

Little Current United Church Pastoral Charge
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Minister: Rev. Whitney Bruno - lcucpc@gmail.com
Music Ministry: Ruth McDonald, Judith Mosher, & Choir
** an invitation to stand in body or spirit in the service
~ BOLD PRINT- Congregational Participation

2nd of Christmas & Celebrating Epiphany – January 4, 2026
10:00 am at Little Current United Church

WELCOME: a special welcome to guests worshiping with us today. Please sign the guest book as you enter the sanctuary.

Gathering & Prelude
Announcements - The Life & Work of the Church
We Approach God

Centering - As we center ourselves for worship today, we welcome you as brothers and sisters! And know that Jesus, our light, has come and the Glory of God is with us today.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

We are gathered on Treaty 94, the Manitoulin Island Treaty. And digitally Treaty 45, the Manitowaning Treaty. And Treaty 61 – The Robinson-Huron Treaty. These lands are the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe people: the Ojibwe, Odawa and the Pottowatomi. We acknowledge their stewardship of this land. Their care of the water, earth, fire and wind that is center to their lives and spirituality. With the Mnidoo Mnising* (*Manitoulin Island) Peoples, and their neighbors, let us live in respect and gratitude for all creation.

Lighting The Christ Candle:

As we travel the season of Christmas to Epiphany season, which brings the magi from a distant land following the star they were called by. To see the child Jesus. They were the first sign that Jesus was a gift to all, to everyone in the world. And they followed the light all the way to Bethlehem.

May we continue to seek Christ's enlightening Spirit with all people seeking where God will call us.

As we gather in the light. (+1) **(Light the Candle)**

2.

Call to Worship: (Based on *Isaiah 60:1-6*)

Arise, shine, for the light has come,
We come to be part of that light.
Opening ourselves to the grace of God!.

We come to offer ourselves.

Arise, for your light has come!

We are children of the Light. (+2)

Opening Prayer

We come into your presence, God most holy, in awe and wonder at your great love for us all, no matter who we are, no matter what we have done. Open our hearts to your holy wisdom. Help us we pray, to share your love with the world, just as the Wise Ones, the Wise Men, shared their gifts with the Christ. In His holy name, and in your love, we pray. Amen. (+3)

****Opening Hymn:** “Arise, Your Light Is Come” **(VU 79)**

Learning Time for All Ages:

What Was the Star of Bethlehem?

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God,
**we are created in your image, yet too often in this world,
we do not reflect your light.**

Instead of being beacons in the night,
sometimes we are in danger of snuffing out what light is left.

Loving God,
**free us from the shadows that lie in all our hearts,
so we will reveal to the world the light that is your love
and together renew this world. Amen.** (+4)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

People of God, hear the Good News! The light that is God's love never falters. Through this light, we see that we are not alone, that God shares in our journey and guides us towards the day when we will share in the love that the light reveals.

Thanks be to God. Amen. (+4)

3.
Listening

Prayer of Illumination:

Breathe on us, Breath of God, and enlighten us with understanding. May these words take root and grow within our spirits. Amen.

HOLY SCRIPTURES

Old Testament – Psalm 72 – VU 790
"Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity"
New Testament – Matthew 2: 1-12
'The Visit of the Magi'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.
Thanks be to God.

Reflection: Who Where the Magi Who Visited Jesus?

- By Liz Abrams (2023)

Learning Hymn: "I Am the Light of the World" VU 87

M4M-Your Generosity Matters.

- Building a Year of Care

Responding to the Word

Invitation to Commitment:

There is so much that needs doing, O God, and we have no magic wand to get it done without effort, and no gold, frankincense, and myrrh to finance our efforts, but give ourselves and what we have.

(+5) *(The offerings will now be brought forward)*

***Offertory Hymn: (VU 540)**

*Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living,
we may offer faithfully.*

Prayer of Commitment (unison)

Here is our offerings, but we also present our lives so that, in your grace, all of our offerings may meet the needs to which they are directed. Give us wisdom and courage as we seek to offer all that we are in your work. Amen. (+5)

4.
Prayers of the People:

Radiant Source of all creation:

We give thanks that we are on a journey through space and time and living, a journey shared by many companions who also believe in you. Like the Magi, we travel, searching to see you, and to be with you, and to bring you the gift of ourselves.

We give thanks that we are not alone, that you are with us and within us. In the midst of the changing seasons of our lives, help us to be aware of your presence. You are here, no matter what experiences and emotions are ours today:

in the excitement and joy of new beginnings, new relationships, new ideas, new insights, new babies and new homes...

in the anger and fear of losing a job, a family member, a friend...

in the mixed feelings of moving, of decision-making, of new jobs... in the midst of routines of study, of work, of retirement...

Thank you, God, that you are always reaching out to us, seeking relationship, knocking at the doors of our hearts, wanting to be part of our lives, minute by minute. Truly, we are blessed.

Loving God:

We know that many people do not have the stability of faith to sustain them, and we pray for them now...

We pray for the children and adults caught up in the midst of wars and violence not of their own making...

We pray for the many that are hungry and malnourished, those who have no home or even a roof over their heads, for those without access to clean water...

We pray for those children and adults who have been, or are, being abused in their homes, in the streets, or by the systems of our culture...

We pray that all your children may have dignity, peace, justice, and loving relationships...

Give us the courage to risk making changes in ourselves, our families, our church, and our world, so that your vision may be fulfilled. **Amen.** (+6)

Now let us say together those words taught by Jesus...

5.

.....Our Mother/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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Going Forth Into The World

**** Hymn for the New Week:** (VU 574)

"Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love"

Benediction & Carrying out the Light:

Like the wise ones who took a new way home, this new year will bring you new experiences and new journeys. May you see God's light that shines for you, you need only to look up.

- Light is extinguished. and we carry the light in our hearts

Choral Benediction: (tune of Edelweiss)

**May the Lord, mighty Lord, bless and keep you forever,
Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavour.
Lift up your eyes and see God's face, know God's grace forever,
May the Lord, mighty Lord, bless and keep you forever.**

Sourced Resources: used with permission.

- (+1) revised - Karen Boivin, Melville UC, Fergus, ON - Gathering A/C/E 2025-26
- (+2) Adapted – George Allan, Chatham, ON – Gathering A/C/E 2025/26
- (+3) Richard Bott, Grace UC, Burlington, ON - Gathering A/C/E 2025-26
- (+4) **Sandy Ferguson**, Strathearn U.C., Edmonton, Alta., Gathering A/C/E 2019/20
- (+5) Beth Johnston, Bridging Waters PC, Nipawin, Sask – Gathering A/C/E 2025/26
- (+6) Caroline Crowell, Bedford U.C., N.S., Gathering A/C/E 1997-1998



Welcome to Worship With Little Current United Church



2nd of Christmas & Celebrating Epiphany Sunday

January 4, 2026

Hymns for Jan 4, 2026 – LCUCPC

#1. VU 79 *Arise, Your Light Is Come*

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

2.Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.

3.Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.

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.

~ ~ ~

#2 VU 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.***

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: **Refrain.**

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! **Refrain.**

3.To free the prisoner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nation with strength and good will,
to see God's children everywhere. **Refrain.**

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! **Refrain.**

~ ~ ~

#3 VU 574 “*Come Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love*”

1.Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,
tender and true, tender and true,
out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

2.Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell
joyfully came, joyfully came,
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame,
seeking the lost, seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.

3.Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;
why do they roam? why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget;
home, weary wanderers, home!
Wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

4.Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love!
Come and abide, come and abide,
lifting my life till it rises above
envy and falsehood and pride:
seeking to be seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.