



GLADWIN HEIGHTS UNITED CHURCH  
3474 Gladwin Road Abbotsford BC V2S 7B4  
Phone: 604.852.3984 Email: ghuc@shaw.ca  
www.gladwinheightsunitedchurch.org



**January 7 2024**

# Welcome 2024

**Minister:** Rev. Tim Bowman

**Song Leader:** Rita Green

**Pianist:** Jacob Greenan **Guest Pianist:** Becky Evans

**Office Administrator:** Angela Darychuk

**We look forward to seeing you all this Sunday!**  
**Worship is at 9:30am and Coffee time is immediately after.**

*We are encouraging you to wear a mask as cold season is upon us!*

**Facebook Service** We broadcast the Service via Facebook Live, for those of you who are unable make it in person. Go to the Gladwin Heights Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/Gladwin-Heights-United-Church-699893126828536>) and look for the Service by date. Please note if you are unable make it at worship time you can view it anytime on Facebook.

## Happy Birthday

Len Stein	January 12
Cara Stein	January 22
Byron Jordan	January 24
Janice Lanigan	January 27

## Scriptures for January 7, 2024

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29 [VU 756]

Mark 1:4-11

## Hymns for January 7, 2024

MV 39 - "Mother Earth, Our Mother Birthing"

"Come Build a Church"

VU 627 - "Now There Is No Male or Female"

VU 883 - "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

VU 541 - "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

"Go On Your Way In Joy"

## Please Note

**Annual Reports** Attention all committee leaders: Annual reports are due **January 15 2024**.

**2024 Offering Envelopes** Our envelopes are available in the office.

**2024 United Church Calendars for Sale** We have a limited supply of 2024 calendars for sale. \$8.50 each. Please let the office know if you would like one.

**Inclement Weather** If we are experiencing inclement weather please check our website, Facebook page or contact our office for updated Event and Service information.



## *Minister's Message*

*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.'"*

- Matthew 2:1-6

Siblings in Christ,

There is a lot of meaning packed into these few verses. Herod and the Jerusalem elite do not know that the Word of God in the Old Testament is about to be fulfilled anew in the birth of Jesus; the insights of learned foreigners must show them how to interpret the Scriptures in their time and place. Likewise, these magi can read the signs of the stars, but they need the assistance of Jewish scribes and Jewish scriptures to interpret their specifics. Finally, no human knowledge is sufficient on its own; divine revelation in the form of the star is necessary.

Part of our liturgy is the affirmation of faith: a statement of our faith in response to the revealed Word of God which is read and interpreted in worship. Typically our affirmation is in the form of a Creed: a historic statement from a specific time and place in the history of the Church. Some of these are older and make claims that no longer hold meaning for some of us. Other statements are very new.

I know that some of you have been uncomfortable with the older statements especially, and I thank you for your patience. My hope is that, just as the truth about Jesus is revealed by many sources in Matthew, each of us will discover our own truth about Jesus in conversation with truths from many different sources. I hope that the experience of hearing and saying words that you may not agree with will help you to reflect on why you disagree, and to shape your own statement of faith. I hope, also, to encourage reflection on what it means to make a collective statement, and how differences are negotiated.

In the new year, perhaps during Lent, I hope we can have some conversations about what the process has been like, and what practices might speak to our own collective, evolving perspectives on our faith.

As always, thank you for the opportunity to minister and journey alongside you.

Yours in Christ,

Tim

### **Regional Prayer Cycle for January 2024**

<https://www.prayercycles.ca/> Each Prayer Cycle invites Prayer each week for a Community of Faith in the Region. You are encouraged to name the community in your worship, to email a message indicating your prayer support, to pray for church personnel, and to include an ecumenical / interfaith focus.

