**St. Andrews United**

**Church**



**60 West Avenue, St. Thomas 519- 631-4558**

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**Website:** [**www.standrewsunitedchurch.com**](http://www.standrewsunitedchurch.com/)

**Ministers: The people of St. Andrew’s**

**Pastor: Rev. Cheryl Bolton**

**Ministry of Music: Brian and Lynn Sloan/**

 **Merna Edison/Thomas Bee**

**January 7th 202**

**Epiphany**

**WE GATHER**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Acknowledging Our Kinship**

As we begin today, we acknowledge the history, spirituality, culture, and stewardship of the land of the Indigenous People of this region. We seek to live in respect, peace, and right relations as we live, work, and worship upon Traditional Territory. We are mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.

**Candle Lighting**

We light this candle as a symbol of the light of Christ, which cannot be held back by distance, which shines in each one of us, no matter where we are.

**Call To Worship**

A new day has dawned, a new year begun

**O Lord, call us so we may hear Your voice**

The world turns to hopes and dreams of the future

**O Lord, keep us in Your ways and on Your path**

We enter this new year with hope and excitement

**O Lord, remind us that You lead us**

O Lord, guide us as look to You, and worship You. Amen.

**Gathering Hymn - I Am the Light of the World - 87 VU**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Holy One, on this day of Epiphany, we hear a story of travelers who bring extravagant gifts to Jesus, which sometimes causes us to think that our gifts are not good enough. We hold ourselves to the world’s standards of what gifts should be, and fail to see that what we offer is like those early gifts—what we offer is the best that we have. So, forgive us when we compare ourselves with others. Forgive us when our fear stops us from rising up to shine. Inspire us to look at what we have in gratitude, so that we might then share these parts of ourselves for your glory and for the transformation of the world that you love so much. We long to be reflections of your Light, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

### **Words of Assurance**

One: Throughout scripture, we are reminded that grace is God’s greatest gift to us. Let us draw nearer to that gift, soaking in its light so that we might indeed Arise and Shine!

**Reflection - Christmas Journeys**

**Hymn** - **The First Noel - 91 VU**

**We Listen For God’s Word**

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

**Meditation - What Makes a Person Wise?**

**RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offering Hymn - In the Bleak Midwinter - 55VU - Verse 4**

What can I give him, poor as I am

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb

If I were a Wise man, I would do my part

Yet, What I can I give him - give my heart.

**Offering Prayer**

We offer our gifts to nurture the faithful journey of this community.
**We offer our money to sustain its teaching and worship.
We offer our time for compassionate care.
We offer our talents to support its work for justice.**As these gifts are used in this fellowship,
and worldwide through Mission and Service,
**Loving God, you will bless them,
and you will bless us, the givers.
In the name of Jesus, who could not have given more, we pray, Amen.**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

Bright Star, Holy One
Be with those who suffer, struggle, cry out, weep
are in pain of heart or soul or mind
From the darkness may the glory of God arise!

Bright Star, Holy One
Fill the hearts of leaders, nations, cities, and faith communities
With wisdom and grace may the glory of God arise!

Bright Star, Holy One
Lead our leaders in your way, your hope, your love and your peace
enlighten the pathways with the Glory of God, arise!

Bright Star, Holy One
laugh with those who, laugh this day, lift up our joys,

our hope is found in You,
May the Glory of God arise.

Bright Star, Holy One
help us in all we do, and say, and are to be your love
shining forth – may the glory of God arise.

Bright Star, Holy One
hear our prayer as we say together. O Father…

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Closing Hymn -** Arise Your Light Has Come - 79 VU

**Commissioning and Benediction**

You go into a new year with us, Loving God,

as we explore new adventures of faith.
You go into the new year with us, Loving God,

as we test the depth of our spirituality.
You go into the new year with us, Loving God,

as we are emboldened as disciples of Jesus the Christ.
You go into the new year with us, Loving God,

as we dare to confront and overcome injustice,
You go into the new year with us, Loving God,

on our personal quest,
You go with us as we draw strength and go forward as faith communities.
We will suffer setbacks, we will encounter challenges,
we will feel like giving up, we will say, “What’s the use?”
But you, Loving God, will forge us in hope;

You will renew our strength.
With us when life is good,
with us when life is tough,
our Never-Failing God.

Go in Peace, to love and serve God through serving others. Amen

**Announcements**

**Upcoming**

**Jan.9~UCW 10:30am**

**Jan 10~Walking Wednesday 10am**

**Jan 11~ Euchre 1:30pm**

**Thank you to everyone for their help with services on Christmas Eve (both morning and eve) and on December 31st at Messy Church! Attendance at events was fantastic and both services were wonderful. Thank you everyone…we hope to have another Messy Church sometime in Spring.**

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