

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

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

Church Administrator: M. Leone

Music Director: K. Quinton

Minister: Rev. C. Cooper

Epiphany Sunday

Sunday, January 8th, 2023 11:00 a.m.

Moment of Silent Reflection:

“If light is in your heart, you will find your way home.”
– Rumi

“People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in their true beauty is revealed only if there is light from within.” – Elisabeth Kübler-Ross

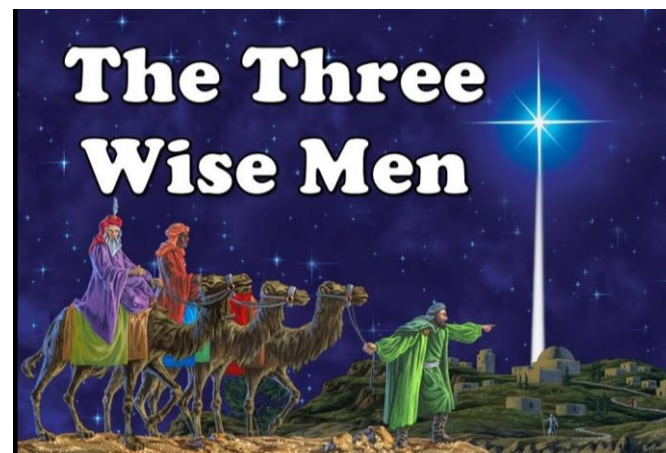
“If there is light in the soul, there will be beauty in the person. If there is beauty in the person, there will be harmony in the house. If there is harmony in the house, there will be order in the nation. If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.”
– Chinese proverb

Page 2 Praising God

Prelude

"I Wonder as I Wander"

John Jacob Niles, arr. Mark Hayes



Words of Welcome

Acknowledging the Territory

Call to Worship

A story is told that once long ago,
a group of magi brought gifts to Jesus,
gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

We too bring our gifts to Jesus,
some we can see and some we cannot.

As we reach the end of the Christmas season, we
think of the gifts we wish to take into the New Year.

We seek to bring light, love, compassion, joy, and
hope.

May the gifts of our faith be brought alive in worship
today and be shared every day of the New Year.

Opening Prayer (together)

God of gold, we offer You all that is pure, rich and worthwhile in our lives; all that gleams with generosity and shines with Your radiant purpose.

God of incense, we offer You our spoken and unspoken longings, our questions and our doubts, our searching for Your wisdom within us.

God of myrrh, we offer You our sorrow and our suffering: the pain of loss, the cry of injustice, and the hurt of disappointment.

In the gold of abundance, the incense of yearning, and the myrrh of our heartaches, we embrace You, God-with-us. Amen.

Carol (91) "The First Nowell" vs.1,2,4,5

1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay akeeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

2 They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. **R**

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. **R**

5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. **R**

Prayer for Grace (together)

Dawning Light, we emerge from the dark long nights of winter, into Your promise of a new day. Yet we are sorry that so often we let Your light grow dim within us. Each day can seem ordinary – the same food, the same television shows, the same activities. We can approach each day as if we are watching the same old movie. Bring us new energy and light, O God, for each new day. Enlighten us with new ways to experience our daily lives. And help us follow Your star to brighter days. Amen.

Sung Assurance (585) "Jesus Bids Us Shine"

1 Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear light,
like a little candle burning in the night.
In this world is darkness, so let us shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.

Listening for God's Word

Hebrew Lesson Isaiah 60:1-6 C. MacLean
(Arise, shine for the glory of God is shining.)

Gospel Lesson Matthew 2:1-12 C. MacLean
(The Wise Men search for the new-born king.)

Solo "In the Darkness Shines the Splendor"
B. Gasslein/H. Gauntlett
L. Lazar, soprano



Sermon "Finding the Light" Rev. Cooper

Carol "We Three Kings" vs. 1-5

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**

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, voices raising,
Worshipping God on high. **R**

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;

Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone cold tomb. **R**

Glorious now behold Him arise;
King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Sounds through the earth and skies. **R**

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.**

**Hymn (87) "I Am the Light of the World" vs. 1,2,3,4
'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**

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)

Choral Amen (tune: (48) Hark! the Herald Angels Sing)

Now our waiting time is over,
now we greet the Prince of Peace,
Blessed be His Holy presence,
may His joy in all increase.
Now the promises of ages,

are fulfilled before our eyes.
Sing God's praise forevermore;
Christ is here who came before.
Join with angels' praise sublime,
Christ is here at New Year's time.

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

Thank you for joining our Zoom service. We hope you found it a meaningful experience.

Thanks to J. Brooker and B. Kai for running our Zoom audio and video service. Thanks to C. MacLean for reading the scriptures. Thanks to K. Quinton, L. Lazar, and P. Tibbles Cookson for inspiring us with their music.

Today, Sunday, January 8th, Epiphany Sunday, we celebrate the arrival of the Magi to see Jesus.

Wednesday, January 11th, 7:00 p.m., Worship team meeting on Zoom.

Sunday, January 15th, Baptism of Jesus Sunday 1:00 p.m. – Council meeting

Sunday, January 22nd, Worship Service 1:00 p.m. – A Congregational Meeting will be held on January 22nd to vote and choose one option for the future of our congregation, as outlined in the Council presentation on November 20th, 2022. Voting will be via Zoom and only those members and adherents present are able to vote. We encourage everyone to attend this meeting online or by phone.

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Sunday, January 29th, Worship Service and Celebration of Holy Communion. We invite you, when you join the service, to have ready a piece of bread or cracker and a beverage, and together we will share the Lord's Supper.

2022 Annual Reports are due on February 5th. Please send reports to church office, office@bayviewunitedchurch.ca. The Annual Meeting will be held on Sun. March 12th, 2023.

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 Rev. Cooper or call R. Shikaze with your prayer request.

You can support Bayview United Church using **e-transfer** from your bank. Decide the amount you wish to donate, follow your bank's instructions & email to: office@bayviewunitedchurch.ca. In the comments section, indicate where you would like your donation to go, for example Local, Mission and Service, Easter, Memorial, etc. If you do not use e-transfer you can always mail your cheque to the church. Thank you for your support of BUC.

God bless you, stay well, and we hope you join in for our service next Sunday.



Wishing you a blessed day!!