



# 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"**

TELLING GOD'S STORY: Advent

## 237 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

SUIO GAN 8.7.8.7 D  
Em7 A7 Bm D/A

1 Now the heav-ens start to whis-per, as the veil is  
2 Heav-y clouds that block the moon-light now be-gin to  
3 Christ, e-ter-nal sun of jus-tice, Christ, the rose of

grow-ing thin. Earth from slum-ber wakes to lis-ten  
drift a-way. Dia-mond bril-liance through the dark-ness  
wis-dom's seed, come to bless with fire and fra-grance

to the stir-ring, faint with-in: seed of prom-ise, deep-ly  
shines the hope of com-ing day. Christ, the morn-ing star of  
hours of yearn-ing, hurt, and need. In the lone-ly, in the

plant-ed, child to spring from Jes-se's stem! Like the soil be-  
splen-dor, gleams with-in a world grown dim. Heav-en's em-ber  
strang-er, in the out-cast, hid from view: child who comes to

Mary Louise Bringle (USA), 2005, © 2006 GIA  
Welsh traditional: harm. arr.

TELLING GOD'S STORY: Advent

## Wisdom from on High Is Dawning 238

PICARDY Irregular

1 Wis-dom from on high is dawn-ing. E-ven now a  
2 In her heart the joy of heav-en, in her hands the  
3 All cre-a-tion stands in won-der, as her glo-ry

gold-en ray shines in-to a world of shad-ows  
poor of earth, on her back all hu-man sor-row,  
fills the sky. Down in ad-o-ra-tion fall-ing,

from the realms of end-less day. Hid-den womb who birthed the  
in her laugh all hu-man mirth. God most hu-man, God most  
we her chil-dren raise the cry: She who is and was and

heav-ens in the womb now hides a-way.  
ho-ly, God in-car-nate comes to birth.  
ev-er-more shall be, al-le-lu-ia! God most high!

For an alternate chord progression, see "You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd" (#432).

**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"**

# 275 O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

BEAUTIFUL STAR OF BETHLEHEM 9.8.10.9.8.10 with refrain

G C

1 O beau-ti-ful star of Beth-le-hem, shi-ning a - far through shad-ows  
 2 O beau-ti-ful star, the hope of light, guid-ing the pil-grim through the  
 3 O beau-ti-ful star, the hope of rest for the re-dee-med, the good, and

G Em D A/E D/F#

dim, giv-ing a light for those who long have gone, (have gone,  
 night, o - ver the moun-tain till the break of dawn; (the dawn);  
 blest, yon-der in glo - ry when the crown is won; (is won).

G C

and guid-ing the trav-lers on their way un - to the place where Je - sus  
 and in - to the light of per-fect day it will give out a love - ly  
 for Je - sus is now that Star di-vine; bright-er and bright-er he will

G A7/E D7 G C G

lay; beau-ti-ful star of Beth - le - hem, shine on. (shine on.)  
 ray; beau-ti-ful star of Beth - le - hem, shine on. (shine on.)  
 shine; beau-ti-ful star of Beth - le - hem, shine on. (shine on.)

Refrain

O beau-ti-ful star D G C of Beth-le - hem,

Beau-ti-ful, beau-ti-ful star, star of Beth - le -

G Em D A/E D/F#

shine up-on us un-til the glo - ry dawn;  
 hem, shine up-on us un-til the glo - ry, glo - ry dawn;

G C

oh, give us your light to light the way in - to the land of per - fect

G A7/E D7 G C G

day; beau-ti-ful star of Beth - le - hem, shine on. (shine on.)

## 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!

Hymn: VT# 277 "As with Gladness"

21101  
22102 TELLING GOD'S STORY: Epiphany

# 277 As with Gladness

DIX 7.7.7.7.7

1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing  
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy  
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy cra-dle  
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day keep us in the

star be-hold, as with joy they hailed its light,  
low-ly bed, there to bend the knee be-fore  
rude and bare, so may we with ho-ly joy,  
nar-row way, and, when earth-ly things are past,

lead-on-ward, beam-ing bright; so, most gra-cious  
thee whom heav'n and earth a-dore; so may we with  
pure and free from sin's al-loy, all our cost-liest  
bring our ran-somed souls at last where they need no

God, may we ev-er-more be led to thee.  
will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.  
treas-ures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly king-  
star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.

For higher key, see "For the Beauty of the Earth" #120.

Text: William C. Dix (England), ca. 1858, *Hymns of Love and Joy*, 1859

Music: Conrad Kocher (Germany), *Stimmen aus dem Reiche Gottes*, 1838; adapt. William H. Monk (England), *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861

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.

**Hymn: VT#420 "God of the Bible"**

420 **God of the Bible**  
 FRESH AS THE MORNING 5.5.5.4.5.5.4 with refrain

1 God of the Bi - ble, God in the gos - pel, hope seen in  
 2 God in our strug - gles, God in our hun - ger, suf - fer - ing  
 3 Those with - out sta - tus, those who are noth - ing, you have made  
 4 Not by your fin - ger, not by your an - ger will our world  
 5 Hope we must car - ry, shin - ing and cer - tain through all our

Je - sus, hope yet to come, you are our cen - ter, day - light or  
 with us, tak - ing our part, still you em - pow' r us, moth - er - ing  
 roy - al, gift - ed with rights, cho - sen as part - ners, mid - wives of  
 or - der change in a day, but by your peo - ple, fear - less and  
 tur - moil, ter - ror and loss, bond - ing us glad - ly one to the

dark - ness, free - dom or pris - on, you are our home.  
 Spir - it, feed - ing, sus - tain - ing, from your own heart.  
 jus - tice, birth - ing new sys - tems, light - ing new lights.  
 faith - ful, small pa - per lan - terns, light - ing the way.  
 oth - er, till our world chang - es, fac - ing the cross.

Refrain  
 D A/D G/D D Em D/F#  
 Fresh as the morn - ing, sure as the sun - rise, God al - ways faith - ful,  
 Fresh as the sun - rise, al - ways faith - ful,  
 you do not change. Fresh as the morn - ing, sure as the sun - rise,  
 you do not change. Fresh as the sun - rise,  
 God al - ways faith - ful, you do not change.  
 al - ways faith - ful, you do not change.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray (Aotearoa New Zealand), © 1996 Hope Publishing Company  
 Music: Tony E. Alonzo (USA), © 2001 GIA Publishing

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

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