



***Celebrating  
176 Years***



**January 9, 2022**

Melville United Church

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**Melville United Church**  
**January 9, 2022**  
**Observing Epiphany**

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Presiding today - Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

**Welcome**

I greet you in the name of the infant Christ, the babe in the manger, our Saviour.

*We gather in community today – January 9, 2022 virtually and in person. We will continue to offer both in-person and on-line services with printed copies being distributed to those without internet access who are unable to attend in person. For those who are joining us online or by reading, we invite you to have a candle or tea light available.*

*As we gather this day, we mark the Epiphany, the manifestation, the appearance, of Christ in the world. It is symbolized by the gift of light, star light, candlelight, the light in the night, the illumination of understanding.*

**Announcements**

- **2021-2022 Gifts with Vision** catalogues are out. These gifts are perfect for those difficult to buy for people. There's no going out, no standing in line, no wrapping. And you will be helping those in need near and far. Items address healing and reconciliation, leadership, counter racism, wellness and safe spaces, education, poverty and hunger, the future, Mission & Service. Gifts range from \$5 to \$140. Gifts include food for the north, help build a well, purchasing Covid vaccines for the Global South and East, and much more. You can find the full catalogue at [www.giftswithvision.ca](http://www.giftswithvision.ca).
- We continue to **collect items for the food bank**. A list of the most needed items was sent out, and if you need a printed copy, just let someone on the Social Justice team or Rev. Lynda know, and we will get it to you. In addition to non-perishable food items, the food bank is also looking for personal and feminine hygiene products as well as fresh vegetables, apples and oranges.

**Land Acknowledgement** *Peter Chynoweth, **Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2021**, p.25. Used with permission.*

Land is sacred and holy.

Our relationship to the land is sacred and holy.

Our relationship with each other on this land is sacred and holy.

It calls for respect and appreciation.

And so, we offer our appreciation, our thanksgiving, and our respect  
that we can gather in this place and on this land

as a result of the welcome that comes through the Haldimand Treaty and the Simcoe Patent -  
Treaty No. 4,

which allow for peaceful and respectful living on this land.

Thanks to the

Petun,  
Haudenosaunee,  
Anishinabewaki,  
Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation,  
Odawa and  
Mississauga people

who have lived on and walked these lands for thousands of years.

We acknowledge that we are connected with the people who have lived here for all these years because of the treaties.

Because we are treaty people, we must honour the responsibilities that come with it.

May we be people who remember this with gratitude and respect.

### **Sharing the Light:**

*(If you are watching this on-line or reading it from a page, I invite you to take a moment to light a candle, centre yourself and prepare to enter into a time of worship and prayer. As you light your candle repeat the following words)*

There once was someone who said such wonderful things and did such amazing things

teaching

healing

helping

loving

inviting everyone to join in

that people wondered who he was.

Finally, they just couldn't help it. They had to ask him who he was.

When they asked him who he was, he said, "I am the light of the world."

So, we light this candle to remember and remind ourselves that the Light of the World, and the love, healing and welcome offered are with us here in this time.

**Call to Worship:** *Catherine Tovell, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022, p.40. Used with permission.*

The wise men saw the star in the east and followed it, trusting they would find God.

**We gather here today, with the same trust that we too will find God.**

Moving past fear and doubt, they followed the star until it stopped right over the place where the Christ child was.

**We come hoping to move past our fear and push beyond our doubts so that we, too, might find the Christ among us.**

Upon finding him, they offered their finest gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**We bring our best gifts, too,**

**knowing that in God's presence they will be transformed and so will we.**

Let us worship God.

**Hymn: A Light Is Gleaming VU 82**

*Refrain*

A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love  
is burning bright, living in the light.

1 When light comes pouring into the darkest place,  
it hurts our eyes to see the glow.  
Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears,  
our memories and tears.  
A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love  
is burning bright, living in the light.

