

M^cCLURE UNITED CHURCH

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United Church

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*Rev. Dr. Brian Walton, Rev. Debra Berg, Rev. Laura Fouhse
Shirley Blackburn - Music Co-ord, Elin Sletmoen - Pianist*



EPIPHANY

January 5th, 2020

PRELUDE

WELCOME & INVITATION

LIFE & WORK OF THE CHURCH: (*Announcements*)

LIGHTING OF PEACE CANDLE

OPENING PRAYER

It is in the darkness that light shines most brightly:

it is in the darkness of life that we seek your gift of Light, God.

As we move into this New Year help us to become

aware of the dark places of your world;

and of how we might bring your light to such places.

Today we begin in prayer

and we ask that you might equip us to *be a prayer*

for those in need.

Comfort us with your care and confront us

with the needs of your people.

For Love's sake, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN: “Will You Come and See the Light” (#96 VU v1, 4 & 5)**

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?

4 Will you join the hope, alight in a 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?

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

As we embark upon this New Year

**prevent the blindness that would keep us
aimlessly drifting through life.**

Forgive the times when we have known

**the direction your will and spirit would take us
but have turned away to follow lesser stars
settling for comfort instead of faithfulness.**

Once again awaken us by the light of your star

**unsettling our complacency and inviting us to be your people.
In every place and space where the powers of this world
challenge the message of love,**

inspire us to embody you in our words and actions.

May we who have chosen to follow the way of Jesus,

**always keep before us a vision of your commonwealth for all.
Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

As we recall the declaration:

“Fear not, I bring you tidings of great joy for all people!”

We are reminded that God comes in Jesus, son of Mary to show us Love.

Through the Christ we know of God’s forgiveness and of the freedom to love ourselves anew.

Thanks be to God.

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

THEME CONVERSATION

***HYMN: “I Know Your Word”** (#108 MVr) *(English & Spanish)*

I know your Word,
your Word is a lamp to my feet, O God.

I know your Word,
your Word is a lamp to my feet, O God.

I know your Word is a lamp, O God,
to light my path forever.

I know your Word is a lamp, O God,
to light my path forever.

Es tu Palabra lámpara para mis pies, Señor.

Es tu Palabra lámpara para mis pies, Señor.

Lámpara para mis pies y luz, luz para mi camino.

Lámpara para mis pies y luz, luz para mi camino.

SCRIPTURE

SPECIAL MUSIC: “In the Beginning” - *Sacred Sounds*

REFLECTION

RESPONSE

THE OFFERING

*HYMN: “Bathe Me in Your Light” (#82 MV)

Bathe me in your light, O God of All, Creator;
let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace.
Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life's wounding,
showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.
Bathe me in your love, O Source of Awe and Wonder;
help me walk the sacred path of harmony and peace.
May I be attentive to the musings of your presence,
drinking from the well of hope that brings the heart release.
Bathe me in your grace, O One of Spirit's longing;
teach me of your gentle ways that fill the soul with strength.
Guide me on the pilgrimage that leads to truth and wholeness,
fill me with your promise of a love that knows no length.

*OFFERTORY: “When Heaven's Bright with Mystery” (#93 VU v4)

When heaven's bright with mystery
and stars still lead an unknown way,
when love still lights a gentle path
where courts of power can hold no sway,
there with the Magi, let us kneel,
our gifts to share, God's world to heal.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN: “I Am the Light of the World” (#87 VU)**

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**

***SENDING FORTH AND BLESSING**

SUNG RESPONSE: “Your Will Be Done” (#151 MV)

Your will be done, be done on earth.
Your will be done, be done on earth.
Your will be done on earth.
Your will be done on earth.



McClure United Church acknowledges as we worship here today,
we are gathered in the traditional territory of the Cree, Salteaux,
and Assiniboine First Nations and Homeland of the Metis,
in the area most recently defined as Treaty 6.

And we also acknowledge that McClure United Church,
as an Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada,
is one that embraces diversity and strives to include
and be a safe place for all people.