleaning up after our time of coffee, tea and fellowship together.
- ♦ **REMINDER** 'Tis the season....if you have turned the heat up, please
remember to turn it back down!



St. John's United Church

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Minister: Rev Alan Claassen..... alan.claassen@gmail.com 604-989-7687

Minister's work week is Sunday to Thursday.

Office Administrator: Karen Weatherington..... 604-885-9822

Office Hours: Tues - Thurs 1:00-3:30 pm

St. John's Announcements

January 6, 2019

- ♦ **Annual Reports are due Tuesday January 15** for all Team and group leaders!! This report should highlight your Team/group's activities for the 2018 calendar year, and anything else you'd like to share. Please talk to Cathy if you have any questions, and email your submission in Word document format to Cathy and Ian Poole. Don't wait – do it now!!
- ♦ **Help wanted!** The Worship and Arts Team is looking to expand its pool of Readers for Sunday morning worship services. The readers take the role of leading the Call to Worship, the Opening Prayer, and the Scripture Readings for the service. On the first Sunday of the month the Reader also assists the minister in serving communion. If you are interested, please contact Donna Currie or Alan Claassen. Once we know who is interested, we will offer a short training following a worship service.
- ♦ **United Church Women** will be meeting Tuesday January 8 in the Lower Hall at 11:00 am. Please bring a bag lunch. All women are welcome. We will be making dried soup mix for the Food Bank. If you have any pasta jars with lids, please bring them or call Martha Ware at 885-1043.
- ♦ **Pop-up Choir:** Dianne Baker will lead a 'pop-up choir' on January 13 and 27 to offer music in worship. If you would like to participate in this singing adventure, please plan to stay after worship on January 6, and come 30 minutes early on January 13 and 27 to learn and prepare the very simple songs we will offer. This is your chance to lend your voice in song to our worship time!
- ♦ **Call to Care & Membership Team** is providing meals for those of us who are in need of relief from cooking for whatever reason. The meals have been lovingly prepared by congregants and/or purchased with donations made possible through our Benevolent Fund. If you find yourself in need, just help yourself -- the food is stored on the left hand side of the freezer which is in the downstairs Furnace Room. Please read and follow the instructions found on the freezer lid.
- ♦ **Prayer Shawl Group** now meets on Fridays only from 10:30 - 12 at the McElroy home, 4459 Stalashen Dr. Contact Sharon for directions or information at 604-885-7717 or sassee222@gmail.com Beginning on January 18, the group will meet at the church, in the Family Room by the Sanctuary

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'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 my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

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."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

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.

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Blessing the Bread, the Cup, the People

Come, all who journey in faith:
bring your lives, fragile and holy.
There is a place for you here.

We come to this table, ready to begin again.

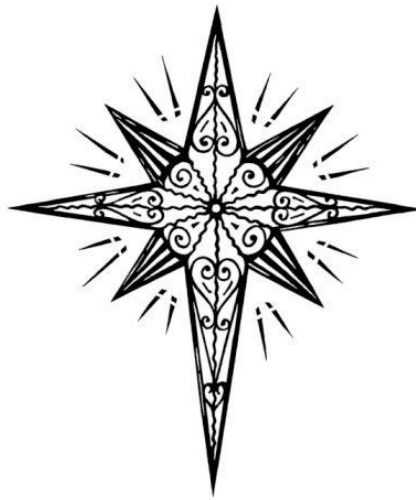
God of grace, from age to age
you infuse every particle of the universe with wonder.
From age to age
you surround every form of life with love.
From age to age
you call to every corner of creation with promise.

Some travellers once journeyed together beneath a fiery star
to seek the treasure of their hearts.
Kneeling in a stable
they found the gift they sought.

In this season, we also set out
seeking signs of your presence
and remembering how this child of Bethlehem
broke bonds of oppression
to pour out compassion for all.
We remember a final meal
where bread and cup were blessed and shared with new meaning:
“Here is life. Here is promise. You are my beloved.”
As we share this bread and cup
may we open ourselves to the strength of this love. Amen.

Gathering friends and strangers together,
Christ Jesus spoke with boundless love.
In the blessing of the bread,
Christ Jesus asks us
to share the bread of life as an act of love.
In the blessing of the cup,
Christ Jesus asks us
to share the cup of promise as an act of mercy.
As we share this bread and cup,
may we increase the light that shines in the darkness
and give us the courage to walk on the way of peace. Amen.

- ♦ **Planning to meet at the Church?** Please book your meeting time with Karen by email or phone. This ensures the space is available and is on the calendar for the bulletin!
- ♦ **Announcements in the Bulletin** You can email or phone in your announcement to Karen at the office no later than 1:00 pm on Wednesday. All submissions are subject to editing and final approval by Alan.



What's Happening This Week				
Sun	06	9:20 am 10:00 am 11:30 am	Contemplative Prayer Communion Worship Service "Pop-up " Choir Rehearsal	Ross Armstrong Rm Sanctuary Sanctuary
Tues	08	10:00 am 11:00 am	Revision Team Mtg United Church Women Mtg	Ross Armstrong Rm Lower Hall
Weds	09	1:30 pm	Trustees Mtg	Ross Armstrong Rm
Thurs	10	10:00 am 10:00 am 1:00 pm	Called to Care Team Mtg Healing Touch Ministry St. John's Artists	Ross Armstrong Rm Lower Hall Lower Hall
Fri	11	10:30 am	Prayer Shawl Ministry	McElroy Home
Sun	13	9:20 am 9:30 am 10:00 am	Contemplative Prayer "Pop-up" Choir Rehearsal Worship Service	Ross Armstrong Rm Sanctuary Sanctuary