

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH  
January 5, 2020  
Epiphany Sunday



*Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives in  
an Affirming and Inclusive Community*

# Welcomę to St. David's United Church

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**Sunday, January 5, 2020**

Peggy McDonagh presiding with the people of St. David's

***We gather as a Christ-Infused Community***

## **SEED OF MEDITATION**

*"There is not enough darkness in all the world to put out the light of even one single candle." - Robert Alden*

## **PRELUDE**

*Wie schon leuchtet der Morgenstern BWV 739 J.S. Bach*

## **EXPANSION OF OUR HEARTS**

### **Opening Hymn**

Midnight Stars Make Bright the Sky vs. 1 & 3 VU #85

(Tune VU #48)

Midnight stars make bright the skies, Bethlehem in slumber lies;  
Glistening heaven sends forth great light, shepherds see a wondrous sight!  
Angel ranks in chorus sing. Silken sounds from heaven ring.  
Frightened shepherds hear them say: "Christ comes down to earth today!"  
Glory be to God on high, blest are all beneath the sky.

Wise men long foretold the way, saw the strange star's shining ray.  
Knew a child was born in Jewry, worship would be joy for aye!  
Took strong camels hurrying, crossing desert sought their king.  
Reverently to him present gold and myrrh and frankincense.  
Glory to be God on high, blest are all beneath the sky.

### **Lighting the Christ Candle**

Let there be light (candle is lit).

Arise, Awake, the Light now shines.

**its presence, we welcome,**

**its warmth, we embrace,**

**its Power to Reveal, we honor.**

The light of this Christ Candle acknowledges that we seek the light of wisdom and we seek the presence of light-heartedness in this busy life. We light this candle in thanks for the Divine grace that surrounds us always.

## Entrance into Worship

The world has moved into a new year.

**“Happy New Year” was the chorus and praise that concluded 2019. We wonder, Will the New Year be happy? What will it hold for us? What challenges and celebrations will be ours?**

Beloved people of God,  
come into worship,  
come into the Light.

**Like the Wise ones, life calls us to journey in faith.**

We ask, “What might we be called to in this New Year?”

**We are called to share God’s light,  
to explore practices that make for a meaningful life,  
to find the path of light through the darkness of life’s challenges.**

This day we honor and absorb the shine God puts in us  
and promise to shine forth the light that is ours  
so we can light a path for others.

## CAROL

The First Noel vs. 4-5 VU #91

This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
o’er Bethlehem it took its rest  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell  
Born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those wise men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell  
Born is the King of Israel.

## GATHERING PRAYER

God of light, radiant with creative power,  
you place in each of us - a spark of your glory.

**You shine a radiant joy into the darkness of life.  
Open my heart to the brightness of your presence,  
that I may find the light of your love in all I do.**

As the Light settles in our hearts  
**it shines like the sun,  
reflecting your beauty in each  
and every one of us. Amen.**

## RECEPTION OF GOD'S WORD

READING Matthew 2:9-12

### Anthem

*Kings of Orient*

*J.H. Hopkins/arr. David Willcocks*

### REFLECTION

The Divine Light – Our Spiritual GPS

#### Part I

Hymn

A Light is Gleaming

Chorus only

VU #82

A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love  
is burning bright, living in the light.

#### Part II

Readings Isaiah 60:1-3 (Amplified Bible)

*The Gift of Light* (Loosely based on a story by Paulo Coelho, Brazilian lyricist and novelist)

Hymn

A Light is Gleaming

Chorus, vs. #1, Chorus

A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love  
is burning bright, living in the light.

- 1 When light comes pouring into the darkest place,  
it hurts our eyes to see the glow.  
Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears,  
our memories and tears.

A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love  
is burning bright, living in the light.

#### Part III

Hymn

A Light is Gleaming

Chorus vs. 2, Chorus

A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love

is burning bright, living in the light.

- 2        When night is round us and every shadow grows,  
          a star is there to light our way.  
It tells a story of Jesus who came near to say:  
          'God's light will ever stay.'

A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love  
is burning bright, living in the light.

## **TRANSFORMATION OF OUR LIVES**

### **Announcements and Greeting**

#### **Invitation to Offer our Gifts**

#### **Offertory**

*Improvisation*

#### **Reception of Offering and Dedication Prayer**

**Loving God, we follow the Magi in giving you gifts, praying that as you receive our acts of offering, you would brighten the light of Christ in our hearts to lead us in lives which serve love and life more deeply.**

**Amen**

#### **Meditations of the Heart and Lord's Prayer**

Prayer entrance:    Breath on me, breath of God        VU #382

*(People remain seated)*

Breathe on me, breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love with all my will,  
And to my heart be true.

Breathe on me, breath of God,  
Goodness and hope define,  
Until this fragile part of me  
Glows with the fire divine.

#### **Passing the Light**

**HYMN** A Light is Gleaming        Chorus, vs. 3 & 4 Chorus

VU #82

A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
throughout the night, living in the light.

Come share its gladness, God's radiant love  
is burning bright, living in the light.

3 And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk.  
He showed us things we hadn't seen.  
Now we, like Jesus, can help creation shine,  
and this will be a sign:

4 So let us live in the brightness God has giv'n,  
and let us rise to see the dawn.  
We trust that God is here a sparkle and ablaze,  
- warming all our days.

A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love  
is burning bright, living in the light.

### **COMPASSION FOR THE WORLD**

#### **Benediction and Blessing**

**MUSICAL CLOSING** We are dancing in the light of God  
We are dancing in the light of God X2

We are dancing, we are dancing  
We are dancing in the light of God X2

#### **POSTLUDE**

*Fantasy on Two Well-Known Christmas Carols John E. West*

Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives  
through Worship & Nurture  
**January 12, 2020**  
**Rev Peggy presiding with the people  
of St. David's**

### **THANKS TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP EXPERIENCE**

Greeters.....January Sacred Service Team

Ushers .....January Sacred Service Team  
Counters.....Colin Outtrim, Frans Heynen  
Projection.....PSALT Team  
Reader.....Eldon Godfrey  
Music .....Sanctuary Choir

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