2 When night is round us and every shadow grows,  
a star is there to light our way.  
It tells a story of Jesus who came near to say:  
'God's light will ever stay.'  
A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love  
is burning bright, living in the light.

3 And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk.  
He showed us things we hadn't seen.  
Now we, like Jesus, can help creation shine,  
and this will be a sign:  
A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love  
is burning bright, living in the light.

4 So let us live in the brightness God has giv'n,  
and let us rise to see the dawn.  
We trust that God is here asparkle and ablaze,  
- warming all our days.  
A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love  
is burning bright, living in the light.

**Opening Prayer:** *Bill Steadman, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022, p.41. Used with permission.*

Arise, shine, and let the light of God be within you:

**Be within us, O God, and share with us your light on our path.**

Be a beacon of light and hope in a world that is immersed in shadows and despair.

**Be among us, O God, and shine your light on our path.**

Let the light of the star in the east remind us

that we can find God's direction for our lives if we only look.

**Be with us, O God, to show your light on our path as we worship today. Amen.**

### **Ministry of Music:**

**Call to Reconciliation** *Norah Lavery, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022, p.41. Used with permission.*

When the magi needed a new path, God sent them a dream.

When you need a new path, God will send you dreams and inspiration, too.

This is God's promise.

Will you open your heart and mind to receive it?

In the silence of our hearts, let us share with God our longings and our challenges, and the places in our lives where we need new paths:

**Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation** *Norah Lavery, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022, p.41. Used with permission.*

*(a time of silent prayer)*

O Generous God, as we look back on the year just passed,  
we know that we missed paths you were opening to us,

**perhaps because we were overwhelmed or afraid;**

**perhaps because we did not have enough hope, peace, joy, and love.**

May the courage and wisdom of the magi be ours in this new year. Amen.

**Words of Assurance** *Norah Lavery, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022, p.41. Used with permission.*

The magi followed a star on a long, difficult journey. They had to push aside their fear and doubt.

They were cold and weary.

Their story reminds us that

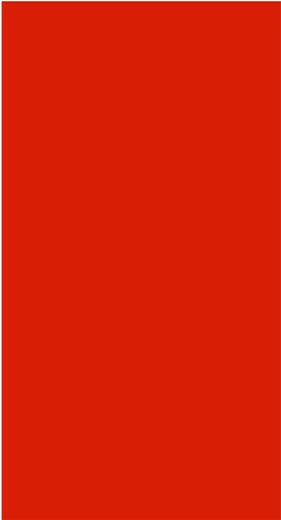
**we too can make the long, difficult journey even with our fear, doubt, and weariness,**

