



Epiphany of the Lord - C  
January 9, 2022

Key Scripture - Matthew 2:1, 2

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."



Theme - Too Close to See

## Welcome and Announcements

At this time Trinity will not be gathering in person for worship. Services will be recorded and posted on our [Facebook page](#), which you can access through our website and will be aired on Cogeco YouTV. Our building will also be closed during this lockdown time. If you require access and do not have a key, please phone the Office in advance or from the front door. The office number is - 613 283 4444

† Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.

– Trinity is an Affirming Congregation

† We continue to pray for those who were impacted by the legacy of Indian Residential Schools.

## Looking Ahead

**10 January, 1:00pm - Sensible Shoes: A Story about the Spiritual Journey.**

- [Video call link](#)

**12 January, 9:30am** - Bible Study. We may meet in person and [remotely](#)

**Smiths Falls Community Food Bank** appreciates donations, please fill our wagon at the back of the Sanctuary, it will be delivered monthly.

[Ottawa School of Theology & Spirituality](#) offers numerous courses that may be of interest as you seek ways to explore and deepen your faith and spiritual experience.

### **Acknowledging Traditional Territory**

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of Reconciliation

**Interlude**                      "Christ, You Are Light" (Taize)

*Christ, you are light for those who follow you.  
You come to bring to all the light of life.*

### **Call to Worship**

Beloved, God chooses us and calls us by name.

**We belong to God. Alleluia!**

Our lives have purpose because we belong to God.

**We are called to be like Christ and follow him.**

We will find joy, peace, and restoration through God's amazing grace.

**Let us worship God who claims us and loves us! Praise be to God!**

### **Opening Prayer**

Creator of the sun and moon and stars,  
You stir in our midst to reveal your light.  
By the work of your Spirit, you lead us in new directions.  
Your beloved Son has called us to new life  
and by his grace, reconciles the divisions among us.

We praise you for the blessings you give us  
in our baptism,  
and through your love that surrounds us day by day.

To you we give all praise, glory and honor,  
through Jesus,  
who is one with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and always. Amen.

**Hymn** "We Three Kings"

We three kings of Orient are,  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

***Refrain -***

***O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.***

*(First king; Melchior)*

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,  
Gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign.

***Refrain -***

***O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.***

*(Second king, Gaspar)*

Frankincense to offer have I,  
Incense owns a Diety nigh,  
Prayer and praising, all men raising,  
Worship him, God most high.

***Refrain -***

***O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.***

*(Third king, Balthazar)*

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

***Refrain -***

***O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.***

Glorious now behold him arise,  
King, and God, and Sacrifice  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Earth to the heavens replies.

***Refrain -***

***O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.***

**Time With Children**

**Children's Prayer**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God,  
in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,  
we confess that we prefer our old, familiar ways.  
We cling to destructive habits,  
we harbor grudges, and  
are reluctant to welcome a stranger or forgive one  
another.**

**Nostalgia for the past prevents us from exploring new  
possibilities.**

**In your loving kindness, forgive us.  
Have mercy upon us and move among us  
so that we might pursue new life together.**

### **Words of Assurance**

Do not be afraid, for Christ has redeemed you.

Baptized in the deep waters of death, he has washed away your sins.

Risen from death, he invites you to be washed in the cleansing tide of God's mercy.

Be at peace with God, with yourself, and with each other.

### **Scripture**

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14 (VU790 Parts 1 and 2)

Matthew 2:1-12

### Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,

because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (VU790 Parts 1 and 2)

*Refrain -*

*Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.*

Give the ruler your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the royal heir,  
**for judging your people rightly,  
and upholding the poor with justice;**  
that the mountains may bring forth peace for the people,  
**and the hills, prosperity with justice.**

*Refrain -*

*Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.*

May your anointed defend the cause of the poor among the people,  
save the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.  
**May your anointed live as long as the sun endures,  
as long as the moon from age to age.**  
May your anointed be like rain falling upon the grass,  
like showers that water the earth;  
**may your anointed be one in whose days justice shall  
flourish and peace abound till the moon is no more.**

*Refrain -*

*Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.*

May the rulers of Tarshish and the isles pay tribute,  
the monarchs of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

**May all rulers do homage, and all nations render service.**

For your anointed shall deliver the needy when they cry,  
the poor and those who have no helper.

