

Oromocto Pastoral Charge

The United Church of Canada

January 7th, 2024 Epiphany

The people of the Oromocto Pastoral Charge welcome you. May there be a blessing for you in this house today.

Greeting:

***Introit:** Will You Come and See the Light **VU 96 vs 1**

Will you come and see the light from the stable door?

It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.

It will be your guiding star,

it will show you who you are;

will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Call to Worship:

You call us to a journey of the Spirit, Loving God.

As we prepare, you speak, and we listen.

You call us to a journey of the Spirit, Loving God.

Our goal is clear; we seek the highest good.

You call us to a journey of the Spirit, Loving God.

We are not alone; our faith companions go with us.

You call us to a journey of the Spirit, Loving God.

You are our guide; we have nothing to fear. Amen

Welcome and Announcements

***Hymn:** I am the Light of the World **VU 87**

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Loving God, In our discipleship we will be bold.

As bold disciples, we will listen carefully to those who experience life differently from us.

In our discipleship we will be bold.

As bold disciples, we will work out our own faith and explore that of other faith communities.

In our discipleship we will be bold.

As bold disciples, we will meet with the powerful ones but will not submit to them.

In our discipleship we will be bold.

As bold disciples, we will experience love in a little child with their carers and will humbly worship. And let us pray in the words Jesus taught us saying...**Our Father**

Our Minister, **Reverend Lori Beth Sheffield-Bowles**, is in her Office this week: **Monday, Tuesday 10 A.M.-2 P.M., Wednesday and Thursday by Appointment** She is available outside of these hours by chance or by appointment. Rev. Lori Beth can be reached in the following ways:

Email: reverend.loribeth@gmail.com

Office Phone: 357-3423

Cell Phone: 262-6752

Home Phone: 454-6752

If you know of someone who is ill, in hospital or who would like a visit from the Minister, please talk to Reverend Lori Beth.

Next Week's Scripture:

We follow the Revised Common Lectionary for our services. Our service next week will be based on the following scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20), Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (VU p. 861), 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51

Thank you to all who contributed financially and through gifts of service in 2023.

Our service today was adapted from a United Church of Canada service "Epiphany: A New Year, a New Vision" by David Sparks

*Hymn The First Nowell **VU 91**

Time For All Ages The Journey (Footprint Activity)

Scripture

Isaiah 60:1–6 The future glory of Jerusalem

Matthew 2:1–12 Visitors from the East

Message: *An Epiphany Reflection*

Offertory

***Dedication Verse VU 55 (vs 4)**

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

Offertory Prayer (*Responsive*)

We offer our gifts to nurture the faithful journey of this community.

We offer our money to sustain its teaching and worship.

We offer our time for compassionate care.

We offer our talents to support its work for justice.

As these gifts are used in this fellowship,
and worldwide through Mission and Service,

**Loving God, you will bless them,
and you will bless us, the givers.**

**In the name of Jesus, who could not have given more,
we pray, Amen.**

Our Prayers of Thanks and Concern

An Act of Faithful Commitment for a New Year

Follow the star!

The light of Jesus Christ will be our light in the new year. We will study faithfully and listen patiently.

We will proclaim Jesus joyfully and care compassionately. We will play our part in the faith community fully and pursue justice with daring.

You will go with God,
and God will go with us.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn Arise, Your Light Is Come VU 79

A Commissioning for the New Year

You go into a new year with us, Loving God,
with us as we explore new adventures of faith.

You go into the new year with us, Loving God,
with us as we test the depth of our spirituality.

You go into the new year with us, Loving God,
with us as we are emboldened as disciples of Jesus the Christ.

You go into the new year with us, Loving God,
**with us as we dare to confront and overcome injustice,
with us on our personal quest, with us as we draw
strength and go forward as faith communities.**

We will suffer setbacks, we will encounter challenges,
we will feel like giving up, we will say, "What's the use?"
But you, Loving God, will forge us in hope; you will renew
our strength. With us when life is good,
**with us when life is tough, our Never-Failing God.
Amen**

Extinguishing of the Candles

***Musical Benediction Hope Shines as the Solitary Star
MV 220** *Hope shines as the solitary star.*

Faith is the inner light.

*You and I together mirror the light of lights,
And illumine the pathway home.*