

# WILMOT UNITED CHURCH

January 8, 2017

Epiphany

Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation.

At the points marked \* - those who are able are invited to stand.

Presider: The Reverend Rose-Hannah Gaskin

## THE PEOPLE GATHER

**Organ Prelude:** How Brightly Shines the Morning Star (Buxtehude)

### Welcome to the Church

#### Call to Worship:

The Magi came from many places, following a star.

We come to worship,  
and the star sheds light on our lives.

The Magi brought gifts to offer the Child.

We too bring gifts—ourselves, our hopes, our dreams.

Shepherds and Magi—the meek and the mighty—  
all were welcome in Bethlehem.

We too come to Bethlehem  
and then return to our homes rejoicing.

### We Light the Christ Candle

#### Opening Prayer:

O God our Creator,  
in you alone are the riches of life.

We come from the East and we come from the West  
knowing we follow, on our different roads,  
the same star to the same place.

May we share what we know of its light,  
learn from each other the way to the stable,

worship you, our only wealth,  
and serve the world with Gospel gold.  
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

\* **Opening Hymn:** As with Gladness Men of Old VU #81

### **Story Time for the Young and Young at Heart**

\* **Family Hymn:** Will You Come and See the Light VU #96

### **Connecting to Our Hearts' Longing:**

Eternal Light  
shine in our hearts;  
Eternal Goodness,  
deliver us from evil;  
Eternal Power,  
be our support;  
Eternal Wisdom,  
scatter the shadows of our ignorance;  
Eternal Compassion,  
have mercy on us;  
that with heart and mind  
and soul and strength  
we may seek your face,  
and be brought by your infinite mercy  
to the Holy Presence;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

### **Silent Prayer**

### **Assurance of God's Love**

\* **Hymn:** In Loving Partnership We Come VU #603

## LISTENING FOR TRUTH

### Prayer of Preparation:

O You who are the Light of the minds that know you,  
the Life of the hearts that love you,  
the Strength of the spirits that seek you;  
help us so to know you that we may truly love you,  
so to love you that we may fully serve you,  
in whose service is perfect freedom.

**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 60:1-6 Kelly Ebbett  
Matthew 2: 1-12

**Anthem:** A Christmas Blessing (Purifoy)

**Reflection:** Walking in the Light of God's Hope Rev. R-H Gaskin

\* **Hymn:** Christ Be Our Light - see page 10 of bulletin

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### Announcements

### Invitation to The Offering

### Offertory Music

\* **Doxology:** VU #541

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures high and low;  
give thanks to God in love made known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

### Prayer of Dedication:

Though we do not bear gifts of gold,  
frankincense, and myrrh,  
yet we offer ourselves and what we have.

The story continues, Good News abounds.  
We worship and serve the living Christ.  
Let us rejoice and be glad!

**Prayers of the People:**

In the darkness of time,  
you created all that lives and breathes.  
In the darkness of Mary's womb,  
you nurtured the Christ-child, bringer of light.  
In the darkness of our world, O God, your spirit sustains us.  
O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.  
Under the cover of darkness,  
Magi followed the star to the Christ-child.  
O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.  
In blessed desert darkness,  
Mary and Joseph fled to safety in Egypt with the infant Jesus.  
O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.  
In quiet darkness,  
dreams emerge, guiding the Holy Family home to Galilee.  
O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.  
In the stillness of the dark,  
we pray for all who need God's presence in a special way—  
all who are sick, unemployed,  
bereaved, persecuted, or homeless;  
all who are demoralized and discouraged,  
all whose fear has turned to cynicism,  
all whose vulnerability has become bitterness.  
O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.  
In the embrace of this sanctuary,  
we pray for those who are near to our hearts—  
colleagues, partners, parents, children, neighbours, friends.  
We thank you God for their presence,

and ask you to bless and protect them in all that they do—  
at home, at school, as they travel, as they work, as they play.  
O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.  
In the serenity of this sacred space, we bring to you, O God,  
our fears and concerns, our hopes and our visions.  
In your presence, we come face to face with ourselves,  
and with the road that lies ahead of us.  
In the solitude of the dark times of our lives,  
we find expectant hope for the journey.  
O God, we know you are with us in darkness and in light. Amen.

