

# TERRITORY OF THE PEOPLE

Monthly Bulletin

1 January 2023

## A Message from Bishop Jane...

Isaiah 40: 1-5 *Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult,*

It's 2023 can you believe it! It is the beginning of the season of Epiphany; a time of new beginnings in so many ways. The search for newness seems to be a universal human need. It is almost an insatiable thirst or hunger. People are always looking for change, for growth, for improvement.



We start this new year in a burst of hope. I remember once being in the desert. We had ridden out – yes on camels, but that's another story – to see the sun come up. It was freezing cold, and so dark. But, as you can see from my photo, fingers of light started to break above the hillside and then the sun appeared. There was no stopping the spread of that light; light that showed us everything so clearly, every hair on the camel, every laugh line on people's faces, everything was brought sharply into focus and we could see the day stretching out before us.

Unlike that slow steady sunrise, Epiphany ends the season of Christmas in a burst of light. We know that because of the birth of Jesus Christ, God will not leave us alone, stranded, lost in darkness and misery. Epiphany is the time of year when we say "I get it!" God's message of love and light to the world is finally understood as being universal, something for everyone. God's light blazes out in the darkness drawing people towards it; a light with the strength to transform the world. During this season of Epiphany which will last until Tuesday February 22<sup>nd</sup>, we celebrate that God's light is a gift for the whole world. The light and the spreading of the light is the mission of the church.

If we step back in time for a moment to just before the birth of Christ, the people of Israel had been exiled from their homeland for many generations. The Israel they returned to was poor and shabby, a pale shadow of its former greatness. The prophet Isaiah called them to take heart. He reminded them that God comes like light in the midst of darkness and transforms it. God, Isaiah assured them, had not abandoned them. Isaiah saw his nation possessing such light that others could not help but be drawn to it. He points them to a time when they can say to one another "arise shine for your light has come."

Here in the Territory in 2023 light is about to find new ways to break in, there are some new beginnings in parishes around the Territory, there is the excitement of an electoral Assembly in March with a new Bishop

being chosen to come and lead us. There are new clergy coming to serve here – no spoilers! We will introduce them next month.

So with all this in mind let us commit to be light in this world. Yes we live in changing times, but whatever the circumstances before us or the uncertainties about us, the aftermath of Christmas and the challenge of the New Year is that God has visited us. The glory of the Lord is risen upon us. Let us face the New Year with a renewed sense of joy and commitment. Joy that God is with us – that is after all, what Emmanuel means – with us in dark places, with us in our prayers and in our actions. That is the first and most immediate way you and I will be light in the world in the next months. In prayer and action. God has chosen to bring his Light into the world through people like you and I.

This year each one of us will try new things, do things we have never ever done before. We will meet new people, eat new food, find new depths in our love of God and our understanding of God's love for us. May we have the audacity of Isaiah to say to those around us, "Lift up your eyes. There is light in the world."

*+Jane*

### Epiphany by Malcolm Guite



It might have been just someone else's story,  
Some chosen people get a special king.  
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,  
We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.  
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,  
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;  
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,  
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.

They did not know his name but still they sought him,  
They came from elsewhere but still they found;  
In temples they found those who sold and bought him,  
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.  
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice  
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.

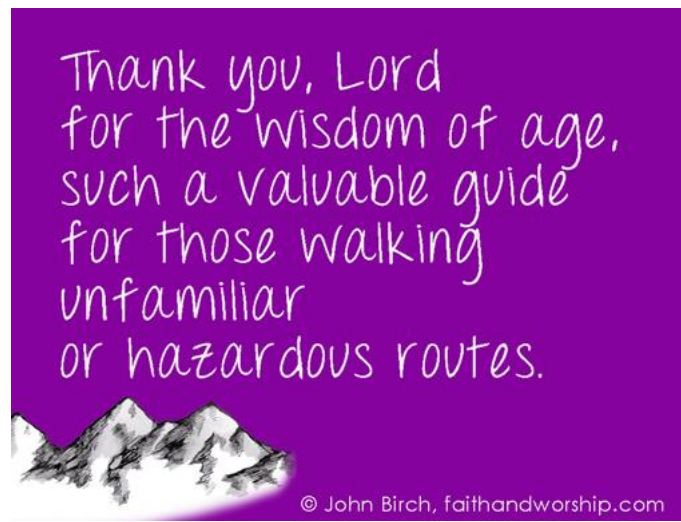
### Chalking the Door

Another way to mark Epiphany is to 'chalk the door'. For hundreds of years people have marked the space above their front door with an inscription of the new year separated by C+M+B. So this year 2023, the inscription is **20+C+M+B+23**. We invite God to be present with us throughout the year and to bless all who live there or visit us through the coming year. Why C+M+B? There are two traditional understandings Firstly, the letters represent the Latin words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which means "May Christ bless this house." Secondly, the letters can stand for the traditional names of the three Magi Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.