Jan 7 [St. Andrew's North Vancouver](#)

Jan 14 [St. Andrew's United/St. Mary's](#)

Jan 21 [Oasis](#)

Jan 28 [Haisla](#)

## *Upcoming Happenings*

**UCW Meeting** January 10 at 2pm

**Board Meeting** January 11 at 1:15

### **Office Hours for the week of January 8-11**

Our office hours are as follows for this week:

January 8 Remote office hours 8-3.

January 10 (Wednesday) St Andrew's office 9 am to 12.

January 10 (Wednesday) Gladwin Heights office 12:30 to 2:30.

January 11th Gladwin office is closed.

## *Lectionary January 2024*

### **Epiphany January 6**

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

### **Second after Epiphany January 14**

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

### **Fourth after Epiphany January 28**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalms 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

### **Baptism of Jesus, First after Epiphany January 7**

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalms 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

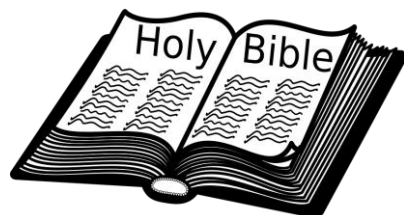
### **Third after Epiphany January 21**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalms 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20



## *Cluster Events*

### **Epiphany Service**

**January 6, 2023 at 6:30pm St Andrew's invites you to an** Interactive event, "**Where is the Light**", which includes scripture, poetry, music, art, conversation, and a potluck meal. We are being joined by guest musicians, Tony Ivan O'Hara (guitar) and Miriam Kehler (Celtic harp), and a pop-up choir. Deborah Handley, St. Andrew's Music Director, is hoping that singers (and their friends) from across the cluster will join in the opportunity to sing together. The music will be a combination of familiar carols, new words, and some surprises.

## *Events of interest*

**Housing event** A civic event to discuss solutions for homelessness will be held **January 17th** from 9 to 11 AM at the Sports Legacy Centre in Abbotsford.

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024**

Theme: "You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself."

Dear Friends in Christ, I am pleased to announce that St. Ann's will be hosting an ecumenical service on Tuesday, January 23rd, 2024 at Noon. The service will be followed by a hot lunch. All are invited. We will be preparing a poster & I will see that copies are distributed at your churches well in advance. We will be happy to have guest readers, choir members etc. The website for information for the Week of Prayer 2024 is: [www.weekofprayer.ca](http://www.weekofprayer.ca) . Located at 33333 Mayfair Avenue, Abbotsford.

## Gladwin Height United Church

### Board Members

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

### Trustees

Jenny Matthews  
Laura Bailey  
Charles Bailey  
Ellen Alstad  
Tim Bowman

### Mid Fraser Cluster Rep

Julia Rohan

### Mid Fraser Affirming Committee

Patricia Lockhart

### Members of Joint Committees with St. Andrews

#### Joint Board

Gayle LaPointe  
Arlene Kropp  
Gladys Banks

#### Joint M & P

Lois Chatham  
Kate Jordan  
Samantha Assels

#### Joint Worship

Arlene Kropp  
Rita Green  
Tim Bowman

*Coming soon*

*Please let us know if you have contributions to include in our announcements.*

## GLADWIN HEIGHTS IS A SCENT FREE ZONE

Please do not wear scented product in our building

### Church office Hours:

St. Andrews' office is open 9:00am – **3:00** pm, Wednesday  
Gladwin Heights' office is open 9:00am – **3:00** pm, Thursday  
Remote office hours for both Gladwin Heights and St Andrew's are Monday and Tuesday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

### Reverend Tim's office hours:

Until January, Tim is working remotely on Mondays and on Thursday afternoons. He is in the Gladwin Heights office from 10 AM to 4 PM Tuesdays, and the Saint Andrew's office from 10 to 4 on Wednesdays. Some flexibility is possible; please call if you would like to schedule an appointment. To contact Tim, call 778-791-3545 or email [bowmantimothy@gmail.com](mailto:bowmantimothy@gmail.com)