

St James United Church

400 Burnhamthorpe Road, Etobicoke M9B 2A8 416-622-4113

www.stjamesunitedchurch.com

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021

10:30 am

Epiphany Sunday

Welcome!

*We are glad you have joined us in worship.
May you feel the warmth of God's presence.*

Our Mission:

To live God's love through our actions: Seek, Serve, Challenge.

Reflection Question: "How can we share God's Love?"

WE GATHER AND APPROACH GOD

***Bold** indicates words said by **All**

PRELUDE

Good King Wenceslas (arr. Lloyd Larson)
J.-C. Coolen, piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alex Grant-Henderson

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

GATHERING MUSIC

Christ Shines as the Solitary Star

MV 220

(Sung twice: Cantor alone, then congregation & cantor)

Cantor: Bill Price, Baritone Choral Lead/Soloist Emeritus

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

Christ shines as the solitary star,
 faith is the inner light.
 You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
 and illumine the pathway home.

Words: Catherine Faith McLean. © 2007 Catherine Faith McLean. Reproduced under One License #A-622413.

CALL TO WORSHIP

You, O Creator, are the ruler of justice.
 It is your righteousness that will lead us forward,
 ruling our motives and our movements.

**For you bring justice to your people,
 and uphold the marginalized in righteousness.**

We call on our place in creation to bring forth peace,
 may we be stoic like the mountains on the horizon,
 may we be fluid like the rivers at our feet,
 may we feed life like the soil beneath our toes.

**For you bring prosperity in community,
 and teach us of harmony in connection.**

We are called to be the voice for the voiceless,
 only once we have listened and understood what is needed.
 We elevate the children who are not acknowledged,
 and the oppressed who are given a mere glance.

**For you bring a justice that will help us flourish,
 and a tranquility that will allow for lasting peace.**

In your rains, we find rejuvenation.

In your suns, we find growth.

In your moons, we find reflection.

In your creation, we are interdependent.

May we always, look to creation as our partner in wisdom, our healing
 space, in the possibility of being our best, and in oppression may we find
 the pathways to liberation. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

As with Gladness Men of Old, verses 1, 2 & 3

VU 81

Cantor: Bill Price, Baritone Choral Lead/Soloist Emeritus

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

- 1 As with gladness men of old
 did the guiding star behold,
 as with joy they hailed its light,
 leading onward, beaming bright,
 so, most gracious Lord, may we
 evermore your splendour see.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped,
 to that lowly manger bed,
 there to bend the knee before
 Christ, whom heaven and earth adore;
 so may we with eager pace
 ever seek your throne of grace.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare
 at that manger crude and bare,
 so may we with holy joy,
 pure and free from sin's alloy,
 all our costliest treasures bring,
 Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

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LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

A TIME OF WONDER	<i>When I know everything</i>	
SCRIPTURE READING	Isaiah 60.1-4a (The Voice Translation) Matthew 2.1-12 (NRSV)	
MUSICAL OFFERING	<i>The Three Kings</i> (Peter Cornelius) Bill Price, baritone J.-C. Coolen, piano	
SERMON	<i>Seeing What We Have Never Seen Before</i>	Jeffrey Dale

RESPONDING TO GOD

SERMON HYMN

A Light Is Gleaming, verses 1, 2 & 3

VU 82

Cantor: Bill Price, Baritone Choral Lead/Soloist Emeritus

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

*Refrain: A light is gleaming, spreading its arms
throughout the night, living in the light.
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love
is burning bright, living in the light.*

- 1 When light comes pouring into the darkest place,
it hurts our eyes to see the glow.
Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears,
our memories and tears. R
- 2 When night is round us and every shadow grows,
a star is there to light our way.
It tells a story of Jesus who came near to say:
'God's light will ever stay.' R
- 3 And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk.
He showed us things we hadn't seen.
Now we, like Jesus, can help creation shine,
and this will be a sign: R

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

VU 921

**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
 forever and ever. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

When Heaven's Bright with Mystery

VU 93

Cantor: Bill Price, Baritone Choral Lead/Soloist Emeritus

Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

- 1 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.
- 2 When Herod barter 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.