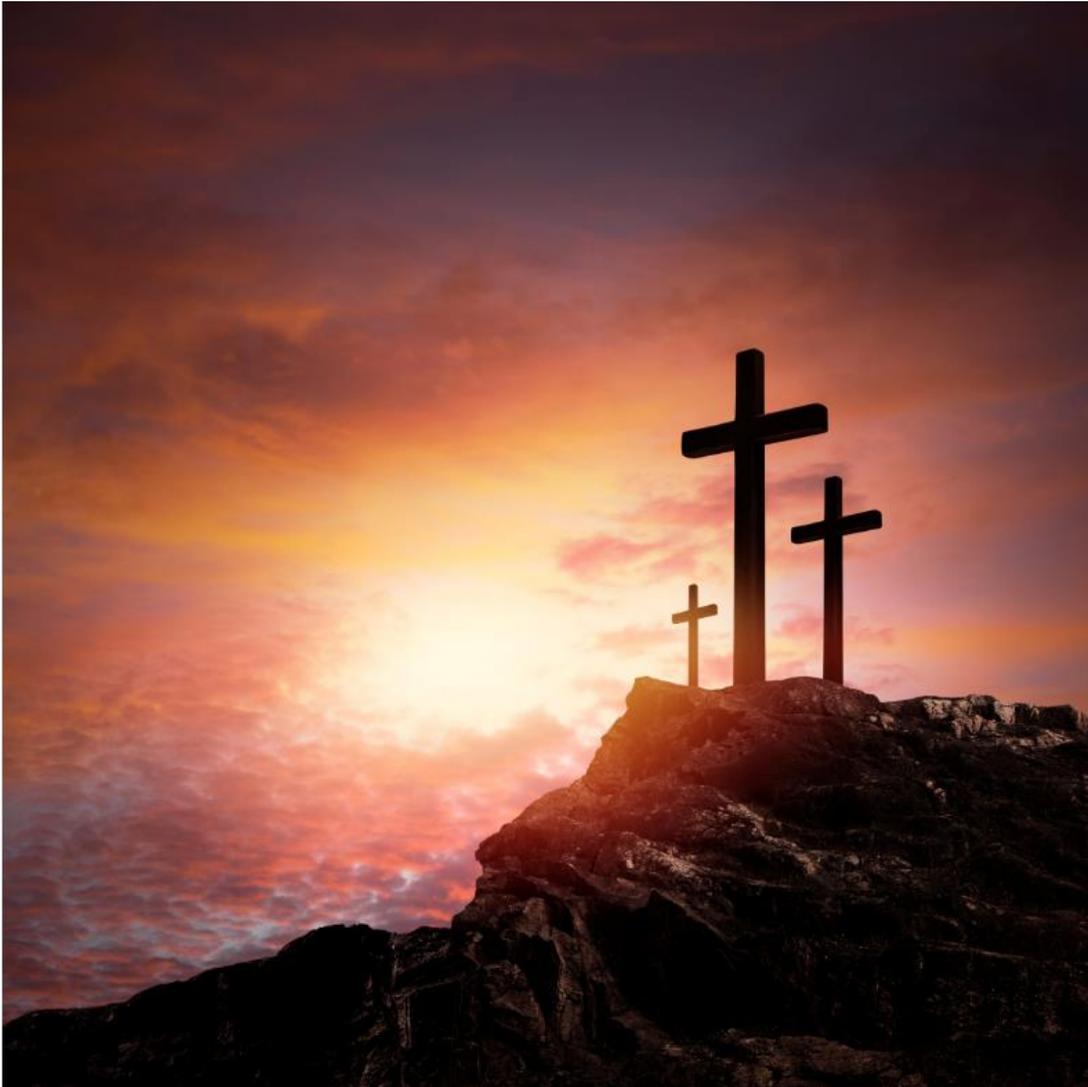
**because God is travelling along with us.**

**We too can choose new paths and find the hope, peace, joy, and love we need in God.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

“...In the Midst”





One way to ***explain the symbol of light*** is to present several symbols, e.g. a national flag, a symbol for a sports team, and a cross. As you present each symbol ask what it stands for and what it makes them think about. Then tell them that the symbol for God is light. Since we can't make a picture of light, we use things that make light like a star, sun, candle, lamp. Display a treetop star ornament that goes at the top of the Christmas tree and note its meaning. Recall Christmas candle lighting services and note that we lit those candles to remind ourselves that God the light is with us. Then, move to the discussion below of the candles in the worship center. Or, name and explore other light symbols pondering how each reminds us of God. Encourage the children (and other worshipers) to watch for light symbols scattered through the scriptures we read, the songs we sing and the prayers we pray today.

We light two candles on the communion table. One understanding of those two candles is that one candle was "God is the light of the world" (John 8:12) and the other "we are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:13)

May we find God in the midst of all our days.

**Hymn: The First Nowell**

**VU 91**

- 1 The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.
  
- 2 They looked up and saw a star,  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.
  
- 3 And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.
  
- 4 This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.
  
- 5 Then entered in those wise men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.
  
