



Sunset United Church

January 9, 2022 - Epiphany

Home By Another Way



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

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

On the first Sunday of Advent...

...Let us welcome the Christ flame:

We light our candles

To signal the next step in our faith journey.

We welcome into our lives

The spark of Jesus

And commit to sharing this spark

With the world.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

Hymn VU#79 Arise, Your Light Is Come¹

**Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.**

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who
mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us
strong.

Call to Worship²

We all come to this place -
Each of us on our own path.
The path is winding,
And the path is not always clear,
And the path changes,
But we are here.
God is walking us home.
What a gift it is to not walk alone.
Let us worship together.

Prayer Seeking Reconciliation

I imagine that, for the Magi...
...We are held by God.
God of changed plans,
The Magi heard in a dream
That they were to take a new way home -
A different path,
An untraveled road.
And to our amazement,
They did just that.
The Magi packed their bags
And went home by another way.

We wish that change could be easy for us,
But more often than not,
When whispers of change come,
We tend to clench our fists
And hold on tighter.

Forgive us for resisting change
that might be holy.
Forgive us for ignoring that
There is more than one road home.
Forgive us for failing
To hear your invitation.
Guide our steps to unfamiliar places,
Gratefully we pray, Amen.

Words of Assurance

No matter which roads
We take in this one wild and precious life,
God walks with us.
God never leaves our side.
When the road changes
And we find ourselves on a new path home,
God is always there.
So hear and believe the good news:
 No matter where we go,
 No matter what we do,
 We are claimed, loved, and held by God.
 Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Sung Response MV#115 Behold, Behold, I Make All
Things New³

Behold, behold, I make all things new,

beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold, behold, I make all things new,
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.

Sharing the Story

Hymn VU#87 I Am the Light of the World⁴

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

WE LISTEN

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Isaiah 60:1-6
 Matthew 2:1-12

Special Music

Reflection

Hymn VU#91 The First Nowell⁵ (vs. 1, 3, 4 & 5)

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

Star Words

Prayers of the Community and 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn VU#82 A Light Is Gleaming⁶

Refrain

A light is gleaming, spreading its arms
throughout the night, living in the light.

Come share its gladness,
God's radiant love is burning bright,
living in the light.

When light comes pouring into the darkest place,
it hurts our eyes to see the glow.
Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears,
our memories and tears.

Refrain

When night is round us and every shadow grows,
a star is there to light our way.
It tells a story of Jesus who came near to say:
"God's light will ever stay."

Refrain

And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk.
He showed us things we hadn't seen.
Now we, like Jesus, can help creation shine,
and this will be a sign:

Refrain

So let us live in the brightness God has giv'n,
and let us rise to see the dawn.
We trust that God is here asparkle and ablaze,
~warming all our days.

Refrain

Sending Forth and Blessing

Postlude



Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard (she/her)

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

Choir Director: Corinne Groff (she/her)

Pianist: Shirley Hill (she/her)



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