**Your anointed shall have pity on the weak and the needy,  
and save the lives of the poor.**

From oppression and violence your anointed  
shall redeem their life,  
**and count as precious their blood.**

*Refrain -*

*Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.*

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”



Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Meditation** "The Silver Stars Are In The Sky" (James)

**Reflection** Too Close to See

**Hymn** 93 "When Heaven's Bright With Mystery"

When heaven's bright with mystery  
and science searches nature's art,  
when all creation yearns for peace  
and hope sinks deep in human hearts,  
appear to us, O Holy Light;  
lift from our eyes the shades of night.

When Herod barter's power  
and lives and Rachel's weeping fills the night,  
when suffering's mask marks every face,  
and Love's a refugee in flight,  
reveal to us your word of grace  
and make us witness to your peace.

When fragile faith, like desert wind, blows dry  
And empty, hope erased,  
when withered grass and fading flower  
proclaim again our day's brief space,  
breathe on the clay of our despair  
and work a new creation there.

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.

### **Invitation to the Offering**

In the season of Epiphany, God's gift to us in Jesus is revealed to the world. Our gifts reveal our commitment to the love and mercy, the forgiveness and hope we have received.

Our gifts proclaim that we are beloved to God and God is beloved to us.

### **Offering Prayer**

We bring our gifts in thanksgiving for your gifts in creation. Bless what we bring and who we are, so that our gifts will bless the world you love. Amen.

### **Hymn** MV 82 "Bathe Me In Your Light"

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.

### **Prayers of the People**

God of time and eternity,  
    As this new year stretches before us,  
        we thank you for the time you give us  
            and for all those things that are still possible and precious  
            in this gift.  
We thank you for each new day and its possibilities;  
    for each night, its rest and reflection.  
We thank you for words of forgiveness  
    and the chance to make a new start,  
        for word of invitation to explore new opportunities.  
Give us the courage to try something new  
    and the conviction to finish things leftover from last year.  
Make time spent this year your time, O God.  
    Bless our time with you.

God of moments and memories,  
    we remember before you people facing hard times  
        in the months ahead.

We pray for those struggling with illness,  
and for those facing treatment or surgery with uncertain  
results....

We pray for those who are grieving the loss of dear ones  
and for all who remember what used to be but can no longer  
be...

Make time spent this year your time, O God.  
Bless our time with you.

God of hopefulness and helpfulness,  
we remember those who are seeking new opportunities this year:  
Those training for new employments and those looking for  
work;  
Those developing new businesses and seeking the right  
employees;  
And those who provide services to improve life in our  
communities  
amid the uncertainties around us...

Give us wisdom and perseverance  
in what we undertake as a congregation  
in the face of all the changes in our community.

Make time spent this year your time, O God.  
Bless our time with you.

As we work together with the vision  
of your kingdom before us this year,  
fill us with love and generosity that can change the world  
because of your blessing.

We pray we can make a difference  
in even the most challenging situations  
because we are the people of your beloved Son who taught  
us to pray together -

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

[EOORC Prayer Cycle](#)

**North Augusta Pastoral Charge**

Algonquin United Church

Manhard United Church

North Augusta United Church

[The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle](#)

**Iran, Iraq, Syria**

## **We Depart to Serve with Joy**

**Hymn** 87 "I Am The Light Of The World"

**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.*

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...

**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.*

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!...

**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.*

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!...

*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.*

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!...

*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.*

**Benediction**

Baptized, we will go to share God's love with others.

**We will welcome those the world rejects as our sisters and brothers.**

Baptized, we will become the grace of our Lord Jesus.

**We will share the waters of life with everyone we meet.**

Baptized, we will become the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.  
**We will be a community of justice, not judgment;  
we will be a household of hope.**

**Choral Amen**

**Postlude** "We Three Kings" (arr. Young)