

**EAST PLAINS UNITED CHURCH**  
**Fourth Sunday After Epiphany**  
**February 1, 2026**

**Gathering In Community**

**Prelude**

**Introit**

**Happy Birthday**

**Peace Greeting: Jesus calls us to follow him, sharing with one another the Good News that God has drawn near to us.**

The Peace of Christ be with you

**And also with you**

**Opening Hymn**    O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word    VU: 84

**Territorial Acknowledgement**

Garth Smith

At this time, let us acknowledge that we are worshipping on the ancestral land of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat, and Mississaugas of the Credit. We live, work, play and pray on these Treaty lands. May we live in harmony and respect with all those who share the earth with us. May we be thankful to God as we move into a peaceful and healthy future together.

**Announcements**

Reverend Jan

Pat Vollick

Valentine's Lunch & Bake Sale

**Words of Welcome**

**Theme Introduction**

## **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

## **Lighting of the Affirm Candle**

Garth Smith

## **Call to Worship**

As he walked by a lake, Jesus called fishers to follow him.  
And immediately, they left their work and went with him.

**As Jesus journeys through our lives, he asks us to follow him.  
In this moment, we have the chance to leave the past  
behind, and journey with Christ into God's future.**

What do you seek?

**Life!**

Where do you seek it?

**Everywhere!**

Have you found it?

**Sometimes. In some places.**

Then, people of God, seek life in this place,  
seek life in this time, and know that no matter who you are--  
you are welcome here.

**We come to worship our God together.**

## **Opening Prayer**

**Your love calls us to live in new ways, Gracious God:  
working for justice;**

**living kindness;**

**walking with you each day.**

**Please help us, O God!**

**Help us to be your blessing to the world.**

**Help us to notice your blessings in the world.**

**You hear us, God, when we cry out to you.**

**May we hear you, when you call out to us,  
today and every day.**

**Amen**

## **Seeking to Grow Spiritually**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Garth Smith

God of light and life,  
open our eyes to see,  
our ears to hear  
and our hearts to receive  
your message for us in the words of scripture,  
so that we may see you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly day by day.

Amen

### **Hebrew Testament Reading**

#### **Isaiah 9: 1-4**

<sup>1</sup>But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> **[b]**The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied exultation; **[c]**

you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden

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and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

### **Gospel Reading**

#### **Matthew 4: 12-23**

Now when Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup> “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,

on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—

<sup>16</sup> the people who sat in darkness

have seen a great light,

and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>18</sup> As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.”

<sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.

<sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus<sup>[c]</sup> went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news<sup>[d]</sup> of the

### **New Revised Standard Version**

kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

**May God bless this reading of the Holy Word to our insight and understanding. Herein is Wisdom.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen**

**Gift of Music** Sam Vacca and the East Plains Choir

**Message** "Follow Me" Reverend Jan

**Hymn** Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore VU: 563

### **Responding In Care**

**Invitation to the Offering** Reverend Jan

**Doxology** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow VU: 541

### **Offering Prayer**

**Loving God, we thank you for this day---**  
**a day blessed with light and joy,**  
**a day blessed with hope and abundance.**

**May these gifts bring light to those lost in darkness.**

**May these gifts chase away the shadows**  
**for those who have lost hope.**

**Bless our lives to your service,**  
**in the name of the true Light.**

**Amen**

### **Pastoral Prayers**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**  
**hallowed be thy name.**  
**Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done,**

on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from  
evil;  
for thine is the Kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory,  
forever, and ever.

Amen

## Reaching Out In Love

**Closing Hymn**      Great Is Thy Faithfulness      VU: 288

## Commissioning

## Extinguishing the Christ Candle

## Benediction

## Three-fold Amen

## Postlude

**Worship resources:** Gathering Magazine  
Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2025-2026 Year A (page 20, 42-47);  
Abingdon Worship Annual 2026 (pages 16-20); Feasting On the  
Word: Year A, Volume 1, (pages 266-289); Texts For Preaching: A  
Lectionary Commentary Based on the NRSV – Year A (pages 109-  
117). Used with Permission.

