

**The United Church of Canada  
Carlisle/Kilbride Pastoral Charge  
Epiphany, January 04, 2026  
Kilbride 9:30 a.m.; Carlisle 11:00 a.m.**



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**Welcome and Land Acknowledgement**

**Life and Work of the Church**

**Lighting the Christ Candle:** John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

**The Light of Christ is in our midst.**

**Gathering Song:** VU 79 (v. 1 & 4) – Arise, Your Light Is Come

**The chancel choir and congregation of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia, take this hymn at an energetic pace, led by their organist, who adds interludes between**

each verse. Composed by William H. Walker in 1872, the tune is appropriately known as FESTAL SONG, and, echoing Isaiah 60:1, Ruth Duck penned the lyrics in 1974.  
[Arise, Your Light Is Come! | The Chancel Choir of Trinity Church](#)

1 Arise, your light is come!  
The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God,  
which shines on you today.

4 Arise, your light is come!  
The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing;  
God's power will make us strong.

**Call to Worship:** Isaiah 60:1-2

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.  
Come, let us worship God.

**Opening Prayer:** VU 86

**Radiant God, light for all people and all places,  
By the guidance of a star you led the Magi  
to worship the Christ Child.  
By the light of faith  
lead us to worship you in peace and love,  
and guide us in your way.  
We pray in the name of Christ,  
light of the world. Amen.**

**Hymn:** VU 56 – Jesus, Our Brother

*Words: French Carol, 12<sup>th</sup> Century; Music: Medieval French Melody*

The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir performs an a cappella arrangement as part of their 2019 Festival of Carols, conducted by Ezra Burke. Also known as "The Friendly Beasts," this carol originated in 12<sup>th</sup>-century France, and the modern English lyrics are attributed to Robert Davis (1881-1950), ca. 1920.

[Jesus Our Brother - arr. David Fallis](#)

1 Jesus, our brother, kind and good,  
was humbly born in a stable rude,  
and the friendly beasts around him stood,  
Jesus, our brother, kind and good.

2 'I,' said the donkey, shaggy and brown,  
'I carried the mother uphill and down,

I carried his mother to Bethlehem town;  
I, ' said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

3     'I, ' said the cow, all white and red,  
      'I gave him my manger for his bed,  
      I gave him hay to pillow his head;  
      I, ' said the cow, all white and red.

4     'I, ' said the sheep with curly horn,  
      'I gave him my wool for his blanket warm,  
      he wore my coat on Christmas morn;  
      I, ' said the sheep, with curly horn.

5     'I, ' said the dove, from the rafters high,  
      'I cooed him to sleep that he should not cry,  
      we cooed him to sleep, my mate and I;  
      I, ' said the dove, from the rafters high.

6     Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,  
      in the stable dark were glad to tell  
      of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,  
      the gifts they gave Emmanuel.

### **Prayer for Grace & Assurance of Grace**

#### **Prayer for Illumination:**

*(Rex A. Hunt Liturgies, Christmas 1B, 2020)*

The delight of a story well known fills our hearts as we listen for its familiar end.

**May we hear in these stories, familiar and new, both wisdom and meaning for the days ahead. Amen.**

#### **Gospel Reading:** Matthew 2:1-12, *The Visit of the Wise Men*

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> 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."

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> '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.'"

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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."

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

<sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

### **Response:**

The words of our faith spoken among us.

**May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.**

### **Reflection**

**Hymn:** VU 96 – Will You Come and See the Light

*Words: Brian Wren 1989; Music: Traditional Scottish melody*

Cathy Thomsen and Pat Yerex from Red Deer Lake United perform this Epiphany hymn with accompaniment and sound mixing by Music Director Antonina Cox. British hymnist Brian Wren (b. 1936) set his lyrics to KELVINGROVE, the same Scottish tune John Bell and Graham Maule used for their hymn "Will You Come and Follow Me."

Will You Come and See the Light

- 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?
- 2 Will you step into the light that can free the slave?  
It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.  
By the pyramids of greed there's a longing to be freed;  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?
- 3 Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?  
Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.  
When the truth is cut and bruised and the innocent abused,  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?
- 4 Will you join the hope, alight in the young girl's eyes,  
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?  
When the lowest and the least are the foremost at the feast,  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?
- 5 Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?

In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,  
and the darkness all about is too dim to put it out:  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

**Offering Prayer:**

*(written by Jani Francis in Gathering/ACE – 2020/21, used with permission)*

We dedicate these gifts and our intentions  
to align with your will for the greater good of all.  
Bless and use these offerings, and us,  
to bring the light of your healing love  
to the shadowed places in this world. Amen.

**Offering Music:** VU 81 (vv. 1 & 3) – As with Gladness

This Epiphany hymn is arranged and performed by Craig Williams, organist and choirmaster at West Point Cadet Chapel. The instrument he is playing is one of the largest pipe organs in the world and is the largest housed in a sacred building; I believe it has 23,511 pipes at present, but it is always expanding as additions are given as memorials by graduates and friends of the Academy.

As with Gladness, Men of Old - Dix (West Point Cadet Chapel Organ)

- 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.
- 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.

**Communion Hymn:** VU 473 (v. 1 & 2) – Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

*Words: from the liturgy of St. James, trans. 1864; Music: French traditional carol*

Commissioned by Duke Chapel, this new arrangement of a traditional carol was composed by Chad Fothergill, Chapel organist and primary organist for Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina. The hymn is performed by the combined Duke University Chapel choirs, orchestra, and congregation and was recorded for the Chapel's 2019 televised Christmas special.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (arr. Chad Fothergill)

- 1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with awe and reverence stand;

ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
for with blessing in his hand,  
Christ our God to us approacheth  
our full homage to demand.

- 2 King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
in the body and the blood,  
he will give to all the faithful  
his own self for heavenly food.

**Communion** (see insert)

**Hymn:** VU 87 – I Am the Light of the World

*Words & Music: Jim Strathdee 1967*

Musicians from Golden Ears United performed and recorded Jim Strathdee's hymn for online worship during the pandemic. I especially appreciate the line about "the work of Christmas" beginning – and continuing – after our yearly celebrations come to a close.

**VU 87 I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

*'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.*

- 1 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: R
- 2 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! R
- 3 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! R
- 4 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! R

**Sending Forth:** (together)

*attributed to St. Patrick 5th century*

**God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;  
God be at my end, and at my departing.**

**Blessing:**

May God bless you and keep you.  
May God's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
May God show you every compassion,  
And give you peace. Amen.

**Sung Sending Forth:** VU 79 (v. 1) – Arise, Your Light Is Come  
[Arise, Your Light Is Come! | The Chancel Choir of Trinity Church](#)

1 Arise, your light is come!  
The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God,  
which shines on you today.

**Online Postlude:** We Three Kings

Many thanks to Andrea McRae for sharing this video featuring Canadian musician and composer Jamie Dupuis. He performs the traditional carol "We Three Kings" on a perhaps less-traditional instrument: the harp guitar, a hybrid instrument developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century that combines the six fretted strings of an acoustic guitar with a number of open or unfretted strings as would be found on a harp.

[We Three Kings - 18 String Harp Guitar \(Mesmerizing Sound\) 🎵🎸](#)