Osler Mennonite Church

A Welcoming Community for Peace Following Jesus on the Path of Reconciliation

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

January 2, 2022

Epiphany Communion Sunday

The Light of Christ

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements

Call to Worship: We come, our God, seeking light: light to reveal your majesty; light to clear our blindness; light to illumine our understanding. Come into our hearts and lives as we worship, so that we may serve as bearers of light and guide others to the Light. Amen.

Christ Candle Litany

L: We light the Christ candle to honour Jesus and listen as all creation joins in praise.

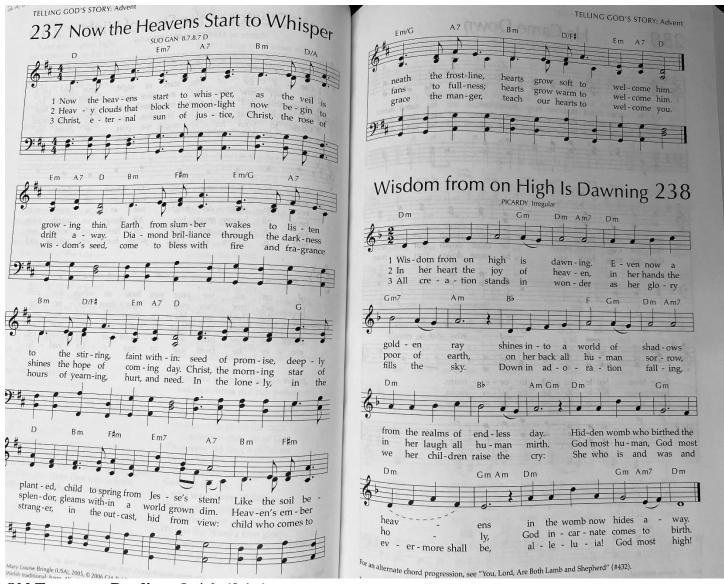
P: Imagine that . . . we are God's wonders, blessed wonders.

Song of Confession: Let us confess with singing God's greatness with an attitude of childlike, awestruck wonder. "Twinkle, twinkle little star, how I wonder what you are. Up above the world so high, like a diamond in the sky. Twinkle, twinkle little star, how I wonder what you are - O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright. Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light."

Prayer of Confession: God of the vast heavens, expansive oceans, majestic mountains, and rolling prairies, forgive us for our need to conquer and control. Cause us to look up, reach out, and follow. For you, O God of infinite imagination, will lead us.

Words of Assurance: From all the fullness of God, the world has received grace upon grace. The young rejoice. The old shall be merry. Surely, the true Light has come into the world. Amen.

Hymn: VT# 237 "Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"



Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come! the glory of YHWH is rising upon you! Though darkness still covers the earth and dense clouds enshroud the peoples, upon you YHWH now dawns, and God's glory will be seen among you! The nations will come to your light and the leaders to your bright dawn! Lift up your eyes, and look around: they're all gathering and coming to you - your daughters and your sons journey from afar, escorted in safety; you'll see them and beam with joy, your heart will swell with pride. The riches of the sea will flow to you, and the wealth of the nations will come to you- camel caravans will cover your roads, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of YHWH.

Children's Gathering Song: This Little Light of Mine VT#762

This little light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine! *X3* Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

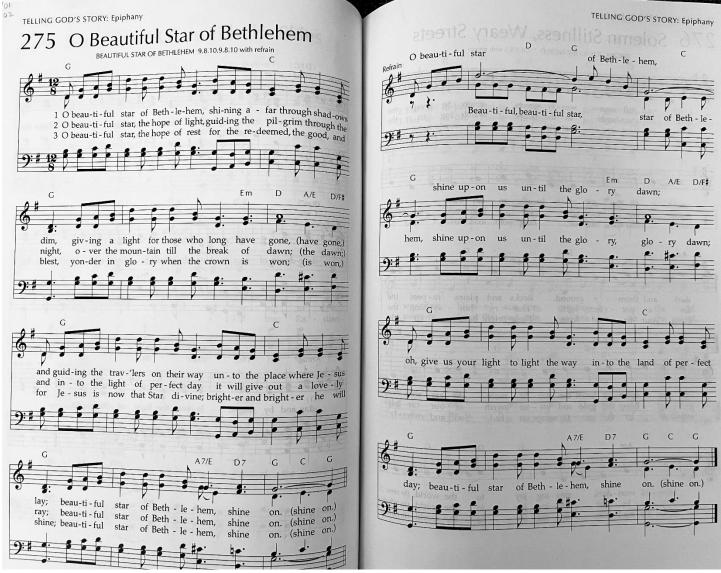
Children's Time with Wilf Buhler

Offering/Music for Meditation

Sharing Joys and Concerns/Prayer of the Church

-those for whom Christmas plans changed due to weather &/or COVID

Hymn: VT# 275 "O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem"

