

"And having been warned

in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road." (Matthew 2:12)

Having caught sight of authentic kingship in Bethlehem, the stargazers felt no need to retrace their steps to consult with King Herod in Jerusalem on their way home.

The humble scene they encountered in Bethlehem put everything to shame they had seen in any palace.

In a baby who could not even speak
they saw the Word of God.

In an infant nestled in a feedbox
they saw enthroned the King of kings.

In the poverty and simplicity of a cattle-stall,
their faith led them to understand
that there was a new and better power
at work in the world.

In their faith we come to understand a pattern of faith
for all of us.

Faith calls us to find Christ in the common and
the ordinary:

to find the Word of God in human words,
to be born to a deeper life through ordinary water,
to taste the grace of God in common bread and wine,
to find the Son of God in one another.

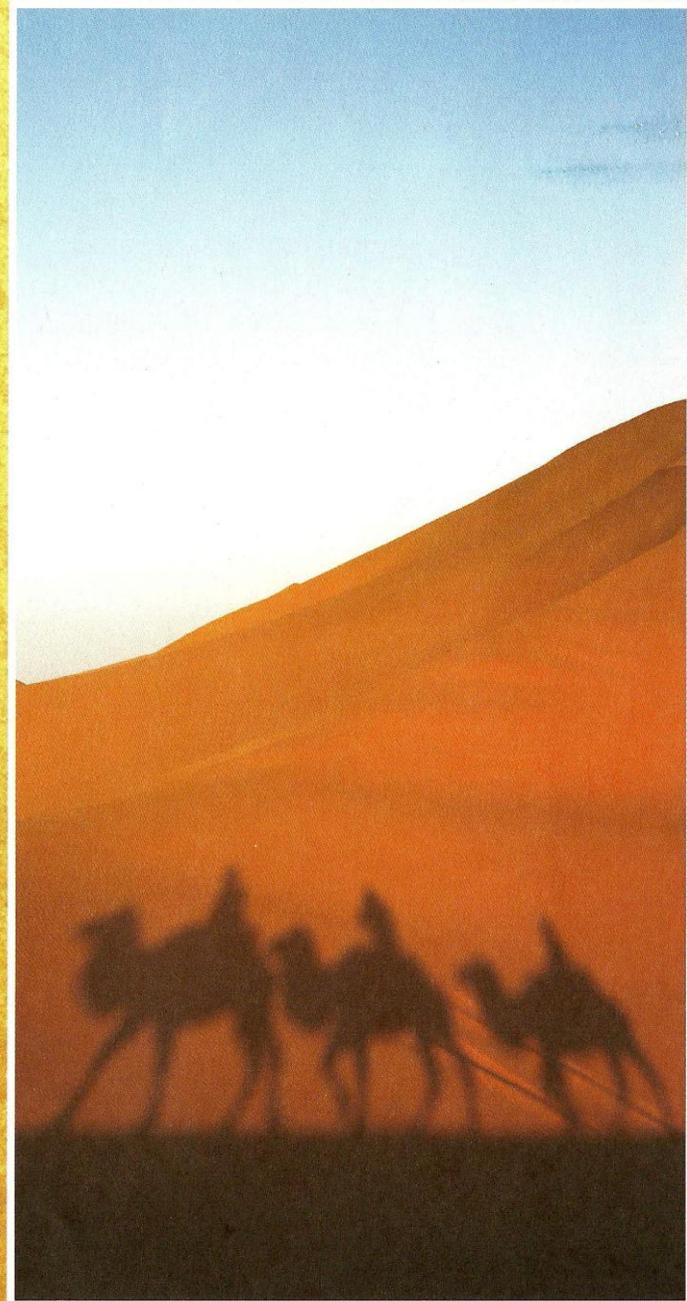
Canadian Ministries



The Presbyterian
Church in Canada
presbyterian.ca/worship

040115

Epiphany Sunday



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 4, 2015

Communion Service

Please stand at items marked * if you are able.
Passages in **Bold Print** are to be spoken in Unison
Organ Prelude – Hymn and Quiet Reflection

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Susan Mattinson

Organist - Carol Wehrstedt Music Director- Kendall House

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

* Entry of the Bible

Introit

Call to Worship

* Hymn: *"As with gladness men of old"* #172

Opening Prayer:

O God of light, who by the leading of a star revealed your son to the peoples of the earth: stir in our hearts that we, who know you now by faith, may come to see your glory face to face, through Jesus Christ your Son and our Lord. We confess that our sins and pride hide the brightness of your light; we waste our gifts, we ignore cries for justice, and we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us and make us new. Draw us beyond the limits of this world and our imagination, to the life where your Holy Spirit makes all life complete. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

* Children's Hymn: *"We three kings"* #173

(last verse to be sung after Children's Time)

Children's Time

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Preparation

Spirit of the living God, move among us all; make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love: humble, caring, selfless, sharing. Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!

