

***We acknowledge these lands upon which we worship as the ancestral, cultural, traditional and unceded lands***

***of the Səl̓ílwətaʔ,  Xʷməθkwəy̓əm, & Sḵwx̱wú7meshsi,***

***Musqueam***, *Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.*

***Lakeview Multicultural United Church is a safe place***

***for all people to worship***

***regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background or sexual orientation***

**Lakeview Multicultural United Church**

**Vancouver, BC**

***♦*** *Please stand where indicated, as you are able & comfortable*

***Congregational responses are in bold***

**A Celebration of Worship**

**Epiphany Sunday - C**

**January 6th, 2019**

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 **Congregational Singing with the Praise Band**

 **Lighting The Christ Candle**

 **Acknowledgement of the Territory**

*We recognize the lands upon which we worship as the ancestral, traditional and unceded lands of the Coast Salish people, and commit ourselves to the ongoing work of reconciliation with all our First Nations sisters and brothers.*

 **Announcements**

**-2-**

♪**♦** **Introit:** ‘Shine, Jesus, Shine’ *(by Graham Kendrick)*

Lord the [light](https://www.definitions.net/definition/light) of Your love is [shining](https://www.definitions.net/definition/shining)

In the [midst](https://www.definitions.net/definition/midst) of the darkness, shining

Jesus, [Light](https://www.definitions.net/definition/Light) of the world, [shine](https://www.definitions.net/definition/shine) upon us

Set us free by the [truth](https://www.definitions.net/definition/truth) You now [bring](https://www.definitions.net/definition/bring) us

Shine on me, shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, [shine](https://www.definitions.net/definition/shine)

Fill this land with the Father's glory

Blaze, Spirit, blaze, Set our [hearts](https://www.definitions.net/definition/hearts) on fire

Flow, river, flow

Flood the [nations](https://www.definitions.net/definition/nations) with [grace](https://www.definitions.net/definition/grace) and mercy

Send [forth](https://www.definitions.net/definition/forth) Your Word, Lord, and let [there](https://www.definitions.net/definition/there) be light.

**♦ Gathering for Worship:**

 When a star in the sky marked where Jesus had been born,
 wise and learned ones came to Jerusalem looking for him.
 Like the wise ones we ask
 **Where will we find You, Loving One, in this year that stretches before us?**

 They brought to the Child their most precious gifts. We have

 no star to guide us, but we have the gifts of our love and

 our lives to lay before You. Like the wise ones we ask
 **Where can we serve You in these days, Amazing One?**

 And where will we find You in these coming days? Will we look only among the rich and powerful, or with the poor, the needy,

 and the vulnerable? Like the wise ones we ask
 **Where will we find You, Gracious One?**

 There was no room for You at the inn. Is there any room for

 You in our hearts? Like the wise ones we ask
 **How can we worship You, Holy One?**

 **May God walk beside us, and the light of Christ guide us each**

 **step of the way.**

-3-

♪**♦ Hymn:** ‘We Three Kings of Orient Are’
 *Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820-1891, alt.*

1. We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
 field and fountain, moor and mountain,
 following yonder star.

 ***Refrain:*** *Oh, star of wonder, star of night,
 star with royal beauty bright;
 westward leading, still proceeding,
 guide us to Thy perfect light!*

2. Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,

 gold I bring to crown him again;
 king forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. *Refrain*

3. **Men**

 Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
 prayer and praising, gladly raising,
 worshiping God Most High. *All Refrain*

4. **Women**

 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
 breathes a life of gathering gloom;
 sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
 sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *All Refrain*

5. Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
 Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.

 *All Refrain*



-4-

 **Prayer:**  *(presider)*

 Radiant One, every day is an epiphany in which we, too,

 can worship You like the Magi. We thank You for all that our treasure chest of life holds. We will try to look daily for Your

 light that guides us. May it stand boldly over the house of our hearts where You dwell, so that we will be aware of You with us each day of the coming year, and pause to give You thanks and praise. Bless this time of worship as we, like the Magi of old, kneel in Your presence and offer this prayer. In the name of Jesus, our Light and our Hope. Amen

**♦ Sharing The Peace of Christ**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**Listening For The Word of God**

 **Congregational Reading**: Isaiah 60: 1-6

 Arise! Shine! For your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

 **For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness**

 **the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and God's glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to the light, and kings to the brightness of the dawn.**

 Lift up your eyes and look around! They all gather together and come to you.

 **Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of nations shall come to you.**

A multitude of camels shall cover you; they shall bring gold

 and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

 **Gospel:** Matthew 2: 1-12 *The visit of the Magi*

**Reflecting On The Word**

 **Prayers of the People / Prayer of Jesus**

-5-

**Our Response of Gratitude**

♪ **Offertory**

♪**♦ Presentation of Our Gifts: *VU 81***

As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle, rude and bare,
 so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
 all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king

**Receiving Gifts for the Journey**

**Holy Communion**

(*This is a Table of welcome for everyone.*

 *Please hold the bread and juice so that we can commune together)*

 Today, in this sacrament of love, we remember the birth of Jesus,
 and as we prepare to journey with him this year, we share in

 the mystery called faith. We also remember on this day that some travelers once journeyed together beneath a fiery star

 to seek the treasure of their hearts. Kneeling in a stable they found the Gift they sought.

 **In this season, we also set out seeking signs of Your presence and remembering how this Child of Bethlehem**

 **broke bonds of oppression to pour out compassion for all.**

 We remember a final meal - where bread and cup were blessed and shared with new meaning: *“Here is life. Here is promise. Remember always - You are my beloved.”*

 **Holy One of stars and seekers, as we share this bread and cup, may we open ourselves to the power of that love. Surround with Your Spirit of hope, those gathered around this Table, and on these gifts of bread and wine, that they might strengthen us to be Your faithful and**

 **loving children.**

**The Bread of Hope … The Cup of Grace**

**Gifts for the Journey**

**-6-**

♪**♦ Hymn:** ‘The First Nowell’ *(vss.1,3,4,5)* ***VU 91***

*(pass out stars)*

**Star Blessing:**  *based on a poem by Ann Weems ‘Star-Giving’*

 What I’d really like to give you is a star

 brilliance in a package;

 something you could keep in the pocket of your jeans

 or in the pocket of your being.

 Something to take out in times of darkness,

 something that would never snuff out or tarnish,

 something you could hold in your hands,

 something for wonderment,

 something for pondering,

 something that would remind you

 of what Christmas has always meant:

 God’s light into the darkness of this world.

 And I can wish you Life

 as radiant as the Star

 that announced the Christ Child’s coming,

 and as filled with awe as the Magi

 who stood beneath its light.

 And I can pass on to you the Love

 that has been ignited countless times

 by others who have knelt in Bethlehem’s Light.

 May this be your gift to take into the New Year.

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*Anyone who would like is invited to join Rev. Val outside*

*for a traditional Epiphany House blessing*

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 2: 1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:
“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
   are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
   who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’

 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