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COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL COMMISSIONING *I Am the Light of the World* VU 87 chorus

Cantor: Bill Price, Baritone Choral Lead/Soloist Emeritus
Piano: J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

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.

Words: Jim Strathdee. © 1969 Desert Flower Music. Reproduced under One License #A-622413.

POSTLUDE *When Heaven's Bright with Mystery* (arr. Lloyd Larson) J.-C. Coolen, piano

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Giving leadership in today's service:

J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister

Jeffrey Dale, Guest Minister

Alex Grant-Henderson, Presider

Bill Price, Baritone Choral Lead/Soloist Emeritus

We are also thankful for those serving as tech support:

Gord Burrell, Jordan Li, Don Munday, Karen Munday.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please join Rev. Maya in praying for the members and adherents in our Directory for an ongoing cycle. We hold these members of our faith community in prayer this week:

Elizabeth Ghosh; Nancy & Robert Gibbons; Barbara & Garry Gladden, Sara and Andrew;
David Godley; Mhairi Godley; Allister Graham; Alex & Dale Grant-Henderson, and

James; Tony & Jennifer Gray; Mary Greco; Linda Gresko; Anna Guglietti.

We join in prayer for healing and transformation with:

Elda Dunham, Betty and Bernie Ginger, Ardith Grant, and Joe Tyler (Nancy Cormier's dad).

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NEXT WEEK: Sunday, January 10

Scripture Readings: Psalm 29, Genesis 1.1-5, Mark 1.4-11, Acts 19.1-7.

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We welcome Jeffrey Dale as our guest speaker this morning. He has worked for over fifteen years in the United Church and presently is the Minister for Faith Formation, and Youth and Young Adults, for Shining Waters Regional Council. Jeffrey is also a theatre practitioner and author and holds a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (University of Guelph). In 2017 Jeffrey was the winner of the James MacRae Canada 150 Award for Poetry, and was voted Person of the Year at the 2020 Fierté Simcoe Pride Gala Awards. Jeffrey lives in Toronto, with his dog Max.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sympathy of the congregation is extended to Laura Hay, son John and the Hay family on the passing of Tom Hay on November 29th. He was laid to rest in a private service.

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The Sympathy of the congregation is also extended to Stephanie Hartill, her children Paige and Cameron Ballard on the passing of her dad, Jim on December 24. Due to COVID-19, a private family service will be streamed live from Reynolds Funeral Home on January 4, at 1 p.m.

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Happy Birthday to our St. James family members who celebrate their birthdays this coming week. We are glad you were born and give God thanks for your lives: James Grant-Henderson January 3, Marissa Kufas January 5, Mark Wellington January 5. Please note: anyone submitting the names of people celebrating birthdays needs the permission of those individuals first.

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Our Bible Study group will be held over ZOOM resuming Monday, January 4, at 1p.m. Please confirm your interest in joining by contacting Rev. Maya at revmaya.douglas@gmail.com and she will send you the log-in information. We will read through the four lectionary readings for the week and discuss each one as well as how they may impact our lives and the world. Newcomers are always welcome!

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Senior Choir rehearsals are virtually over Zoom, on alternate Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. To participate in the Senior Choir, and for Zoom rehearsal meeting information, please contact J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister, at (905) 683-5757 or jccoolen@sympatico.ca.

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Our Worship Service Coffee Hour will resume next Sunday, January 10, when Rev. Maya returns from holiday.

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Our Sunday School via Zoom will also resume on Sunday, January 10, 2021.

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Many thanks to all who generously volunteered to deliver poinsettias before Christmas. All the plants were picked up and taken to those on the Pastoral Care List. Thanks also to Lila Bowen and Joanne Atkins for helping to distribute them.

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2021 Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up in the main hallway of the church during regular office hours. Please deliver those of friends and neighbours where possible, thank you. Please note that if you donate through the PAR program, you will not be issued a box of envelopes.

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FUTURE SERVICES:

Sunday, January 10 is The Baptism of the Lord Sunday. Rev. Maya Douglas will be preaching. We will be having a virtual Adult Baptism as Leila Bates will be baptized during our 10:30 a.m. worship service via livestream. Zoom link forthcoming.

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Sunday, January 17 we will honouring Kathleen Wells, who after 42 years of service and devotion to the church, and the Choirs of St. James has retired.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!