

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH



January 3rd, 2021

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website: www.standrews unitedchurch.com

Minister: The People of St.Andrew's

Pastor: Rev. Cheryl Bolton

Ministry of Music: Lynn Sloan

Epiphany

WE GATHER

Welcome and Announcements

May righteousness flourish and peace abound, as the wise ones of old carefully observed the heavens before immersing themselves in a journey across the land, let us examine where we are and all who share this land with, that the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known.

Lighting the Candles

In this season of waiting, of longing, of looking for you to come into our world

We are seeking light

In our own lives

In our neighbourhoods

In our families

In our work In Grace In our world.

Jesus Christ you are the light of the world

May we have eyes to see you

And ears to hear you

Come into our world today Amen

Call to Worship

We gather wondering,

'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'

We will find the Babe in the laughter of children,
in the wisdom of grandparents.

We gather asking,

'where will we find the Child of Christmas?'

We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope,

Where the oppressed are set free.

We gather wanting to know 'where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'

We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace,
where fear is overwhelmed by grace,
where hatred is overwhelmed by love,
where all people are overwhelmed by joy.

Gathering Hymn: The First Nowell - 91 VU

Prayer of Confession and Approach

God of light and darkness, we have seen the glimmer of your star-light beckoning to us, but we have turned away and followed other paths. We confess that we have not loved you with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

Forgive us, Holy One. Strengthen our faltering steps and guide us in your holy way of peace. Amen

Words of Assurance

Lift up your eyes and see the grace of God poured out into your lives. Our hearts rejoice for Christ is in our midst.

Anthem: Oh Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2: 1-12

Meditation: Guided by The Light

Hymn of Meditation: As with Gladness Men of Old - 81 VU

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

Lord of yesterday, today and tomorrow, 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.

Lord God, the coming year is full of uncertainty and hope. Whatever the year holds for us, though, we trust You, and we place every day of this year in your care knowing that, as in the past, you are with us, caring for us with constant love.

And so Lord, we place ourselves into your keeping and dedicate our lives to your service through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour who taught us to pray together saying: Our Father...

Final Hymn: Will You Come and See the Light - 96 VU

Commissioning and Benediction

May the path that Christ walks to bring justice upon the earth, to bring light to those who sit in darkness, to bring out those who live in bondage, to bring new things to all creation: may this path run through our life. And may we be the path Christ takes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the lockdown, the church will be closed from Dec.26th until January 23, 2021. The office will be closed during this time as well. Rev. Cheryl Bolton will be in the church once a week to do a walk thru, attend to needed tasks, check phone messages etc. Please feel free to continue to drop off donation envelopes thru the mail slot, it will still be monitored. Cheryl and Susan will be monitoring email and phone messages from their home offices on a daily basis. Services will continue to be posted on the St. Andrew's Facebook page and on the St. Andrew's website. Mailbox ministry will continue. However, bulletins will be mailed out for the duration of this lockdown. Rev.Cheryl will be reaching out in the coming weeks by telephone. We encourage everyone to continue to be vigilant during these difficult days.



Annual Reports should be in to Susan by January 20, 2021. You can email them into the church office or drop them off in person(use the mail slot). Please note that the Annual meeting is postponed until such a time that it is safe to proceed.



SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

The Broadview Magazine will be renewed in January. Anyone wishing to be a new subscriber please contact Margaret Hutchison 519-633-1105. I will be sending the form in by Dec 23rd. The monies will be due mid January \$25. Please place a cheque or money in your church envelope marking it Broadview.(drop in mail slot)