- 6 Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

**Scripture:**

**Prayer** *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1.** Copyright 2012.*

Spirit of God,  
in the proclamation of your Word,  
reveal to us the hidden mystery of your love in Christ,  
and strengthen our faith  
that we may approach you with boldness. **Amen.**

**Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSV)**

*Arise, shine; for your light has come*

*The Ingathering of the Dispersed*

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.  
Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.  
Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

**Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)**

*The visit of the magi*

*The Visit of the Wise Men*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea,  
wise ones 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.” ’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise ones

and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child;  
and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'

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.

May God bless to our understanding these readings from scripture. Amen.

**Prayer** *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1.** Copyright 2012.*

God, you placed a star in the sky

to draw wise folk to the place of Christ's nativity.

There you revealed the mystery

of your eternal purpose for all humanity:

God made flesh, born of Mary,

opening to all the world the promise you made

to Abraham and Sarah.

Empower your church to be as the light of the star,

that we may draw the world

to the glory of Christ, our Lord, through whom we pray. **Amen.**

May the words I speak and the reflection that we all share

find a response that is worthy of you,

most Just, most Loving, and most Compassionate God. Amen.

**David Sparks, Summerland, B.C.**

## Reflection: The Power of Light



When I was a kid, one of the traditions we had, year after year, was to set up the nativity scene. The first to be placed in residence at the stable were the animals, the oxen and the donkey. And of course, the star went up overhead. And then, with great anticipation we would count down the days until Mary and Joseph arrived at the stable, followed shortly thereafter by the baby Jesus, the angels, and the shepherds and sheep.

But my dad was always clear that the three wise ones had to slowly make their way around the living room, so as to arrive, by the miracle of hindsight, at the stable on Epiphany, January 6<sup>th</sup>. One of my favourite parts was to look at these mysterious travelers and admire the containers they brought. I was way more interested in the containers than what they held. They were ornate shapes, made of what looked like precious metal, filigree and adorned with gems and etching, unlike any present under **our** Christmas tree.

I never questioned that the gifts were so odd, to give to a baby, whose parents likely did not have much of what they might need for a little one, so far from home. In the last few years, I've seen various memes that point out that the wise ones might have been a lot wiser had they brought food, diapers, onesies and sleepers.

But there was a reason for their gifts, the same reason that these members of royalty, or scholars or wealthy citizens of a foreign land, searching for meaning, followed the light of a star to the place where Jesus lay. So, what was so important about this vulnerable baby, to bring people weeks of travel from home, to bring gold, frankincense, and myrrh? There are various theories, but one of the most common is that the gold, a valuable, was given because the infant Jesus was a king; the frankincense, an incense made from the resin of a family of trees of which one is the olibanum-tree, was given because the infant Jesus was a deity, a god; and myrrh, a resin from the *Commiphora* tree, was given because the infant Jesus would suffer and die as a human—Mark tells us that myrrh was mixed with wine and given to Jesus at his crucifixion (Mark 15:23), and John recounts that Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea bought a 100-pound mixture of myrrh and aloes to wrap Jesus' body for his burial (John 19:39).

So, what does it say that these wise ones, with their agency, wealth and formal education, would follow something as vague as a star and seek purpose from a helpless babe, a mere child, born, as the hymn says, of mean estate? What does it mean that they would bow down to a peasant Jewish toddler displaced from home with his parents?

This is the light that Isaiah writes about, "Arise, shine; for your light has come...the lord will arise upon you and his glory will appear over you..." This is the light of the star, the light of Epiphany. It is the hope, it is the welcome, of all who seek God. It doesn't matter your circumstances. It doesn't matter your views. You need not even come with a pure heart. Consider Paul, who was brought to light and true life, even as he sought to bring death to the followers of Jesus. This is God's way.

This child of God, the babe Jesus, came into the world, moved into the neighbourhood, became manifest, plainly revealed, obvious, so that we would know God—not some distant clockmaker, vengeful judge, or angry deity—but a being who sets aside their capacity, their agency, to draw close, as close as a child who is totally dependent on others for safety and health and life.

