

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Noël en Duo sur les Jeux d'Anches, sans tremblant (Louis-Claude Daquin)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion* Brian Walter

INTROIT When Heaven's Bright with Mystery
(Rob Johns/English trad. melody arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams)

CALL TO WORSHIP

A new church season is about to begin.
The life of Jesus reveals to us the wonderful nature of
God's love.

**It is God who gathers us and all creation by the love
that shines forth in Jesus Christ.**

Come into the grace of God who heals and restores –
Whose spirit transforms our mourning into joy.

Come as a people whose hope and call is
God's salvation.

Let us worship God so that we may go and serve!
Come, let us worship in unity, peace and joy!

***HYMN** I am the Light of the World p.7

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Almighty God, you are Alpha and Omega, the
beginning and the end of all things in heaven and earth.
At the beginning of another year and the passing away
of an old year, we gather.

**We gather to praise you for the gift of time, to thank
you for a New Year that stands before us, to seek
your guidance and care in the days ahead, to show**

our confidence that as we journey into another year,
you journey with us. Nurturing God, you are the one
who nourishes us for the journey. May we be
strengthened as we gather at your table today. May
the mystery of your presence, experienced in our
worship, bind us together into one community of
faith. And as Jesus taught us, so now we pray.
Our Father...

WORDS OF GRACE

Take comfort in the assurance that even those things that
are hidden from memory, or are too deep for our words,
are not beyond God's forgiving love. God knows us
completely and bestows pardon and peace.

Thanks be to God for the gifts that give us new life!

SUNG RESPONSE Arise, Be Clothed in the Light

(VU 886) Arise, be clothed in the light.

**Arise, be clothed in the light. Your light has come,
your light has come. Hallelujah! (repeat)**

TIME FOR ALL AGES

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 60:1-6 p.690 *Pew Bible OT*

(The nations shall be gathered to God's light.) Pat Innes

ANTHEM We Seek the Tiny King (Ruth Elaine Schram)

GOSPEL READING Matthew 2:1-12

(The visit of the magi.) p. 2 *Pew Bible NT*

SERMON Travelling By the Light of a Star
The Rev. Tim Dayfoot

***HYMN** From a Distant Home p. 7

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

A NEW CREED VU p. 918

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY The Wexford Carol

(trad. Irish arr. Phillip Keveren)

***DEDICATION** What Can We Bring? (Mayberry/Kai)

What can we bring, what can we offer, what gifts from
heaven sent, to light Creation? We bring respect, we
bring compassion, we breathe into the life that teaches all
is holy. And justice shall be our heart's delight, an open
door. We bring this Love, we bring this One Love.
We bring this Love, we bring this One Love.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER & Prayer Shawl Blessing**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(on back pages of bulletin)

***HYMN** A Light is Gleaming p. 8

***COMMISSIONING**

***SUNG BLESSING**

Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light (MV 211)

Go now in peace, guided by the light of Christ, so you
may be nourished by the Word of Life. (repeat)

POSTLUDE Joseph est bien marié

(Claude-Bénigne Balbastre)

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer
(Prayer before Communion)

Lift up your hearts: **We lift them up to God.**
Let us honour our Creator. **It is right to honour God.**
It is right to honour God and to give our thanks.
We give our thanks to God.
Holy God of light and love, by the light of your promise you guide your people across the desert and through the night. In the light of your presence we behold your glory and offer you our gifts. Through the light of your peace you claim us as your beloved, and joy is our banquet. We give you thanks that you make manifest your glory: lighting the way for every pilgrim, gifting the earth with the Prince of Peace, setting a table for all who hunger. And so it is that we sing our praise:

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space. All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to Your grace. Hosanna in the highest heaven. Creation sings Your praise. And blessed is the One who comes and bears Your name always. (MV 203)

As we gather at this feasting table, we remember that on the night before he died, Jesus feasted with his friends. He took a loaf of bread, thanked you as we have thanked you, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Whenever you feast together, remember me." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying: "Drink. This cup is the promise of God, made in my blood. Whenever you drink together, remember me."

Remembering your boundless love shown to us in Jesus Christ, we offer you our praise, as we proclaim in song the great mystery of our faith:

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again! Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again! (MV 204)

Holy Spirit, unite us at this feast and may it strengthen us to live the resurrected and reconciled life of Christ in creation.

Prayers of the People

At this time, we also remember all with whom you would have us share your feast. We pray for all who are in sorrow or pain... all who are ill or alone... all who live with fear, oppression, or hunger... all whom the world counts as last and least... We pray for the church and its varied ministries... for nations as they strive for peace and justice... for all our families and friends... Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and on all your people. Bless this bread and this cup, that they might refresh us and renew us as Christ's body in the world.

May our Amen be heard, as we sing together.

Amen, Amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!

Amen, Amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen! (MV 205)

Words of Institution

Welcome to the Table

Come, for all things are now ready.

May we come to the table with all our kin and share with all in need — the gift of healing for those of us in pain, the gift of reconciliation for those of us estranged, the gift of assurance for those of us in doubt, and the gift of hope for those of us in tears. **May we who share these gifts, share Christ with one another and with all our kin.**

Prayer After Communion (From "And the Table Will Be Wide" by Jan Richardson)

And the table will be wide. And the welcome will be wide. And the arms will open wide to gather us in. And our hearts will open wide to receive. And we will come as children who trust there is enough. And we will give up our appetite for despair. And we will taste and know of delight. And we will become bread for a hungering world. And we will become drink for those who thirst. And the blessed will become the blessing. And everywhere will be the feast. Amen.



The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.



AURORA UNITED CHURCH

An Affirming Congregation

Church Office 905-727-1935
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Rev. Tim Dayfoot & Rev. Linda Wheler
Music Coordinator—Margaret Heney



The Sunday before Epiphany

**January 4, 2026
11:00 AM**



I Am the Light of the World **VU 87**

**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.**

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**

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**

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**

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**

From a Distant Home **VU 89**

From a distant home the Saviour we come seeking, using as our guide the star so
brightly beaming.

**Refrain: Lovely eastern star that tells us of God's morning, heaven's wondrous
light, O never cease your shining! Glory in the highest to the Son of Heaven, and
upon the earth be peace and love to all.**

Glowing gold I bring the newborn babe so holy, token of his power to reign above
in glory. **R**

Frankincense I bring the child of God's own choosing, token of our prayers to heaven
ever rising. **R**

Bitter myrrh have I to give the infant Jesus, token of the pain that he will bear to
save us. **R**

A Light is Gleaming **VU 82**

**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.**

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**

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**

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**

So let us live in the brightness God has giv'n, and let us rise to see the dawn.
We trust that God is here a-sparkle and ablaze, - warming all our days. **R**