



Gladwin Heights United Church

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January 2021

Minister: Rev. Tim Bowman
Music Director: Rita Green
Custodian: Rick Frier
Musician: Jacob Greenan
Church Administrator: Jeanette Chassie

BOARD MEMBERS

Chair – Gayle LaPointe
Secretary – Gina Hartley
Treasurer – Muriel Thomas
M & P Rep – Sandi Dahm
Pastoral Care & Outreach – Arlene Kropp
Property Inside – Len & Carlene Stein
Property Outside – Daryl & Ellen Alstad
Sunday Morning Coordinator – Gladys Banks
UCW President – Carlene Stein

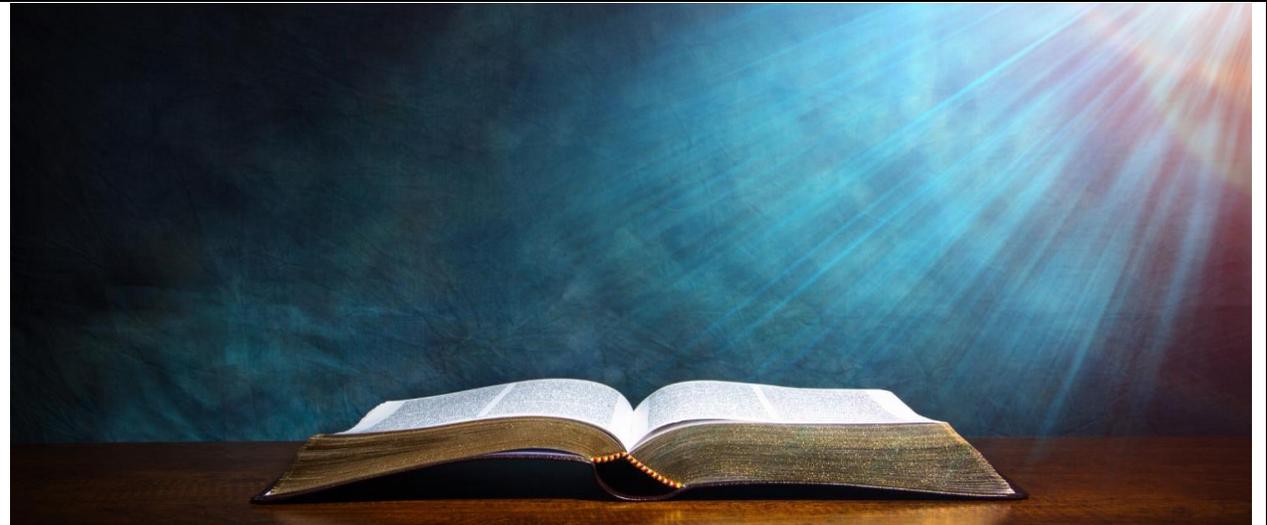
MEMBERS OF JOINT COMMITTEES WITH ST. ANDREW'S

Joint Board: Gayle LaPointe, Arlene Kropp, Gladys Banks
Joint M & P: Lois Chatham, Sandi Dahm
Joint Worship: Rita Green, Carlene Stein, Arlene Kropp

TRUSTEES

Secretary – Lois Gordon
Charles Bailey
Jan Green
Ross Gordon

Epiphany, Year B:



January 2021 LECTIONARY

Epiphany of the Lord – January 6, 2021

- Isaiah 60:1-6
- Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
- Ephesians 3:1-12
- Matthew 2:1-12

Baptism of the Lord(First Sunday after the Epiphany) – January 10, 2021

- Genesis 1:1-5
- Psalm 29
- Acts 19:1-7
- Mark 1:4-11

Second Sunday after the Epiphany – January 17, 2021

- 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 11-20
- Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
- 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
- John 1:43-51

Third Sunday after the Epiphany – January 24, 2021

- Jonah 3:1-5, 10
- Psalm 62:5-12
- 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
- Mark 1:14-20

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany – January 31, 2021

- Deuteronomy 18:15-20
- Psalm 111
- 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
- Mark 1:21-28

Minister's Message

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.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt.

- Matthew 2:9-14

Siblings in Christ,

As I write this in late December, the first COVID-19 vaccines are arriving in Canada. While many more months of careful distancing await us before we and our loved ones are out of danger, this feels like the light at the end of the tunnel, arriving just as we celebrate the arrival of Jesus Christ, light in our darkness, the Light of the World.

Hmm.

Light in the darkness. White as snow. Dark as sin.

These dualities of light and dark, black and white are built into our language and patterns of thought. Many of them come from bible verses. And yet, the Gospel which brings liberation for all can cause oppression if we are not careful - even in something as innocuous as word choice. For if we affirm that light and white is good and dark and black are bad, can we avoid applying that to people? Can we avoid the unconscious assumption that lighter-skinned people are more trustworthy, smart, moral, sociable? We owe it to ourselves, to our fellow human beings, to the message of the Gospel to try.

All of our language for God is metaphor. God is not a male human but we use male language and call God Father because God has attributes which we associate with men and fathers. We speak of God and God's wisdom as light, because it reveals hidden paths and truths. But a metaphor is not literal. God is not male nor a father in a literal human sense. God is not light, any more than God is another part of the electromagnetic spectrum.

There is no reason we can't also explore other images to find truth about God, and we need not look very far. Consider Matthew's account. The Magi follow a star. When are stars visible? At night, of course, when things are usually quiet and calmer and we can discern God's guidance without the distractions of the daytime.

How does God speak in Matthew? Not in the precise language of Greek philosophers and royal decrees, but in the quiet and symbolic language of dreams, which come at night.

In this season of Epiphany, we welcome the Wisdom of God, revealed to all the people in the night sky, and the depth of nighttime dreaming.

Yours in Christ,

Tim