



**Trinity United Church**  
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*You are...Included...Wanted... Accepted*

**Sunday January 6, 2019, 10am**  
**Theme: Anniversary**  
**(Epiphany)**

† indicates stand as you are able  
**Bold** indicates participation by the people

**MV** = More Voices  
**VU** = Voices United

## **WE GATHER**

### PRELUDE

These lectionary texts all tell about a variety of people who, for generations, were in search of the saviour. Even the descriptions of the saviour tell us as much about those who seek him, as it describes his true identity. If we take a compassionate look at the magi, the stars (if you will) of this day, we understand they devoted their lives to understanding their god. They don't agree with the things we believe about God, but they were willing to travel great distances to discover what their god would reveal to them...and who did they find? Jesus, the all-consuming light of love. *How far are you/we willing to travel? Are we open to a new experience of God or do we insist on things agreeing with us? How is faith like a journey?*

**LIFE & MINISTRY, & SHARING THE PEACE (Rev. Bob)**  
*(Please feel free to move around)*

### WELCOME & TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Welcome to this service of worship. We begin by acknowledging the traditional territory upon which we gather this morning. For many thousands of years, the Lheidli T'enneh have sought to walk gently on this land. We seek a renewed relationship with both the Indigenous and Metis Peoples, one based in honour, deep respect, and Right Relations.

**GATHERING SONG: Come In, Come In and Sit Down (Vs1&4) VU#395**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)**

*Choir: Why do we gather and celebrate this way on this day?*

**All: Because many years ago in 1910 a tent city known as South Fort George needed a church and a steamer brought a large tent sent by Dr. White for just that purpose.**

**L: But you can't stay in a tent or school house forever. By 1922 the Knox church on Patricia Blvd. was too small and a new church was built at 1448 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.**

*Choir: In 1925, along with many other congregations across Canada, the congregation became part of The United Church of Canada.*

**ALL: Growth is part of a pioneer town and in 1957 a new sanctuary was needed. Once again people invested in one another and their community and the current building at 1448 5<sup>th</sup> came into being.**

Sung: Let Us Build a Church V1 MV#1

L: The summer of 1959 saw the arrival of Rev. Newton Steacy, and while Knox United had been operating as a multi-point ministry centered downtown, it was time to plant a new congregation. Using volunteer labour and as much donated material as possible, a new church was planted at 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Irwin St. The new congregation was called St. Andrew's United Church.

*Choir: The churches continued to grow as did the community. Sunday School was soon too large for the old army barracks. New groups started up like CGIT, marriage enrichment classes, the start of Scouting in PG, and the St. Andy's Dandies led by Helen Moffat.*

**ALL: Sharing our faith in new and relevant ways has always been part of our story. From the very beginning in a tent, to an army barracks, to Rev. Avery and Rev. Stacey being known as part-time "pub padres" sharing the story of Christ where they found people gathered.**

Sung: Let Us Build a Church V2 MV#1

L: In 1964 St. Andrew's moved to its current location at 5<sup>th</sup> and Union. The congregation continued to grow adding more space, a kitchen, and administration wing. Into the 70's the pace continued with new programs and opportunities to deepen connection with one another and with God.

*Choir: Music has always been part of our story. In the early years there were multiple choirs and musical groups to join. A deep awareness and appreciation for how music shapes, informs, and enriches our faith is still part of who we are.*

**ALL: The 1980's were a blend of success and learning. A new church plant was tried and eventually it re-united with the congregation at 3555 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. A new education wing was built at 3555. Like many other congregations the late 80's were a challenge, yet the strength it created continues to shape and mold us.**

Sung: Let Us Build a Church V3 MV#1

L: The next 3 decades saw many twists and turns for both Knox and St. Andrew's. New things were tried. Some worked. Some didn't. Clergy came and went, some for shorter times and some longer. New community partnerships were formed – some that still exist today. New technology was included in worship and used to share our worship with others via the internet.

