

4 January 2026
Epiphany Sunday

THIS WEEK AT BRECHIN

Minister: Rev. Katherine Brittain

Music Director and Choir Leader: Tim Weger

Readers: Susan Ward

Greeters: Chris Carolan & Bonnie Haapala

Power Point: Angela Donaldson

Announcements Preparation: Eileen Carolan

Audio Visual: Matt Haapala

Coffee Servers: Mark & Allison Jarvis

Centering and Land Acknowledgement and Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

One: Calling all seekers, all dreamers, all believers...

Calling all glass-half-full optimists and lighthouse keepers...

Calling all star-chasers and bedtime prayer speakers...

Bring your questions, your hope, your faith and your fear into this space.

All: **God is here. Let us worship God**

Affirming statement:

All: **As an Affirming Ministry we boldly declare**
that we fully welcome and include the full participation
of all people in the life and work of Ministry as we journey together,
regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, marital status,
mental or physical ability, beliefs, cultural backgrounds, or economic circumstance.
We are dedicated to being good stewards of God's world, working and living towards
justice and wholeness for all God's people.

Hymn: VU 87 "I Am the Light of the World"

(Words & Music: Jim Strathdee 1967

Words & music © 1969 Desert Flower Music

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Refrain: **'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.

1 When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds
have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun:

R

2	To find the lost and lonely one, to heal the broken soul with love, to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food, to feel the earth below, the sky above!	R
3	To free the prisoner from all chains, to make the powerful care, to rebuild the nations with strength of good will, to see God's children everywhere!	R
4	To bring hope to every task you do, to dance at a baby's new birth, to make music in an old person's heart, and sing to the colours of the earth!	R

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12

Response:

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn:

“We Three Kings”

(Words: Joseph Mohr 1818; English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863, et al.
Music: Franz Xavier Gruber 1818, Public Domain)

1. We three Kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts, we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Refrain: O 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

3. Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a Deity nigh,
prayer and praising, all men raising
worship Him. God most high.

4. **Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume,
breaths a life of gathering gloom,
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone gold tomb.** R

5. **Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice,
Alleluia; Alleluia;
Earth to heav'n replies.** R

Sermon: Searching and Stars

Rev Katherine Brittain

Hymn:

VU 96 "Will You Come and See the Light"

(Words: Brian Wren 1989; Music: Traditional Scottish melody, arr. Valerie Ruddle 1993

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- 1 **Will you come and see the light from the stable door?
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.
It will be your guiding star,
it will show you who you are;
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?**

- 2 **Will you step into the light that can free the slave?
It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.
By the pyramids of greed
there's a longing to be freed;
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?**

- 3 **Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?
Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.
When the truth is cut and bruised,
and the innocent abused,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?**

- 4 **Will you join the hope, alight in the young girl's eyes,
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?
When the lowest and the least
are the foremost at the feast,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?**

- 5 **Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?
In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,
and the darkness all about
is too dim to put it out:
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?**

Invitation to Offering

Offering Hymn:

VU 55 “In the Bleak Midwinter” (verse 4)

*(Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti ca. 1872
Music: Gustav Theodor Holst 1906, Public Domain)*

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—give him my heart.**

Offering Prayer

Celebrating the Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

One: Friends, we know what it feels like to look for God...

...This is God's table, this is God's meal.

You are beloved, so come.

Peace be with you

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift up our hearts to God.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: God of today, tomorrow, and yesterday,

As we begin this new year, we once again find ourselves looking for you.

We long for the clarity of a star in the sky,

or a voice in the clouds declaring your presence in our lives.

So today we ask that you would make yourself known to us.

Do what only you can do. Reach into our spirits

to give us a boost of confidence that love is real and we are not alone.

Remind us that we are beloved in your eyes.

All: We know we're asking a lot for a group that brings very little.

We don't have gold or Frankincense or Myrrh.

We haven't thrown off our shoes to honor your holy ground.

We haven't been baptized in the Jordan river.

We haven't spent the last several days traveling here by camel.

We're no Magi, Moses, or Messiah, but we are yours.

One: Instead, we bring ourselves to this Table—to your Table—

in hopes of catching a glimpse of you.

Speak to us in this bread. Speak to us in the cup.

Speak to us through these star words.

Speak to us as you spoke through the clouds at Jesus' baptism,
so that these star words may be a tool that helps us look
for you in the coming year.

All: Holy God, you call us beloved. You are with us in our joy.

You are with us in our sorrow.

Surely, even as we pray, you are with us here as well.

**One: So with grateful hearts, we unite our voices
with the faithful throughout the ages,
and with angels and archangels, singing**

All: "Holy Lord"

(Lyrics & Music: Steve Bell, Arrangement: Ilchyshyn/Schwartz

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E-mail: signpost@signpostmusic.com / Website: www.signpostmusic.com)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth of your glory are full.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth of your glory are full.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest**

Remembering the Story and Blessing

Sharing the Gifts of God and Choosing our Star Word

Prayer After Communion

**One: God of open horizons and open roads, like the Magi so many years ago,
we are here, seeking you.**

**All: Step by step, we have wandered into this space
with the hope of feeling you in our midst.**

Step by step, you have seen us, claimed us, and called us beloved.

One: Today we have drawn star words.

For some, these words are full of meaning, challenge, and invitation already.

For others, these words are a blank canvas—inviting you into our lives.

So as a new year dawns, we pray that just as you have spoken to the generations before us,
you would speak to us again.

**All: Allow us to use these star words as a tool
that might help us hear you more clearly.**

May they guide us, as the star guided the Magi.

**And in a year, may we find ourselves here,
together again, with mouths full of praise
for the ways in which you have been present with us.**

Together we pray, with joy in our hearts.

Amen.

Announcements: Life and Work of the Church

Hymn:

"This Little Light of Mine"

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**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (x 3)
Every day, I'm gonna let my little light shine!**

**All down the road, I'm gonna let it shine (x 3)
Every day, I'm gonna let my little light shine!**

**Even in my heart, I'm gonna let it shine (x 3)
Every day, I'm gonna let my little light shine!**

**Ev'ry where I go, I'm gonna let it shine (x 3)
Every day, I'm gonna let my little light shine!**

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (x 3)
Every day, I'm gonna let my little light shine!**

Commissioning and Benediction