



# Sunset United Church

January 8, 2023



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*Sunset United, located on Treaty 4 Territory,  
is an Affirming community of faith.  
All are welcome here.*

## Welcome & Announcements

## Centering Time

### Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

One: May the love of God be with you all!

**All: And also with you!**

One: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**All: 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.**

One: Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

**All: 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 on their nurses' arms.**

One: Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

**All: A multitude of camels shall come to you. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.**

One: Let us pray: *(prayer from Voices United 86)*

**All: Radiant God, light for all people and all places, by the guidance of a star you led the magi to worship the Christ Child. By the light of faith, lead us to worship you in peace and love, and guide us in your way.**

**We pray to you who is**

our mother and 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,  
forever and ever. Amen.

**Hymn** VU#91 The First Nowell<sup>1</sup>

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

Then entered in those wise men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,

and offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

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

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.

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

**Theme Time**

**Anthem**

**Message**                    Matthew 2:1-12

**Hymn**    VU#96 Will You Come and See the Light<sup>2</sup>

**Will you come and see the light from the stable door?  
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.**

**It will be your guiding star,  
it will show you who you are;  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?**

**Will you step into the light that can free the slave?  
It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.**

**By the pyramids of greed  
there's a longing to be freed;  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?**

**Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?  
Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.**

**When the truth is cut and bruised,  
and the innocent abused,  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?**

**Will you join the hope, alight in the young girl's eyes,  
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?**

**When the lowest and the least  
are the foremost at the feast,  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?**

**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?**

### **Minute for Mission**

**Response Hymn MV#191 What Can I Do?<sup>3</sup>**

**What can I do? What can I bring?  
What can I say? What can I sing?  
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.  
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

### **Prayers for the World**

**Hymn VU#87 I Am the Light of the World<sup>4</sup>**

*Refrain* **'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.**

**When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and the shepherds have found  
their way home,  
the work of Christmas is begun:**

*Refrain*

**To find the lost and lonely one,  
to heal the broken soul with love,  
to feed the hungry children with warmth  
and good food,  
to feel the earth below, the sky above!**

*Refrain*

**To free the prisoner from all chains,  
to make the powerful care,  
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,  
to see God's children everywhere!**

*Refrain*

**To bring hope to every task you do,  
to dance at a baby's new birth,  
to make music in an old person's heart,  
and sing to the colours of the earth!**

*Refrain*

## **Blessing and Sending**



**Minister:** Rev. Jim Tenford (he/him)

**Children & Youth Minister:** Michelle McConkey (she/her)

**Choir Director:** Corinne Groff (she/her)

**Pianist:** Shirley Hill (she/her)



<sup>1</sup> Words: English traditional carol. Music: English traditional melody. Refrain Harmony, Descant: © 1926 Oxford University Press, Inc. Reprinted under One License 605683.

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<sup>3</sup> Words and music: Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy; arr. Alan C. Whitmore, 2005. Words and music copyright © by Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy.

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