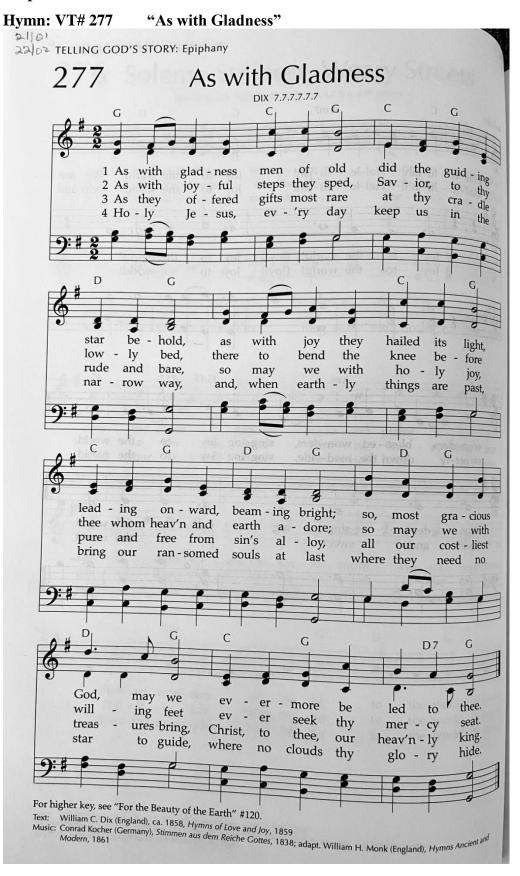


Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus' birth - which happened in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of Herod—astrologers from the East arrived in Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the newborn ruler of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay homage." At this news Herod became greatly disturbed, as did all of Jerusalem. Summoning all the chief priests and religious scholars of the people, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem of Judea," they informed him. "Here is what the prophet has written: 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, since from you will come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "Herod called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star's appearance. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after having instructed them, "Go and get detailed information about the child. When you have found him, report back to me—so that I may go and offer homage, too." After their audience with the ruler, they set out. The star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child lay. They were overjoyed at seeing the star and, upon entering the house, found the child with Mary, his mother. They prostrated themselves and paid homage. Then they opened their coffers and presented the child with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country by another route.

Response to the Scripture:

Leader: For the Word of God in Scripture, For the Word of God among us, For the Word of God within us, People: Thanks be to God!



Sermon: God of Wonder and Light

Epiphany Communion Service: Jesus Christ, light of the world, we have sung your praises and rejoiced in your love. We give thanks for all the light you have brought into our lives; our families, our congregations, the joy of worship, the pleasure of song, this place in which we have gathered. In your gifts of bread and cup, we receive the gifts of your goodness, love and peace for the new year.

Let us bless the bread together: Jesus, light of the world, bless this bread given to us by your life, that you may strengthen us to live for you. (Eat together)

Let us bless the cup together: Jesus, light of the world, bless this cup that you might shine in us and through us to our homes, schools, and places of work and service. (Drink together)

Because your light shines and cannot be put out, we trust you, O God, with all our being. Thank you that through your great love in Christ, you feed us and assure us that your goodness to us never ends. Guide us by your Holy Spirit in this new year. Amen.



Benediction: Blessed are you who bear the light in unbearable times, who testify to its endurance amid the unendurable, who bear witness to its persistence when everything seems in shadow and grief. Blessed you are in whom the light lives, in whom the brightness blazes - your heart a chapel, an altar where in the deepest night can be seen the fire that shines forth in you in unaccountable faith, in stubborn hope, in love that illumines every broken thing it finds. (Jan Richardson, *Circle of Grace*)

TODAY'S WORSHIP - Communion

Speaker: Patty Friesen Worship Leader: Patty Friesen

Song Leaders: Loretta, Ben Accompanist: Melanie

Children's Time: Wilf Sound: Stephanie Usher: Lloyd **Patty's Week:** Off Sun to Wed; Thurs Bethany Manor; Fri Office

