



WILMOT UNITED CHURCH

January 7, 2018

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: We Three Kings (Holden)

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: The First Nowell - first 3 verses**

VU #91

Story Time for the Young and Young at Heart

Rev. E. Beirsto

*** Family Hymn: Out of Deep, Unordered Water**

VU #453

Sacrament of Baptism

Presentation & Profession of Faith

Congregational Commitment

As a baptized and baptizing church, do you commit yourselves to support and nurture this family within a community of faith which worships God and loves and serves others.

WE DO, BY THE GRACE OF GOD.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us join in a statement of our communal faith.

WE ARE NOT ALONE; WE LIVE IN GOD'S WORLD.

WE BELIEVE IN GOD:

WHO HAS CREATED AND IS CREATING,

WHO HAS COME IN JESUS,

THE WORD MADE FLESH,

TO RECONCILE AND MAKE NEW,

WHO WORKS IN US AND OTHERS BY THE SPIRIT.

WE TRUST IN GOD.

**WE ARE CALLED TO BE THE CHURCH:
TO CELEBRATE GOD'S PRESENCE,
TO LIVE WITH RESPECT IN CREATION,
TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS,
TO SEEK JUSTICE AND RESIST EVIL,
TO PROCLAIM JESUS,
 CRUCIFIED AND RISEN,
 OUR JUDGE AND OUR HOPE.
IN LIFE, IN DEATH, IN LIFE BEYOND DEATH,
GOD IS WITH US.
WE ARE NOT ALONE.
THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Pouring of Water

God be with you.

AND ALSO WITH YOU

Lift up your hearts.

WE LIFT THEM UP TO GOD.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE GOD THANKS AND PRAISE.

Baptism, Welcome & Blessing

Connecting to Our Hearts' Longing

Eternal Light

shine in our hearts;

Eternal Goodness,

deliver us from evil;

Eternal Power,

be our support;

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Music

Doxology:

VU #540

**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

The Last Word:

The light shines in the deepest night and the night has not overcome it.

John 1:5

Closing Hymn:

Arise, Your Light Is Come

VU #79

Commissioning

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 #969

Postlude: Noel on a Sicilian Carol (Guilmant)

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

WELCOME to this service of worship and thank you for being with us today. We're glad you're here! A special welcome goes out to **Charlie Keith Colter** who is being baptized this morning. Charlie is the son of Sara and Adam Colter and just turned one on December 13. If you are new to our church, we have a 'Welcome to Wilmot' kit for you. Please ask one of the ushers at the back of the sanctuary, for the blue folder. You are invited to join us for **COFFEE & CONVERSATION** in the Dr. G. M. Young Memorial Hall following the worship service.



Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary this morning in loving memory of **Betty Shore**, who passed away one year ago – by her family.

BENEVOLENT OFFERING: On the first Sunday of every month we collect a special Benevolent Offering. This is used to provide food vouchers for those in need on Wednesday afternoons.

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).

BAPTISM: We will be celebrating Baptism again on Feb. 4th. If anyone is interested in baptism or in renewing their baptismal vows, please let Rev. R-H Gaskin or Rev. E. Beairsto know.

WILMOT SENIORS: Why don't you join us on Tuesday, January 16th at 1:30 p.m. in the parlour for a fun afternoon of Bingo! As usual, there will be great prizes and a delicious refreshment time which will be provided this month by Group 1. All seniors and retirees are warmly welcome!

*Thank You
So Much*

Randy & Marlene wish to say a sincere thank you to everyone for their cards, gifts and best wishes at Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is sincerely appreciated.

REDEEMABLES: The youth ask that you save your redeemables and then give us a call (206-1943) for we do pick-ups. Or just drop them off in Ellen's office. The Youth Fund helps support our activities throughout the year. THANK YOU!

JAN. 15 - WORLD DAY OF PRAYER PLANNING MEETING: The Women's Inter-Church Council of Fredericton is having the World Day of Prayer Planning Meeting on Monday, January 15th, at 10 a.m. at Morning Gate Church, 74 Morning Gate Drive. Go route 640 South toward Silverwood, turn left off Patience Lane pass Shannex. Follow Patience Lane and Rainsford Lane, turn right onto Morning Gate Drive. It is wheelchair accessible. The 2018 World Day of Prayer service was written by the Women of the Republic of Suriname. Any women of all denomination of faith are encourage to come to help plan for the World Day of Prayer which will be held on March 2nd. On that day please join us with 170 Countries worldwide as we pray for justice and peace.

