

**Online Joint Worship for the Mid Fraser Cluster Worship
Aldergrove, Gladwin Heights, St. Andrews
and Trinity Memorial**

**Celebrating Epiphany
January 3rd, 2021**

**Thank you for Connecting for Worship
Today's Leadership includes**

Preacher: The Rev. Tim Bowman

Presiding: The Rev. Tracy Fairfield

Musician – Donna Poncelet & Jacob Greenan

Song Leader & Soloist: Deborah Handley

Technical Support: Jeremy Wright

People are invited to share their prayers in the chat during the worship service.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Words of Welcome, Announcements from Each Congregation
Land Acknowledgments All

Lighting the Rainbow Candles Tim

Lighting the Christ Candle Tracy Speaks, Tim lights

Once there was a star that twinkled high above the night sky. It was so captivating that people simply had to follow it, and they followed it all the way to Bethlehem.

(the candle is lit)

The Light of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Sung response: "Arise, Your Light is Come" (verse 1) VU 79

**Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.**

Call to Worship: Tim

We gather now 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 perceptions that we may discover

God's manifestation in Christ.

Let us glimpse here today the truth revealed

in the life and love of Jesus.

May epiphany not be just a word

but a gasp of wonder at the promise revealed.

(Cheryl Stenson, Gathering A/C/E 2020-21, pg. 44. Used with permission)

Opening Prayer: Tim

We are here, O God, to engage in this time of worship. We await a sign that may indicate where we should go, what we should do, how we should act, and where we can be a living presence for others.

Open up to us, Loving God, all that life offers and encourage us to share all that we can for the well-being of the world and all who life within it. Amen.

(Bill Steadman, Gathering A/C/E 2020-21, pg. 47. Used with permission)

Hymn: "The First Nowell" (verses 1, 2 & 3) VU 91

Time with our Children: "What is Epiphany?" Tim

Hymn: “Jesus Bids Us Shine” VU 585

We invite the children and their leaders into breakout rooms.

Prayer of Confession: **Tracy**

God of revelation and call, in this season of Epiphany, we ponder what you would have us do, and we confess that, too often, we come up short. You call us to live in joy, but we are prone to anxiety and misgivings. You call us to reach out in love and concern, but we are more likely to ignore the cries of those around and beyond us. You call us to follow Jesus, but we convince ourselves that we are unworthy or unqualified. Forgive us for being unloving, thoughtless, careless.

(silent prayer)

Refresh us, restore us, renew us. Through Christ. Amen.

Assurance: **Tim**

Scripture tells us and our experience confirms that, in spite of who we are, in spite of what we do, God’s light still shines on our paths, and in God’s mercy and mystery, we find grace and forgiveness. We are loved and saved by Jesus Christ.

We are a forgiven people. Thanks be to God.

Sung Response: “Gloria (Glory to God)” VU 37

**Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia. (twice)**

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 2: 1 – 12

The Magi Visit the Messiah

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Ephesians 3: 1 – 12

God’s Marvelous Plan for the Gentiles

3 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

2 Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

7 I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: “??????”

Hymn: “Will You Come and See the Light” VU 96

WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND ACTION

Prayers of the People and all the World: **Tim**

Prayers shared from the chat: **Tracy**

Holy God, you hear our words; you hear our hearts. We are known and heard deeply, graciously, constantly. Confident in this grace, we speak together the words that Jesus taught us...

The Lord's Prayer [Spoken]

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
 on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Acknowledging Our Gifts for the Work of God: **Tim**

Here is our cash; here are our cheques; here is our Pre-Authorized Remittance.
here are our online donations.

They are an expression our hope for Light in the World.

Here are our hearts; here is our time; here are our passions; here are our lives.

Let our gifts and our lives proclaim Light to the World.

Doxology ("As With Gladness Men of Old", verse 3)

VU 81

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.

Prayer of Dedication: **Tim**

As the magi brought gold,
so we bring these gifts.
As the magi brought frankincense,
so we bring our prayers.
As the magi brought myrrh,
so we bring our lives to you, O God. Amen.

Hymn: "Joy to the World" **VU 59**

Blessing and Sending Forth: **Tim**

Sung Response: "I Am the Light of the World" (chorus) **VU 87**

I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!"
If you follow and love
you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.

Postlude

**Thank you for Connecting for Worship
Today's Leadership includes.**

Preacher: The Rev. Tim Bowman

Presiding: The Rev. Tracy Fairfield

Musician – Donna Poncelet & Jacob Greenan

Song Leader & Soloist: Deborah Handley

Technical Support: Jeremy Wright