

**Sunday January 4, 2026
10:30am,
Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church**

Prelude/Announcement Video

Greeting

God with us. Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

Acknowledgement Of The Traditional Territory

This morning we are gathered on the traditional territory of Alderville First Nation, situated in the treaty territories of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, specifically the Gunshot Treaty which is part of the Williams Treaties Settlement Agreement of 2018. May those of us, of settler heritage, strive to learn about these Treaties and develop good relationships with First Nations.

Moment To Gather Ourselves

Opening Song: VU 82, A Light Is Gleaming

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.

- 1 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
- 2 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
- 3 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
- 4 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 asparkle and ablaze,
warming all our days. R

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Call To Worship/Lighting the Christ Candle

God of all time. God of this new year -

we gather to worship you, who came in a baby, a promise of your love for the most vulnerable in our world and in ourselves.

God of all time. God of this new year -

we gather to worship you like those traveller's of old who followed the star to bring their gifts for the child.

God of all time. God of this new year -

we gather in the presence of this Christ light that will guide us today and all our days.

(Lighting of the Christ Candle)

God of all time. God of this new year -

May we open our hearts, our minds, our hands so that your light might find a resting and growing place in us. May it be so. Amen.

Hymn: VU 91, The First Nowell

- 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

- 3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. 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

6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought. R

Words: English traditional carol, ca. 17th century, alt. Music: English traditional melody; harm. John Stainer 1871; desc. And harm. Healey Willan 1926.
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Gathering Prayer:

Together let us pray: **God of all time, God of this new year, God of this time of worship we gather in your presence through and with one another. We know that wherever two or three gather you are in the midst of us. May this time together touch us so that we may know your love that knows no boundaries - not of age, gender, nationality, income, diversities. May it be so. Amen.**

Holy Wondering: Kings Cake

Hymn: We Three Kings

1 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 light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. [Refrain]

3 Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high. [Refrain]

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]

5 Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]

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Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2: 1-12

Response: this is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Story

Invitation To The Offering

Offering Hymn: VU 81, As With Gladness vs. 1-3

- 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.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped, to that lowly manger bed,
there to bend the knee before Christ, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with eager pace ever seek your throne of grace.
- 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.

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Prayer of Dedication

**God of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh. God of our gifts of time, talents and treasures.
Bless all these gifts we offer. May they be sources of caring and witness to your love for
all of creation. We pray, Amen.**

Spiritual Practice: Star Words

Prayers of the People

Scott, Brian Burke, Rick, Denyse, Allen, Sonja....

(time of silence, as we also please hold these people in your ongoing prayers:

Henry; Rebecca; Chris; Bill; Nancy; Larry; Ken; Mike; Danny Li; Alexandra; Ron; Margaret Knight; Barb; Lori; Patti.)

The Lord's Prayer:

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever, Amen.

Closing Hymn: 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

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Blessing

God of all time. God of this new year -

May we go knowing your love for the most vulnerable both in ourselves and in one another.

God of all time. God of this new year -

May we keep our eyes open to see your signs in the skies and in the streets where we live.

God of all time. God of this new year -

May we take your light, and our stars with us, as we leave this place of worship, and may they guide us in all the moments of our living.

Sung Blessing: TLUS 51, Anointing, Fall On Me

Anointing, fall on me, anointing, fall on me.

Let the power of the Holy Ghost fall on me. (repeat)

Let the power of the Holy Ghost, let the power of the Holy Ghost,
let the power of the Holy Ghost, fall on me.

Anointing, fall on me.

Anointing, fall on me.

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Postlude