

**St. Paul's United Church
Sunday, January 02, 2022
Epiphany Sunday**

**Minister: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Music Director: Victoria Warwick
Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Bruce Wilcox
Readers: Colin Whiteside and Sandra Flint
Music: Rebecca Amadei, Youth of St. Paul's,
St. Paul's and Friends Virtual Choir**



Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to the Gathered

Opening Hymn: Vu#82 "A Light is Gleaming", sung by Rebecca Amadei

Opening Prayer: read by Sandra Flint, written by Catherine Tovell, Kilworth U.C. London, ON –
Gathering A/C/E 2021/22 pg. 400

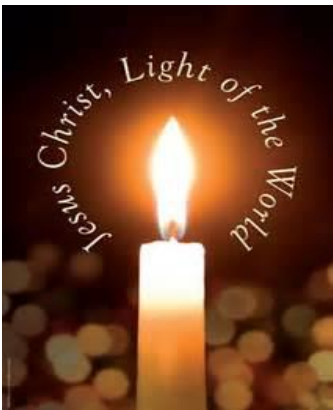
The wise men saw the star in the east and followed it, trusting they would find God. We gather here today, with the same trust that we will find God.

Moving past fear and doubt, the wise men followed the star until it stopped right over the place where the Christ child was. We come hoping to move past our fears and push beyond our doubts so that we, too, might find the Christ among us.

Upon finding Jesus, the wise men 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. May God be with us as we worship today. Amen

Acknowledgement of the Land

Lighting the Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and the Christ candle:



"Light a Candle" words and music: Lisa Waiters (Gathering 2021-2022 epiphany year c)

**1. Light a candle for hope in the darkness,
Minds at rest we know we are near.
Advent watching and waiting for Jesus,
God with us redeeming the years.
Emmanuel, hope is here. Hope is here.**

**2. Light a candle for peace in the darkness.
Souls content we know you are near.**

**Advent watching and waiting for Jesus,
God with us, resolving our fears.
Emmanuel, peace is here. Peace is here.**

**3. Light a candle for joy in the darkness,
In each trial we know you are near.
Advent watching and waiting for Jesus,
God with us is wiping our tears.
Emmanuel, joy is here. Joy is here.**

**4. Light a candle for love in the darkness,
Hearts content we know you are near.
Advent watching and waiting for Jesus,
God with us your purpose in clear.
Emmanuel, love is here. Love is here.**

**5. Light a candle for Christ born among us,
Grace of God, most fully revealed.
Advent waiting and watching is over,
God with us, humanity healed.
Emmanuel, God is here. God is here.**

Scripture Reading: John 1: 1-8 read by Colin Whiteside

Sermon:

Anthem: "Let the Earth Resound with Praise" from Winter's Grace by Joseph M. Martin
sung by St. Paul's and Friends Virtual Choir

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer read by Sandra Flint, written by Bill Steadman,
Goulais River U.C. Goulais River, Ont. Gathering A/C/E 2021/22 pg. 39)

Be with us, God, as we set out on the journey of a new year. Like those who have travelled through unchartered territories in the past, give us the courage to face new challenges. Like those who have known the uncertainty of what lies ahead, give us the confidence to know that you are there to guide us. Like those who have assumed that they have all the answers even before the questions were asked, give us the humility to be surprised by your presence and open to being upheld by your people everywhere.

We lift up our personal prayers to you O God.

Give us the strength we need, the sensitivity others need from us, and the wisdom to respond in ways that nurture all of creation. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen (followed by the Lord's Prayer).

Closing Hymn: VU#87 "I am the Light of the World"

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude Auld Lang Syne