

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

The Light Shines in the deepest night and the night has not overcome it.

ORGAN PRELUDE: “Festive Proclamation” by J. Krug

SANDRA RUTTAN

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Today, as we gather in person and from outside the sanctuary as Collier Street United Church, we acknowledge that long before those of us who are settlers, and those of us who are descendants of settlers, came to this land, there were people here. We know these First Nations peoples were Haudenosaunee (Iroquois), Ojibway/Chippewa & Anishinabek, who made Treaties 16 & 18 possible.

Hewitt Holmes



Today, as a community of faith, we seek to be good stewards and give thanks for this land and our commitment to live in right relations with all peoples.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE OF COMMUNITY

RESPONSE: VU #588 “Many are the Lightbeams” v. 1

SANDRA RUTTAN/Choir

HAPPY NEW YEAR, WELCOME & NEWS

How are you today? **We are blessed and highly favoured.**

Hewitt Holmes

WE PRAISE AND PRAY

The people walking in deepest night have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deepest night a light has dawned.

SILENCE

^WORDS FOR THE GATHERED:

The Magi came from many places,
following a star.

**We come to worship,
and the star sheds light on our lives.**

The Magi brought gifts to offer the Child.

We too bring gifts – ourselves, our hopes, and our dreams.

Shepherds and Magi – the meek and the mighty –

All were welcome in Bethlehem.

**We too come to Bethlehem
and then return to our homes rejoicing.**

(Celebrate God's Presence, 123)

*HYMN VU #89 From a Distant Home

SANDRA RUTTAN/ Choir

^OPENING PRAYER

^WORDS OF LIFE AND COMMUNITY:

Beloved, God's love was revealed among us in this way.

Jesus Christ came into the world,

Whatever God promises, God delivers.

Lift up your hearts and minds above failure and shame,

and let the light of Christ sweep away all gloom and anxiety.

We delight in our Saviour!

We are a forgiven community!

*HYMN: MV#33 “Jesus Came Bringing Us LIGHT”

SANDRA RUTTAN/ CHOIR

WE GROW TOGETHER

Your Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

^WORDS FROM SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:1-12 (Inclusive Bible)

Dick Moffat

Let us listen to hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

Gospel Reading of Matthew 2:1-12

¹ After Jesus' birth-which happened in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of Herod-astrologers from the East arrived in Jerusalem

² and asked, "Where is the newborn ruler of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay homage."

³ At this news Herod became greatly disturbed, as did all of Jerusalem.

⁴ Summoning all the chief priests and religious scholars of the people, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵ "In Bethlehem of Judea," they informed him. "Here is what the prophet has written:

⁶ '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.'"

⁷ Herod called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star's appearance.

⁸ 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."

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ They were overjoyed at seeing the star and,

¹¹ 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.

¹² They were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country by another route.

*This is Life-giving Word, for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.***

MEDITATION: "Epiphany: A Star and A Dream"

Hewitt Holmes

SPECIAL MUSIC: VU #94 "Lovely Star in the Sky"

SANDRA RUTTAN

WE GO TO BE GOD'S PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY

Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Living One is risen upon you.

^HYMN: VU #93 "When Heaven's Bright with Mystery" v. 1,3,4 SANDRA RUTTAN/Choir

^BENEDICTION: Hewitt Holmes

The God of all grace be the strength in your hands,
The Christ of all light be the guide for our feet,
The Spirit of all truth be the integrity in our deeds.
Amen!

CLOSING SONG: VU#884 You Shall Go Out with Joy *Virtual Choir*

PIANO POSTLUDE: Fantasy on "We Three Kings" by Robin McGee SANDRA RUTTAN

(We remain grateful for the offerings given today and electronically)