**The Last Word:**

The light shines in the deepest night and the night has not overcome it.  
John 1:5

**Closing Hymn:** In the Darkness Shines the Splendour VU #92

**Commissioning:**

Holy One, we have met together as your people to worship you.  
Now send us out into your world to bear your light.  
May we shine with your love that others may see us as a reason to be  
hopeful seekers of your promised shalom.

**Benediction:**

Light of God to give us hope Power of God to protect us  
Light of God to give us joy Peace of God to calm us  
Light of God to give us faith Grace of God to save us  
This day and forevermore.

**Choral Amen** VU #967

**Postlude:** Toccata in F (Pachelbel)

\*\*\*\*\*  
If you wish, you are invited to remain for the Postlude as it is part of our Worship Service.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**WELCOME** to our service of worship and thank you for being with us this morning. We're glad you're here! You are invited to **COFFEE & CONVERSATION** in the Dr. G. M. Young Memorial Hall following the worship service.

**THE PRAYER CIRCLE** offers confidential prayer support for those with physical, emotional, family and spiritual needs. To have your concerns added to the Wilmot prayer list contact Guy Vezina (455-6174) or Raday Brown (454-3001).

**PLEASE NOTE:** For the remainder of the winter of 2017, we will not use the large blue doors on Carleton Street. Instead, we ask you to enter via the other Carleton Street double doors from the parking lot. We do this to conserve heat and thereby lower operating costs. Thank you for your understanding.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** In the event of a bad snow storm, you can check either the Wilmot website or the office voicemail to see if the building is open, or a service of worship has been cancelled. You can also call either Ellen (206-1943) or Rose-Hannah (292-1680).

**SUNDAY TRANSPORTATION TO CHURCH:** Winter is a difficult time to navigate sidewalks & streets. Many of our senior members no longer drive. If you would like a ride to/from church or can offer rides to someone that may be on your route, please contact Judy Coates 454-5631. I would like to create a list of Drivers in various areas of the city who would be willing to transport someone occasionally to church. For people who regularly need a ride, a schedule can be shared by several drivers.

**YOU ARE INVITED** to attend one of two information sessions where Wilmot's Property Development Committee will present work done to explore possible property development options. The first session will be in the parlour after church on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. The second session will be in the parlour at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. We hope you will be able to join us to hear this important information and share your questions and opinions with us.



**NEW TIME FOR WEEKLY SPANISH SESSIONS:** The Cuba Twinning Committee is now offering weekly Spanish sessions in the afternoon from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. These sessions will take place on Monday afternoons, except for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month when instead, it will take place on Tuesday. So the next session will be at 1:30 p.m. this Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. These sessions are for beginners as well as for experienced speakers. Anyone inside and outside the congregation, and of any age is welcome. Please feel free to invite others to come along. For more information, please call América (Meca) or Norman Laverty at 455-3349.

**WILMOT SENIORS:** At our gathering on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the parlour, we are happy to be welcoming our own Marlene Phillips and her son-in-law, Laurie Burgoyne as our guest speakers. Marlene will share her success story with Juice Plus and give you tips on how healthy eating can aid you in feeling A-1! Laurie will have with him a Tower Garden and explain how you can grow vegetables and some fruits INSIDE your home year round. A Tower Garden is a form of gardening without the mess of dirt, without the work of weeding, etc. Come see what this is all about. Everyone is welcome. This month refreshments will be provided by Group 2.

### **FORGOT TO ORDER A CHURCH CALENDAR FOR 2017?**

Marlene will be placing an order this coming week for more United Church calendars. If you would like to order one, please contact the church office no later than Thurs, Jan 12<sup>th</sup>.

**ANNUAL MEETING** has been scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>. In order to have Annual Reports ready for distribution the week prior to this meeting, Marlene must receive your report no later than, Tuesday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>.

**AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP!** The Sanctuary Committee is in need of a new artificial Christmas tree. Our current one is very old and falling apart. If you have a tree, 8ft. or taller that you would be willing to donate please contact Barb Frame 459-4732 or Debbie Thorne 452-0049.