## EAST PLAINS UNITED CHURCH AFFIRM STATEMENT

We celebrate the richness of our community when we have  
diversity in age, gender identity, racial/cultural  
backgrounds, economics, class, sexual orientation, and

family configurations fully participating in all aspects of the life and work at East Plains United Church. We commit to continuing education to promote understanding and create a safe environment for all.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us for refreshments after worship in the Gathering Place, served by the Worship and Sacraments Ministry.

**VISTA CARD orders are due Sunday Feb. 1st by noon (to Gayle.)** This is a great fundraiser for the church where you get full value of the gift card and the church gets a rebate percentage from the business. Most orders are for grocery cards and we get 3.5% rebate. Questions? Call or email Gayle Burnison: 905-630-3525 or [gburnison@gmail.com](mailto:gburnison@gmail.com).

**Out-4-Lunch Aldershot—Monday, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>** at St. Matthew's on the Plains Anglican Church. Entry off REAR parking lot. Thank you to all volunteers!



### VALENTINE BAKE SALE & HOT LUNCH

**Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> after church in Peart Hall**

Your support is needed to BAKE and/or buy treats, with proceeds going to support our Missions Projects. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place for those who wish to attend the Hot Lunch.

## Jan's Journal



During this Season of Epiphany, we continue to see how the light of God shines in the darkness and in our lives. The prophet Isaiah proclaims that those who walk in darkness have seen a great light.

On this fourth Sunday after Epiphany, we explore the question: “Who is Jesus?” as he continues to call his disciples.

Throughout these scripture passages we hear a call to follow God, to seek Christ, and to look for the light.

If this sounds familiar, it is because I have chosen to use the service I had prepared for last Sunday, this week. I believe the message is important. I want you to hear it, and have the opportunity to consider how you might respond!!

Because of the snowstorm last Sunday, we missed hearing Maté Szigeti play the flute. Sam promises that he will reschedule in the near future!

The Community Connections Team has officially been renamed. A motion to change the name to “Community Connections Ad Hoc Team,” was approved by the Official Board during the Official Board meeting last Tuesday. It is the same people, doing the same work, for the same purpose. The only change is in the name.

Thank you to members of the Christian Education Team and members of the Support Group, who assisted with Spiritual Saturday.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** ended last Sunday, but the Taizé service at Port Nelson United Church had to be postponed because of the weather. The service will take place this Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 p.m. at Port Nelson. The Support Group will be hosting a **Valentine's Lunch and Bake Sale** following worship on **February 8, 2026**. Proceeds

from this annual event support a student, Joseph, in Tekera, Uganda, to continue his education. Please sign up to attend following worship this Sunday, to help in the planning of sufficient food.

The Moderator of the United Church of Canada, The Right Reverend Dr. Kimberly Heath, has written letters of solidarity to Bishop Munk of the Lutheran Church of Greenland, and Bishop Birch of the National Council of Churches in Denmark.

She has also written a second letter to Reverend Dr. Karen Thompson, General Minister and President, The United Church of Christ, USA and to Reverend Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), in the USA and Canada.

These denominations are full communion partners of the United Church of Canada. To read these letters, please visit the United Church of Canada website at [united-church.ca](http://united-church.ca). When you open the Home Page, scroll down to the bottom. On the right you will see "Latest News." You will see an article about Reverend Dr Heath's letters there.

Would you be interested in learning more about Dementia? Horseshoe Falls Regional Council is offering a workshop on Dementia on **Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>** between 7-8:30 p.m. The presenter is Janet Kennedy. It is a Zoom presentation. If you are interested, you need to register to receive the Zoom link. You can do that on the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council website: [hfrcucc.ca](http://hfrcucc.ca)

You can reach me at: [revjanmcc@gmail.com](mailto:revjanmcc@gmail.com) or on my cell phone: 905-630-8202.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jan