

# Bayview United Church

2609 Bayview Avenue

Toronto, Ontario M2L 1B5

416-447-5941 office@bayviewunitedchurch.ca

## Worship Service

**Zoom Audio Call**

**Call: 647-374-4685**

**ID#: 896-7180-8158#**

**Participant ID: Press #**

**Password: call or email office**

**Or <https://zoom.us/j/89671808158>**

**Music Director: K.Quinton**

**Minister: Rev. C. Cooper**

## **Epiphany Sunday**

Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

11:00 a.m.

### **Moment of Silent Reflection:**

**Optimism** is a positive, cheerful outlook. When we are optimistic, we are hopeful even when others have lost faith. We believe that good has the power to prevail over evil. We do not allow ourselves to be victimized by setbacks or losses. We embrace challenges with confidence and vitality. We are solvers, not complainers. In the midst of dark times, we look to the future with a vision of what is possible. We trust that everything works together for good.

Nothing can destroy our hope. (The Virtues Project)

“The optimist sees the rose and not its thorns; the pessimist stares at the thorns, oblivious to the rose.” Kahlil Gibran

## Page 2 **Praising God**

**Prelude** "Rise Up, Shepherds, and Follow"  
African-American spiritual arr. Mark Hayes



### **Words of Welcome**

#### **Call to Worship**

Let us take a moment to quiet our thoughts as we prepare our hearts for worship...

The magi came from many places, following a star. The magi brought gifts to offer the Christ Child. We too bring gifts—ourselves, our hopes, and our dreams. Shepherds and magi, the meek and the mighty, all were welcomed by the Christ Child in Bethlehem.

We too come this day to worship the Christ Child and return home rejoicing. May the gift of the star shed new light on our world and in our lives as we worship this day.

Page 3

**Opening Prayer (together)**

Loving God, by the light of a star, You led the magi from the East to worship the Bethlehem child. Hundreds of years later, Your light is continuing to burn brightly in our world. May we take the time to follow Your light and to be inspired by Your presence beaming within and around us. Amen.

**Carol** "We Three Kings" vs. 1, 2

We three kings of Orient are  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain  
Following yonder star

**Refrain:** O Star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding  
Guide us to thy Perfect Light

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain  
Gold I bring to crown Him again  
King forever, ceasing never  
Over us all to reign R

**Prayer for Grace (together)**

God of Radiant Light, we admire the passion and commitment of the magi who followed a star and embraced the future You were beginning. Like those wise ones, help us find the guiding principles that will direct our lives to a greater Truth. When we get caught up in our daily routines or lose sight of Your loving presence,

Page 4

awaken our senses. Illuminate our way that we may discover You in our midst. Amen.

**Assurance of Grace**

God's light shines brightly in our lives; guiding our journey and filling us with hope for the future. Amen.

**Hebrew Scripture** Isaiah 60:1-6 C. MacLean  
(Arise and shine, for the glory of the Lord is shining on you.)

**Gospel Lesson** Matthew 2:1-12 C. MacLean  
(The journey of the Wise Men searching for the newborn king.)



**Solo** "Mary's Boy Child" Jester Hairston/"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" H. Martin, R. Blane  
J. Brooker, saxophone

**Sermon** "Looking for the Light" Rev. Cooper

**Hymn (92) "In the Darkness Shines the Splendour"**  
vs. 1,4

- 1 In the darkness shines the splendour  
of the Word who took our flesh,  
welcoming, in love's surrender,  
death's dark shadow at his crèche.  
Bearing every human story,  
Word made flesh reveals his glory.
  
- 4 All God's people, sing in jubilation  
of the birth that sets us free,  
telling of the revelation:  
Jesus, God's epiphany.  
Celebrate the human story!  
Word made flesh reveals our glory.

**Responding to God**

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer (unison)**

**Our 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.**

**Video Hymn "Our God Goes With Us"** David Kai  
(David made the video in 2020 and the hymn is sung  
by Mariko Bown-Kai.)

**Commissioning and Benediction**

May God bless you and keep you.  
May God's face shine upon you,  
And be gracious to you.  
May God look upon you with kindness,  
And give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of God's hand.  
(Irish Blessing)

**Postlude "We Three Kings"** John H. Hopkins Jr.  
arr. Mark Hayes

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thank you** for joining our Zoom audio and video  
worship service today. We hope you found the  
worship service a meaningful experience.

**Many thanks** to B. Kai and J. Brooker for  
coordinating our Zoom audio and video service.  
Thanks to C. MacLean for reading our scripture.  
Thanks to K. Quinton, L. Lazar, and P. Tibbles  
Cookson for inspiring us with their music.

**Special thanks** to J. Brooker for sharing his joy of  
playing the saxophone with us.

You can support Bayview United Church using **e-  
transfer** from your bank. Just follow this procedure:  
Decide the amount that you wish to donate, complete

## Page 7

the transaction according to your bank's instructions and email to: [office@bayviewunitedchurch.ca](mailto:office@bayviewunitedchurch.ca)  
In the comments section indicate where you would like your donation to go, for example Local, Mission and Service, Memorial, Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc. Thank you for your support of BUC.

We will continue to offer Zoom audio and video worship services. Our priority is to keep everyone safe and well. This also means everyone who would like to attend our services is able to do so from their homes.

**Today, Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Epiphany Sunday.**  
We celebrate the arrival of the magi to visit Jesus.

**Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, Baptism of Jesus Sunday.**

**Prayers and Concerns:** Please remember in your prayers all those in need of hope, comfort and healing.

**BUC Prayer Group:** These individuals offer confidential prayer support to anyone who is in need of God's healing love, support and compassion in their lives. Prayers may be for a relative, a close friend or yourself. Please email E. Turnbull or call R. Shikaze with your prayer request. Thank you.

**Our Church Administrator** will be in the church office Mon., Wed., Thurs. and Friday from 10 to 3 p.m.

## Page 8

**God bless you,** stay well, stay safe and we hope you tune in next week...same day, same time, and same Zoom phone number or video link.



**Wishing you a Happy New Year!!**