**COMMITTEES SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!** - Various Church committees are in the process of seeking volunteers to help fulfill the role and ministry of their committees beginning at the AGM in February 2017. If you are interested -- or know someone else who might be -- in the following roles, please contact Derek Ness - Acting Chair of Council (999-6554 / Derek.Ness@unb.ca), Rose-Hannah Gaskin, or Ellen Beairsto for more information:

- Secretary, Wilmot Church Council
- Co-Chairs, Worship Committee
- Chair, Trustees Committee
- 2 Presbytery Representatives
- co-ordinator of ushers and greeters for Sunday worship

**Ministers:**

**Rev. Rose-Hannah Gaskin**  
**292-1680**

**Rev. Ellen Beairsto**  
**206-1943**

**Ministers Emeriti:**

**Rev. Cliff Moase, Rev. Bob Jones**

**Organist: Virginia Leiter**

**Music Director: Steven Peacock**

**Office Administrator: Marlene Phillips**

**Sexton: Randy Randall**

**Church Office: 458-1066**

**Hours: Tues - Friday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**<http://www.wilmotuc.nb.ca/>**

## **THIS WEEK AT WILMOT**

**Jan. 8 - 15<sup>th</sup>**

### **Today:**

- 11:00 a.m.      **WORSHIP**  
12:00 p.m.      **COFFEE & CONVERSATION**  
2:00 p.m.      **ACCESS TO JUSTICE MEETING** - Parlour

### **Monday, Jan. 9:**

- 1:00 p.m.      **U.C.W.** - Parlour  
6:45 p.m.      **TOASTMASTERS CLUB** - Board Room  
7:00 p.m.      **ACCESS TO JUSTICE MEETING** - Parlour

### **Tuesday, Jan. 10:**

- 11:45 a.m.      **WORSHIP COMMITTEE** - Parlour  
1:30 p.m.      **SPANISH CLASS** - Parlour  
7:00 p.m.      **FAITH FORMATION** - Fireside Room  
7:00 p.m.      **STEWARDS** - Board Room  
7:00 p.m.      **ACCESS TO JUSTICE MEETING** - Parlour

### **Wednesday, Jan. 11:**

- 9:00 a.m.      **QUILTERS** - Parlour  
1:00 p.m.      **WEDNESDAY @ WILMOT** - Lunch and Vouchers  
6:30 p.m.      **MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER** - Parlour  
7:00 p.m.      **OUTREACH COMMITTEE** -S.S. Room  
7:00 p.m.      **ACCESS TO JUSTICE** -Board Room

### **Thursday, Jan. 12:**

- 9:30 a.m.      **QUILTING and FELLOWSHIP (learn to quilt)** - Parlour  
1:00 p.m.      **WILMOT WRITERS' GROUP** - Parlour  
6:30 p.m.      **HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICE**  
7:00 p.m.      **ACCESS TO JUSTICE MEETING** - Parlour  
7:30 p.m.      **CHOIR PRACTICE** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Saturday, Jan. 14:**

- 10:00 a.m.      **TOY LIBRARY** \_\_\_\_\_  
6:00 p.m.      **DROP-IN CENTRE**

### **Sunday, Jan. 15 :**

- 9:30 a.m.      **ADULT BIBLE CONVERSATION** - Board Room  
11:00 a.m.      **WORSHIP & S.S.**  
12:00 p.m.      **COFFEE & CONVERSATION**

## **Christ, Be Our Light** by Bernadette Farrell

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

### **Refrain**

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice.
3. Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.
4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.
5. Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another.  
Making your kingdom come.

## A Warm Welcome

Our gifts for Mission & Service support food and a place of welcome. Let us hear a story of a community ministry supported by a Mission & Service grant.

A warm welcome awaits anyone who walks through the doors of Chalmers Community Ministry in Guelph, Ontario.

Guests can look through the shelves of the food pantry and choose their own food, from canned goods to fresh vegetables to dairy products and eggs. The experience gives each person a sense of dignity. The clothing room follows the same principle, with guests choosing their own clothes in a bright room with racks of clothing carefully organized.

On Monday and Tuesday mornings the clothing room doubles as a café. Guests and volunteers gather over coffee and baked goods to complete the week's jigsaw puzzle. There is a lot of laughter, says Administrator Diana Sterenberg. "Volunteers are even known to have a bit of fun by walking off with the last piece of the puzzle!"

The café started when the volunteers perceived a feeling of isolation in the guests, many of whom lived in nearby rooming houses. What guests needed as much as food and clothing was a sense of community. "Everyone loves to come to the café!" Diana exclaims.

We sing thanksgiving for Chalmers Community Ministry, which offers food and a place of welcome.

If Mission & Service is already a regular part of your giving, thank you so much! If you have not given for Mission & Service please consider making Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith. In all our Mission & Service giving, with a willing heart, we sing thanksgiving to God!