Nora's Week: Working Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sun

OMC CALENDAR

Jan 2 10:00 am Epiphany Sunday – Communion

Jan 6 2:00 pm Bethany Manor – Seniors Epiphany Sharing

Jan 7 6:30 pm OMC Youth Night

Jan 9 10:00 am Patty Friesen – Voices Together Birthday

Jan 9 Sunday School Resumes

Jan 10 7:30 pm Worship Mtg

Jan 12 6:15 pm Exec Mtg

7:00 pm Council Mtg

Jan 15 11:00 am – 1:30 pm Friendship Inn

Jan 16 10:00 am Nora Pederberg

NEXT SUNDAY WORSHIP January 9 Voice Together Birthday

Speaker: Patty Friesen Worship Leader: Adeline Cox

Song Leader: Kevin Accompanist: Naomi

Children's Time: Adeline Sound: Stephanie Usher: Harold

Children's Sunday School Leaders: Naomi & Alex

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***IMPORTANT REMINDER – last person out of the building is responsible to make sure all *lights are off* **AND** *the outside door is locked.* It has been unlocked a few times in the last months!!!

- *Reminder to all Committee Chairs that the annual reports are due **January 5.** Please submit via email to Karl, karlwmartens@gmail.com
- *There is a **Thankyou letter from Micah Mission** on the Bulletin Board. We provided Cola Cola for the Regional Psychiatric Center Christmas party.
- *Voices Together Sunday School Class in Meditation Room 3, Sunday, Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30. Bring a hymnal, worship leader edition (if you have it) and a bulletin to dig into more rich layers of the new hymnal.
- *Friendship Inn Saturday, January 15, 11:00-1:30 p.m. Please sign up on bulletin board or call church office.
- *RJC Tournament of Memories (Basketball & Hockey), January 7 & 8, 2022 Alumni & friends of RJC are invited to our annual basketball & hockey tournament. Basketball will take place on Friday, January 7 and Saturday, January 8. Those interested in basketball should register by Dec. 28 by email to Denelda Fast (deneldafast@hotmail.com). Hockey will take place only on Saturday, January 8. Those interested in hockey are encouraged to contact Paul Ayres (paul.ayres@hotmail.com). Questions for the school can be directed to (306) 232-4222.
- *RJC Open House & Friday Night Live January 21, 2022 Prospective students and families are invited to the RJC campus for a look into life as a student at RJC. There will be campus tours and RJC's annual Friday Night Live student coffee-house. Register by email to admissions@rjc.sk.ca or call (306) 232-4222.
- *Postponed: The Book Reading by Ernie Hildebrand that was scheduled for Dec 30 will be rescheduled when better weather is in the forecast. Books are available on a table in the foyer please place your money in the envelope provided.

MC SASK

- *MC Sask staff wish you joy as you seek the Way in the manger Ryan, Josh, Kirsten & Marianne.
- *Emily Summach is the new Saskatchewan Correspondent for the *Canadian Mennonite* Magazine. Emily serves as pastor of Langham Mennonite Fellowship on a part-time basis. MC Sask welcomes her and looks forward to seeing her at events around the province. You can see one of her first articles at https://canadianmennonite.org/stories/pastor-digital-age.
- *Forest Church January 2, 2022 3:00 pm Dress warm and head out to **Shekinah** and gather around the fire before going for a walk together to introduce the forest church theme for the coming year. All are welcome!
- *Sunday, January 9, 2022, Paul Matheson will be installed as pastor of First Mennonite Church. For our internal purposes, he will be licensed for specific ministry and we will acknowledge his ordination credential with the Baptist Church. Well wishes may be sent to Ryan at minister@mcsask.ca
- *The Canadian Foodgrains Bank sends greeting and thanks for your faithful support this past year.
- *MCC Connects: Christmas Blessings to you from the Board and Staff of MCC Saskatchewan! May our celebrations of the birth of the Christ child nurture and strengthen our living and serving in the name of Christ throughout the coming year.
- *Since there will be no January Newsletter the *January Birthdays* are printed below:
- 4 Brandee Borne
- 18 Kevin Boldt
- 20 Garry Harms
- 27 Katarina Doucette

The Osler Mennonite Church, Box 129, Osler, Saskatchewan S0K 3A0 Vol. LXIII January 2, 2022 No. 1

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We gather on Treaty Six Lands, Nehiyaw Territory, and the Homeland of the Métis