What a gift! God moves and has being, not in the realms of the power-brokers or rainmakers, but in the dust and toil, hunger and thirst of the very last and least. We need no qualifications to be welcomed by God. We need only the desire ... and the humility to recognize our need.

And when we are welcomed by God, we are given an identity, as the body of Christ, and we are given a task, to show this generous, loving, kind God, manifestly, clearly, demonstrably, to those who still suffer. They may be:

- those whose lives have been turned upside down by Covid, who have lost their job for the third or fourth time because of this pandemic
- those who have been physically or mentally harmed by the actions of others
- those who despair of ever experiencing peace and safety, in the violent neighbourhoods in which they live, or the war-torn countries from which they flee
- those who just fall through the cracks of the supports and programs designed to give a hand up
- those who are hunted for their treasures, like the elephants of Africa and India whose population has been decimated even in these last few years by ivory poachers
- this very planet, whose clock we are told is ticking down to the point of irreparable harm

And this God makes it clear, in Jesus' vulnerability, that relationship is at the heart of God's way. All powerful? All knowing? Yes, but single-handed action is not how God operates. Jesus, this demonstration of God's identity and purpose, needs to be identified as such by foreigners, strangers, outsiders, and will need his parents, who need to be told by an angel, to whisk him away from the violence and murder that Herod wreaks on the children of Bethlehem.

Just as the light of a star called the wise ones, we are called to be in relationship with people of all stripes, to work side by side to care for all of God's world: human, creature, Creation.

It might seem overwhelming, and it is, there is a lot. But the light and the hope Epiphany brings, offer us the assurance that God is present in all we strive to do. With God, we have the guide, the vision, the reassurance to do our part. As Jana Stanfield says, "I cannot do all the good that the world needs, but the world needs all the good that I can do."

Let us draw strength from the light, the symbol of God, to go and see to the needs of the world.

For in life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us, we are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Amen.

## Hymn: Will You Come and See the Light VU96

- 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?

## Joys and Concerns

### Preparation for Prayer

Let us practice the art of Praying with our Eyes Wide Open, that in seeing the world and those within it we are called to tend we may be *opening the eyes of our hearts to all in need around us* (Lamont Koerner '81 MDiv God Pause for Thursday, September 16, 2021 from Luther Seminary):

**Prayers of the People** Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word®**  
**Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1.** Copyright 2012.

Call: God of \_\_\_\_\_, Glorious Light,

Response: **hear our prayer.**

Loving God,  
Through Christ you call us all  
into your covenant with Abraham and Sarah.  
For your church throughout the world,  
that it may be a faithful witness,  
declaring your wisdom to all authorities:  
God of Wisdom, Glorious Light, **hear our prayer.**

The wise men came to King Herod in trust,  
but he betrayed their trust and perpetrated unspeakable evil.  
For the leaders of the government,  
that they reject the way of Herod  
and exercise their authority in truth, justice, and mercy:  
God of Mercy, Glorious Light, **hear our prayer.**

Joseph, Mary, and Jesus fled before the wrath of Herod  
and became refugees in Egypt.  
For all those who suffer from political oppression,  
injustice, or war, and especially for refugees:  
God of Justice, Glorious Light, **hear our prayer.**

Joseph dreamed a future for his son,  
and obeyed your will for his family.  
For all families that they may live in peace  
according to your will,  
God of Peace, Glorious Light, **hear our prayer.**

The Holy Family lived with neighbors,  
and received help from strangers.  
For our neighborhoods,  
that they may be communities of human flourishing,  
offering kindness to strangers,  
God of Harmony, Glorious Light, **hear our prayer.**

For all the prayers of our hearts, offered in silence  
God of Healing, Glorious Light, **hear our prayer.**

Hear our prayers, Gracious God,  
and grant us to live as heirs of your promise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**      Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
                                 Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Offering Invitation** *David Lander, **Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022**, p.41. Used with permission.*

When we think of Epiphany gifts, we tend to think of the gifts of the magi, and we tend to romanticize those as the most appropriate, even though they are really symbols of something bigger. Indeed, it has been asked, “What was so wise about the magi giving such gifts to a poor refugee baby?”

