**TRINITY MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH**

**Good News: Much of what you see, hear, and experience during our worship is Metaphorical and Symbol**

**January 5, 2025**

**Epiphany Sunday**



**We Approach**

**Acknowledgement of Territory & Statement of Inclusivity**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Sung Response:** “Arise, Your Light is Come” (verse 1) VU 79

***Arise, your light is come! The Spirit’s call obey;***

***Show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.***

**Announcements, Joys, Celebrations**

**Call to Worship:**

Arise, shine; for your light has come!

**And the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

Lift up your eyes, look around, and see.

**We see sons and daughters of God, gathering from far and wide.**

Bring your gifts and proclaim God’s glory.

**We bring the gifts of who we are, offered in worship and praise.**

**Opening Prayer:**

**Hymn: “Come in, Come in and Sit Down” VU 395**

 *Come in, come in and sit down,*

 *you are a part of the family.*

 *We are lost and we are found,*

 *and we are a part of the family.*

*1 You know the reason why you came,*

 *yet no reason can explain;*

 *so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,*

 *for we are a part of the family.  R*

*2 God is with us in this place,*

 *like a mother’s warm embrace.*

 *We’re all forgiven by God’s grace,*

 *for we are a part of the family.  R*

*3 There’s life to be shared in the bread and the wine;*

 *we are the branches, Christ is the vine.*

 *This is God’s temple, it’s not yours or mine,*

 *but we are a part of the family.  R*

*4 There’s rest for the weary and health for us all;*

 *there’s a yoke that is easy, and a burden that’s small.*

 *So come in and worship and answer the call,*

 *for we are a part of the family.  R*

**Prayer of Confession:**

**God of revelation and call, in this season of Epiphany, we ponder what you would have us do, and we confess that, too often, we come up short. You call us to live in joy, but we are prone to anxiety and misgivings. You call us to reach out in love and concern, but we are more likely to ignore the cries of those around and beyond us. You call us to follow Jesus, but we convince ourselves that we are unworthy or unqualified. Forgive us for being unloving, thoughtless, careless. *(silent prayer)***

**Refresh us, restore us, renew us. Through Christ. Amen.**

**Assurance:**Scripture tells us and our experience confirms that, in spite of who we are, in spite of what we do, God’s light still shines on our paths, and in God’s mercy and mystery, we find grace and forgiveness. We are loved and saved by Jesus Christ.

**We are a forgiven people. Thanks be to God.**

**Young @ Heart: “Star Light. Star Bright”**

**Hymn: “We Three Kings of Orient Are” (see insert)**

*We three kings of Orient are*

*Bearing gifts we traverse afar*

*Field and fountain, moor and mountain*

*Following yonder star*

***Refrain: Oh, Star of wonder, star of night***

***Star with royal beauty bright***

***Westward leading, still proceeding***

***Guide us to thy Perfect Light***

*Born a King on Bethlehem's plain*

*Gold I bring to crown Him again*

*King forever, ceasing never*

*Over us all to rein* ***(Refrain)***

*Frankincense to offer have I*

*Incense owns a Deity nigh*

*Pray'r and praising, all men raising*

*Worship Him, God most high* ***(Refrain)***

*Glorious now behold Him arise*

*King and God and Sacrifice*

*Alleluia, Alleluia*

*Earth to heav'n replies* ***(Refrain)***

**Service of the Word**

**Scripture: Based on Matthew 2:1 – 12**

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

**Write these words in our hearts, Dear God.**

**Anthem: “Joy is Now in Every Place” (A German Melody)**

**Jerry Johnson Solo**

**Message: “Epiphany Revelations!”**

 **Susan LeClair & Rev. Tracy Fairfield**

**Hymn: “A Light is Gleaming” VU 82**

*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.*

*1 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.  R*

*2 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.”  R*

*3 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:*

 *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.*

*4 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.  R*

**Response to the Word**

**Gathering our Prayers:**

After each prayer request, we will respond with:

One: God of Peace

 **All: Be with your people in the time of need.**

**Prayers of the People and for the World**

**Lord’s Prayer (Sung) VU 959**

 *Our Father in heaven,*

 *hallowed be your name,*

 *your kingdom come,*

 *your will be done*

 *on earth as in heaven.*

 *Give us today our daily bread.*

 *Forgive us our sins*

 *as we forgive those who sin against us.*

 *Save us from the time of trial*

 *and deliver us from evil*

 *for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,*

 *now and for ever.*

**The Offering**

**Doxology: (As With Gladness, verse 3) VU 81**

*As they offered gifts most rare at that manger crude and bare,*

*So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s alloy,*

*All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heavenly King.*

**Prayer of Dedication:**

As the magi brought gold,

**so we being these gifts.**

As the magi brought frankincense,

**so we bring our prayers.**

As the magi brought myrrh,

**so we bring our lives to you, O God. Amen.**

**Hymn: “The First Nowell” (verses 1, 2, & 3) VU 91**

*1 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.*

*2 They lookèd 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. R*

*3 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. R*

**Commissioning and Benediction**

**Sung Response: “I Am the Light of the World” 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.*

**Announcements**

ROMEO Men’s Breakfast is on **January 10, 2025**, 7am at Jojo’s Restaurant.

United Church Earth Stewards (UCES) meeting is on **January 11** at 10am – both in-person and online.

There will be Sunday School next Sunday, **January 12**.

The World Religions Conference is on Monday, **January 13** at 6:30pm. East Indian food will be served.

On Sunday, **January 19, 2025**, after church we will be having "Passports" available for everyone as they travel the world of our various committees and working groups. Once your Passport has been stamped/punched by all stations, you'll be entered for a draw of a magnificent prize. Please note however, that Committees/Working groups need to start planning their table display (e.g. Don/Randy get a toolbox out). Be creative and eye-catching, and engaging. This is meant to draw awareness to newcomers and others who might want to join committees or volunteer in new ways by the time the AGM comes around. It also makes the Annual Report more "engaging" too. If you have any questions, please talk to Rev. Tracy or Barbara Mason.

The Church Board Meeting is on **January 23, 2025** at 6.30pm.

The next messy church is on **January 25, 2025,** 4-6pm.

Starting Friday, **January 24, 2025** (11am-Noon), on Zoom, there will be a 6-week Study Group led by Rev. Tracy – “An Exploration on Celtic Christianity”. Please let Rev. Tracy or the office know of your interest. 778.580.7582 (Tracy). If we don’t receive enough signups, we might have to cancel it.

The annual reports are due on **February 2.** The booklet will be ready 2 weeks later. The AGM is scheduled for **March 2, 2025.**

**RECYCLE! RECYCLE! RECYCLE!
The TMUC Affirming Committee wants to help fundraise for new headsets for noise amplification in worship. In order to start this process, we are asking you to use the church phone number when you take your returnables back during the holiday season, or anytime, really. Our fundraising can work quickly, easily, and smoothly with your efforts! If you have any questions or concerns, contact Gurleen at the office.**

Join us for a discussion group on See No Stranger by Sikh activist Valerie Kaur. This powerful book explores “revolutionary love” and its ten practices through Kaur’s personal journey and Sikh faith perspective, inspiring deeper connections and understanding across differences. Discussions will be held **Tuesday evenings via ZOOM**, with weekly questions provided. The book is available on Amazon.ca. To participate, please sign up by emailing Connie at **revconnie@hotmail.com** or Norman at **norman.greene41@gmail.com**. We look forward to sharing this meaningful experience with you!

The **contact information** for the church is:

**Office (Gurleen): 604.853.2591,** **tmucabb@gmail.com**

**Rev. Tracy: 778.580.7582,** **minister.tfairfield@gmail.com**

**Website:** [**www.trinitymemorialuc.com**](https://www.trinitymemorialuc.com)

