

# Shine Forth! Be The Light!

Sunday, January 7, 2024  
First Sunday After Epiphany

## Welcoming

### Mission & Service Birthday/Anniversary Recognition

Happy birthday to you,  
to Jesus be true,  
May God's gracious blessings  
rest always with you.

## Announcements

### Centring Music

As With Gladness Men of Old

*Conrad Kocher, arr. by Bill Wolaver*

## Call to Worship

### Lighting of the Christ Candle *by Cheryl Stenson, Glebe Road U.C.*

We gather here as a community of seekers,  
**looking for the light:**  
the light that will give us clarity,  
**the light that will guide our way,**  
May God refresh our perception that we may discover  
**God's manifestation in Christ.**  
Let us glimpse here today the truth revealed  
**in the life and love Jesus.**  
May epiphany be not just a word  
**but a gasp of wonder at the promise revealed.**

## Opening Hymn

### **In the Darkness Shines the Splendour** (Voices United 92, vs. 1, 2 & 4)

*Words: Bernadette Gasslein 1992, alt.; Music: Henry John Gauntlett 1849  
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- 1 In the darkness shines the splendour  
of the Word who took our flesh,  
welcoming, in love's surrender,  
death's dark shadow at his crèche.  
Bearing every human story,  
Word made flesh reveals his glory.
- 2 Light of nations, veiled in history,  
born of woman's flesh and blood,  
calling to the depths of mystery  
restless hearts that seek the good.  
Healing every human story,  
Word made flesh reveals his glory.
- 4 All God's people, sing in jubilation  
of the birth that sets us free,  
telling of the revelation:  
Jesus, God's epiphany.  
Celebrate the human story!  
Word made flesh reveals our glory.

## Morning Prayer

### A Time to Wonder

### Spirit Kids Blessing

*Children - May God bless you as you stay to hear God's word.  
Congregation - May God bless you as you go to hear God's word.*

*(Children depart for Spirit Kids Program)*

Anthem      Star-Led and Wonder Bound  
*Words & Music by Mary Kay Beall*

Scripture Reading  
Matthew 2:1-23

Choral Response      **Lead Me, God** (Psalm 5) Voices United 728  
*Samuel Sebastian Welsey 1861, alt.*

Lead me, God, lead me in your righteousness;  
make your way plain before my face.

Reflection      Refugees in Egypt

Hymn of the Day      The Coventry Carol (verses 1, 2 & 4)

- 1      Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child,  
Bye bye, lully, lullay.  
Thou little tiny child,  
Bye bye, lully, lullay.
- 2      Herod the king, in his raging,  
Chargèd he hath this day  
His men of might in his own sight  
All young children to slay.
- 3      That woe is me, poor child, for thee  
And ever mourn and may  
For thy parting neither say nor sing,  
“Bye bye, lully, lullay.”

Invitation to Offering

Choral Response      **As with Gladness Men of Old**  
(Voices United 81, v. 3)  
*Words: William Chatterton Dix ca. 1858, alt.*  
*Music: Conrad Kocher 1838; adapt. William H. Monk 1861; desc. Alan Gray 1920*

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.

Offering Prayer

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

*Darryl Nixon, 1987*  
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Parting Hymn      **When Heaven's Bright with Mystery**  
(Voices United 93)

*Words: Rob Johns 1985; Music: English traditional melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams 1919*  
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- 1      When heaven's bright with mystery  
and science searches nature's art,  
when all creation yearns for peace  
and hope sinks deep in human hearts,  
appear to us, O Holy Light;  
lift from our eyes the shades of night.
- 2      When Herod barter's power and lives  
and Rachel's weeping fills the night,  
when suffering's mask marks every face,  
and Love's a refugee in flight,  
reveal to us your word of grace  
and make us witness to your peace.

- 3 When fragile faith, like desert wind,  
blows dry and empty, hope erased,  
when withered grass and fading flower  
proclaim again our day's brief space,  
breathe on the clay of our despair  
and work a new creation there.
- 4 When heaven's bright with mystery  
and stars still lead an unknown way,  
when love still lights a gentle path  
where courts of power can hold no sway,  
there with the Magi, let us kneel,  
our gifts to share, God's world to heal.

Benediction

Postlude Fantasia on "The First Nowell"

*Robert J. Hughes*

Worship Leaders – Bill and Clare Walker

Music Leader – Sharon Prindle-Collins

Welcoming – Stephen Godfrey

Greeters – Deanna Bertelsen and Blyth Hughes

Spirit Kids – Moira Dennis

Scripture Reading – Atholl Malcolm

The Lord's Prayer – Erich Schulz

Technical Support – Karen Clark and Rob Glenn

Fellowship Time – Andy and the Queens of Caffeine

Flowers for the service are offered by Karen Clark in celebration of the  
life of her cousin, Dr. Garth Brown.