The rest of the season of Epiphany is going to be about gifts, too, but mostly about Jesus giving of himself by daring to question the party line with the scribes and Pharisees, daring to break convention to enhance a wedding celebration, daring to think he could heal and do other miraculous things, daring to challenge authority, and daring people to love their enemies. May we give Epiphany gifts of ourselves too, just like Jesus. For we, too, do little miracles and challenge convention in the way we care for others and in the way we now give of ourselves in our offering.

### **Offering**

If you would like to do your part by making a monetary donation to Melville United Church, there are several ways to do that.

1. By leaving your offering envelope on the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary.
2. Cheque (post-dated cheques are welcome): made payable to Melville United Church-which can be mailed to the church at P.O. Box 41, Fergus ON N1M 2W7 or put in the mail slot beside the parking lot door.
3. Donate online through the Canada Helps web-site  
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/melville-united-church>
4. Call or email Lynda, to arrange Pre-Authorized Remittance payments (PAR).
5. E-transfer directly from your bank. E-mail to [secretary@melvilledunited.com](mailto:secretary@melvilledunited.com)

Thanks to all of you who continue to contribute so much to make Melville the caring community of faith that it is. May you be blessed.

**Offering Prayer** *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1**. Copyright 2012.*

Glorious God,  
you led three people of wisdom  
to seek Jesus, your Holy Child, born of Mary.  
Overjoyed in the presence of his radiant light,  
the wise ones knelt down at the infant’s crib  
and offered him precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.  
We, too, offer our gifts  
in gratitude, reverence, and thanksgiving  
for the birth of your child,  
whom you called to lead the world into fullness of life.  
Receive and bless this offering  
as a joyful sign of the boundless love and abundant life  
we are called to share in Christ. **Amen.**

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

### *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:  
'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.
- 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!  
'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.
- 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!  
'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.
- 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!  
'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.

**Commissioning** *Kate Gregory, **Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022**, p.41. Used with permission..*

Today, we journeyed from afar to see this child whom we call Lord and Saviour. By the light of that same star that lit the way of magi and shepherds, Jesus has appeared to us, in an epiphany of hope, joy, and love. In faith, we have worshipped him. Like the magi of old, may we always seek the guiding light of his presence as we live and serve day by day. Amen.

### **Change the Light/Blessing**

Watch. I am going to change the light and I invite you to change your light.

I'm not going to put it out, just change it.

See how it is only in one place?

*\*Change Light\**

Can you see it? Now it is moving everywhere, to everyone, with everyone.

Now everywhere you go today, the light will go with you.

**Blessing** *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1**. Copyright 2012.*

May the love of Christ that shines in you  
shine brightly in the world wherever you go.  
And the blessing of God,  
Divine Giver, Radiant Light, and Fountain of Life  
bless you and keep you always.

**Household Prayer: Morning** *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1**. Copyright 2012.*

Glorious God,  
each day provides opportunity  
to awaken to the radiance of your presence,  
and to welcome your blessing into my life.  
How often I forget that I am your home!  
Help me to draw more closely to you,  
that I may manifest your love more deeply in the world.  
May every bright place and darkened corner  
grow ever more luminous as I bear your light this day. Amen.

**Household Prayer: Evening** *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1**. Copyright 2012.*

Holy Jesus,  
I thank you for sharing your life with me today.  
As darkness comes and blankets the earth,  
be with all who suffer from sickness, hunger, or lack of shelter.  
Kindle in them the warmth of your presence,  
and surround them with your steadfast care.  
I am grateful for the blessings of this day.  
And in the light of your love, I rest this night. Amen