## Prayer Corner



- \* We pray for all communities to receive an outpouring of God's light and love this Epiphany season
- \* We pray for Rt. Rev. Chris Harper appointed National indigenous Bishop
- \* We pray for our parishes and congregations
- \* We pray for all Pastoral Elders: Ursula Drynock, Amy Charlie, Pauline and Ernie Michelle
- \* We pray for the calling of a new Bishop to serve the Territory of the People and all those involved in the process of election
- \* We pray for Rev. Canon Isabel as she continues to recover from illness
- \* We pray for all who are confined by illness, praying they may find peace and strength in the love and care they receive from others
- \* We pray for all those without the security, safety and comfort of a home, or economic stability for the 1 in 5 children in Canada living in poverty
- \* We pray for those with anxiety and stress concerning personal economic situations



### Territory News:

- ☞ **Donations:** The Territory website has a "Donate Now" button linked through CanadaHelps.org –we have been receiving donations to the Lytton Fire Fund, the Nicola Valley Flood Fund and to our general revenue for which we are truly grateful. The button is at the lower right side of the [Home Page](#). When donating, please complete the section relating to where the funds are to be directed.

### Other News:

#### **2023 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Resources**

#### **"Do good; seek justice." (Isaiah 1: 12-17)**

Resources for the 2023 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, traditionally held every year between January 18 (the Feast of the Confession of Saint Peter) and January 25 (the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul), can be accessed [here](#). The resources have been prepared by the ecumenical Writing and Animation Team (WPCU ) of volunteers from member churches of **The Canadian Council of Churches** working in partnership with the **Canadian Centre for Ecumenism**, the **Prairie Centre for Ecumenism**, and the **Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada**.

- ☞ **Anglican Foundation** –Territory parishes are encouraged to keep their membership up to date, as we have always received grant funding when requested, click [here](#) for a list of grants received. More information on the Anglican Foundation can be found on their website [here](#)

- 82 **Huron's Licentiate in Theology Program** enables **tuition-free** theological education (via Zoom) to students in the most remote dioceses/territories of the Anglican Church of Canada. Our Licentiate Program equips leaders in the Church to serve in various lay and ordained ministries by providing them with theological education to help them respond to their vocational calling. Visit us at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/.../theology/life-long-learning/>

**Upcoming courses are:**

- **Living Our Faith**: An Introduction to Christian Ethics with Dr. Grayhame Bowcott  
Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Thursday, January 12, 2023 (and ending January 31)  
Time: 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. CT, hosted via Zoom
- **Voices from the Wilderness**: A Historical and Theological Dialogue about Black Faith and Culture in North America with Rev. Steve Greene, Irene Moore Davis and Guests Presenters  
Dates: Tuesdays beginning February 7 through to March 4, 2023  
Time: 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Eastern Time (7 – 9 p.m. CT, hosted via Zoom)
- **In the Beginning**: Classic Christian and Jewish Pathways to Understanding the Book of Genesis with Dr. Murray Watson  
Dates: Thursdays beginning February 2 through to March 23, 2023  
Time: 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. CT, hosted via Zoom

The following courses are hosted (11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Central Time, on Saturdays - one full day per course). They are designed especially for those training to be Parish Wardens or Administrators, although LTh student can take the courses and upgrade them for full LTh credit (with additional readings and assignments).

- **Parish Administration 101** with Archdeacon Tanya Phibbs  
Date: Saturday, March 18, 2023  
Time: 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. CT, hosted via Zoom
- **Congregational Growth and Evangelism** with Dr. Grayhame Bowcott  
Date: Saturday, April 15, 2023  
Time: 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. CT, hosted via Zoom
- **Spiritual Leadership** with Dr. Dawn Davis  
Date: Saturday, May 20, 2023  
Time: 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. CT, hosted via Zoom

For Registration and Payment:

**Students of the Anglican Council of the North Dioceses/Territories**

With thanks for our partnership with the Anglican Foundation of Canada, the Council of the North and the Diocese of Brandon, all students from Council of the North Dioceses/Territories have their tuition fees (both for credit and audit) waived. Council of the North Students can register for upcoming courses by contacting: The Rev. Cheryl Kukurudz [admin@brandon.anglican.ca](mailto:admin@brandon.anglican.ca)

- 82 **Sorrento Centre Summer Program is online** <https://sorrentocentre.ca/summer-programs-2023/>