JAN. 25 - The Fredericton Women's Inter-Church Council will be hosting a Panel discussion on the Theme ***"God's Dream for Us: Finding Unity in Diversity."***

Place: Holy Family Church, 1500 Hanwell Road

Date: Thursday, January 25, 2018

Time: 2 - 4 p.m.

Members involved in the Panel Discussion are Moderator Mary Ryan along with Gladys Lacey-House, Linda Lamont, Nancy Bauer, Dr. W. Barry Miller, Margaret Leonard, Kate Rogers, Chris McAloon, Lisa Bamford, Kay Furlong, Shirley DeMerchant and Father Monte Peters. **Storm date** will be Sunday, January 28, 2018 from 2 – 4 p.m., same place. Ample parking available. There are no stairs. Patrons can be dropped off at the door. Free-will donation to Liberty Lane, a home for Abused Women. For all those on the panel **rehearsal date** will be on Sunday, January 7, 2018 at Holy Family Church at 4:00 p.m.

DIVORCECARE - Those experiencing the challenges of separation and/or divorce are invited to find encouragement and support at DivorceCare, a 13 week, video based program that meets at Brunswick Street Baptist Church on Tuesdays, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. starting on January 16th. For more information contact the church office by phone (458-8348) or email (greg@bsbc.nb.ca). Details about DivorceCare can be found at: www.divorcecare.org. There is no charge for this program.

GRIEFSHARE - The experience of grief following the death of a loved one can be isolating. Support and encouragement can be found through the ministry of GriefShare. Brunswick Street Baptist Church is about to start two new 13-week support groups. An evening group will be offered in the Family Room on Thursdays at 7 p.m. starting on Jan. 11th. An afternoon group will be offered in the same location on Fridays at 2:30 p.m. starting Jan. 12th. For more information contact the church office by phone (458-8348) or email (greg@bsbc.nb.ca). Details about GriefShare can be found at: www.griefshare.org. There is no charge for this program.

Displaced People

Our gifts for Mission & Service support displaced people. The widespread displacement of people is a crisis around the world.

In 2014 the United Nations High Commission for Refugees reported 19.5 million refugees – those fleeing their homes across international borders – and 38.2 million internally displaced people – those who remain within their own country but cannot return to their homes. Throughout 2015, many more undocumented people were displaced as refugees or were internally displaced due to natural disasters, including here in Canada. More than half of refugees and displaced people are under the age of 18.

Through Mission & Service, the United Church and our partners are addressing the needs of displaced people in many ways:

- * Mission & Service provides for the basic needs of displaced people. As the number grows globally the need for resources for housing, shelter, medical assistance, and education also increases.
- * Through refugee sponsorship, congregations and community groups are working hard to provide the emotional, financial and practical support refugees need to positively integrate into Canadian society. Mission & Service funds the refugee sponsorship program staff that assist congregations.
- * Congregations respond to immediate needs of refugee claimants entering Canada. Mission & Service funds the national program staff that provide advice and guidance to congregations.
- * Mission & Service funds the United Church's participation in the Canadian Council for Refugees so that we can advocate with the Canadian government on refugee-related issues.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please consider making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

THIS WEEK AT WILMOT

Jan 7 – 14th

TODAY:

EPIPHANY/ BAPTISM

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

Mon, Jan. 8:

- 6:45 p.m. TOASTMASTERS CLUB – Board Room

Tues, Jan. 9:

- 7:00 p.m. MARTIAL ARTS - Gym

Wed. Jan. 10:

- 9:00 a.m. QUILTING and FELLOWSHIP - Parlour
10:00 a.m. TOY LIBRARY
1:00 p.m. WEDNESDAYS @ WILMOT
6:30 p.m. OUTREACH COMMITTEE – Board Room
7:00 p.m. NA GROUP – Fireside Room

Thurs. Jan. 11:

- 9:30 a.m. QUILTING and FELLOWSHIP - Parlour
1:00 p.m. WRITERS GROUP
6:30 p.m. HANDBELL CHOIR
7:30 p.m. CHOIR PRACTICE

Sat. Jan 13:

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

Sun. Jan. 14:

- 9:30 a.m. ADULT BIBLE CONVERSATION – Board Room
11:00 a.m. WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL
12 :00 p.m. COFFEE & CONVERSATION