"Be Still and Know that I am God" (Ps. 46: 10)

Please take the time before the service as an opportunity to quietly prepare your heart and mind for worship.



Prayer Concerns:

Marie Huffman (Roseview)
Bernice Johnston
Walter Hogarth

NOTICE: all annual reports must be submitted to the office no later than January 15, 2015. Email submission for cut and paste purposes would be much appreciated.

You are invited to help us get a new, good quality knife for the kitchen by donating your Safeway grocery stickers to the church. Please give donated stickers to Janey Racey or drop them off to the church office weekdays between 1-4pm.

Pastor Shep

"No one who is proud can pray. The gate of heaven is so low that none can enter it save upon their knees."—William Barclay





Thank you this week to:

Greeters: Betty Irwin and Betty Irving
Lay Reader: Leslie Shaw
Fellowship Time: Isobel Telford and Val Calder
Elevator Operator: Laird Morrison
Offering Counting: Lynae Grace and Myrna Grace
Offering Collection: Russ Brown, Don Munn, Joyce Nystrom, Janet Taylor
Visiting/Phoning: Joan Anderson

Next week's volunteers: Jan. 11th

Greeters: Betty Irwin and Betty Irving
Lay Reader: Evelyn Konrad
Fellowship Time: Beth and Robert Workman
Elevator Operator: _____
Offering Counting: Alice & Laird Morrison and Linda Rydholm
Offering Collection: Russ Brown, Don Munn, Joyce Nystrom, Janet Taylor
Visiting/Phoning: Joan Anderson

Upcoming Events at First

Tues., Jan 6th - More than Mission - noon
Thurs., Jan. 8th - Bible Study resumes - 10 am
- Choir Practice - 7 pm
Fri., Jan. 9th - Crafts & Conversation - 1 pm
Sat., Jan. 10th Church de-decorate - 11 am
Sun., Jan. 11th - Question Period/Sack Lunch - noon
Mon., Jan. 12th - Cards afternoon - 1 pm
Wed., Jan. 14th - Joint Session/Board Meeting - 7 pm



Thank you so much to everyone who donates to the Food Bank.

Bible Readings:

Isaiah 60: 1-9 P. 690 & 691 O.T.
Psalm 72: 1-8 P. 533 O.T.
Matthew 2: 1-12 P. 2 N.T.

Gloria Patri:

594

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Sermon: "Nations Shall Come"

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Tithes and Offerings

*** Offertory Response 661**

We give thee but thine own, whatever the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, your light has come. Your light shines brightly in our humble lives. We place this offering upon your altar as an outpouring of your light within us. May it shine your love and grace upon the lives of others. Glory Hallelujah! Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

*** Hymn: "Songs of thankfulness and praise" #176**

Affirmation of Faith:

"The Lord's Supper is a joyful mystery whereby Jesus takes the bread and wine to represent his atoning sacrifice, deepening our union with himself and with each other, giving us of his life and strength. Here Christ is present in his world proclaiming salvation until he comes—a symbol of hope for a troubled age. Those who belong to Christ come gladly to his table to make a memorial of his life and death, to celebrate his presence, and together as his church offer him thanks." (Living Faith 7.7.3; 7.7.5)

Remembering the Meal with Jesus

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

In your Son Jesus Christ the Word became flesh, giving us a vision of your glory, that all people might be brought out of darkness into your marvellous light. How wonderful are your ways, almighty God. How marvellous is your name, O Holy One. You alone are God. Therefore with apostles and prophets, and that great cloud of witnesses who live for you beyond all time and space, we lift our hearts in joyful praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We praise you, most holy God, for sending your only Son Jesus to live among us, full of grace and truth. Sharing our joy and sorrow, he healed the sick and was a friend of sinners. Obeying you, he took up his cross and died that we might live. We praise you that he overcame death and is risen to rule the world. He is still the friend of sinners. We trust him to overcome every power that can hurt or divide us, and believe that when he comes in glory we will celebrate victory with him.

Therefore, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we take this bread and this cup and give you praise and thanksgiving as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

(Continued on Page 4)

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine, that we, and all who share this feast, may be one with Christ and he with us. Here we offer ourselves to be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you. In your mercy, accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Fill us with the joy of eternal life, that we may be your faithful people until we feast with you in glory.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, almighty God, forever and ever. Amen.

Sharing the Meal

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer (debtsdebtors)

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

* Hymn: *"Arise, shine out, your light has come"* #179

Blessing

Response:

**Praise the Lord from whom all blessings flow.
He has washed and made me white as snow.
I'm redeemed from all my sin and shame.
Now and forever, praise his holy name.
Praise his holy name. Praise his holy name.
To God be the glory now and forever.
Praise his holy name!**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission purpose is to put our faith into action through mission education, community outreach, and personal and financial support both at home and abroad.