*Choir: In 2017 a decision was made to see if both Knox and St. Andrew's could once again be one church family. On September 24, 2017 both congregations decided to become one again. The core values of the new congregation would be inclusive fellowship, living faith, and joyful service. The new name...Trinity United Church!*

**ALL: And that brings us to today. One year later Trinity United is vibrant, vital, and viable. Our staff has increased. Music remains a corner stone of our worship. Gathering for worship continues to be central to our identity. Our digital ministry has grown. New people have joined us on the journey of faith. We remain committed to our core values and the history that made us.**

Sung: Let Us Build a Church V4 MV#1

L: We continue to gather to support one another through an inclusive fellowship that seeks to break down barriers. We acknowledge and support a living faith that changes and evolves and find expression in many different ways. Our sense of joyful service calls us out into the community building on our rich heritage and the connections we inherited.

**ALL: We are faithful pilgrims on a journey of discovery. We are disciples seeking to walk in the way of Christ engaged in acts of faithful public witness. We are all ages, stages, colours, ethnicities, orientations, gender identities, abilities, levels of education, and affluence.**

Sung: Let Us Build a Church V5 MV#1

L: Why do we gather?

**ALL: Because we are Trinity United Church!**

**GATHERING PRAYER: (Unison)**

Together, O God, you call us to follow the light of Jesus in the world. Help us to see how we can follow that star shining brightly, even if we don't know the destination. Help us to continue to take risks with the faith of the Magi and those who planted our church so many years ago. Empower us for ministry that is relevant and timely in our day, so that like the saints, we too can be part of a rich legacy and heritage that continues to be an inclusive fellowship, with a living faith, embodied in joyful service. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE: (Responsive)**

One: Friends, we know the last year hasn't been perfect. In our own lives and the life of our church. There are things we could have done differently, thoughts that could have been phrased better, emotions that could have been expressed in a more healthy manner. Yet, even in the midst of our own imperfections, God is there. The Spirit of God dwells within us and the light of Christ challenges us.

**All: In the light of Christmas we know God's love for each of us. In the gift of Christmas we embrace that we are all created in God's image. In Jesus' birth we know a love without limitations.**

✠HYMN: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

VU#651

**THEME CONVERSATION**

**WE LISTEN**

**SCRIPTURE: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (NRSV)**

(Lectionary@Home: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17)

**Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be

the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Reader: This is part of our story of faith.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM:

*Arise Your Light Is Come*

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SERMON:

Holding the Light

**WE RESPOND**

†HYMN:

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

VU#81

**PASTORAL PRAYERS & The Prayer of Jesus**

VU#959

*Please include this week:*

*Joy Greenly*

*Janice Fast*

*Evelyn Malgunas' husband Vern, their Family and Friends.*

*Louise Chernenkoff*

INVITATION TO RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

GATHERING OUR GIFTS

Through our Tithes, Offerings, Envelopes, & PAR

OFFERTORY HYMN: *Christ Be Our Light*

Projection

**Many the gifts,  
Many the people,  
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants  
to one another,  
making your kingdom come.**

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts,  
Shine through the dark [night].  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

✠OFFERTORY PRAYER: (Unison)

We have carried these gifts long enough. Through deserts and hostile lands where scarcity rules and fear threaten our generosity we have traveled. We have borne the burden knowing that one day they will be used for ministry and possibly change someone's life forever. Now, O God, we offer them to you. Trusting they will spread your light into all the nooks and crannies of our lives. Amen.

### WE SERVE

✠HYMN: *Draw the Circle Wide*

MV#145

### **SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

Friends, every family sits around a table to share news of the day, Concerns about life, and stories they have heard.

We invite you now to gather around this table,  
with the great family of creation,  
to share the day and listen to God's story.

It's a special table because it is big enough for all!  
It's a special table because it is made from the stuff of the earth:  
Wood and ore, grain and grapes, gifts from God.  
It's a special table because the Christ is here.  
Let us share God's story.

May the Creator of universe and all that is in it be with you!  
**And also with you!**

People of God, lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the One who gave his Heart to heal us.**

Let us give thanks to the One who made everything and called it 'good'.  
**How right it is to give our thanks and praise  
to the One who calls us 'Beloved.'**

Into the shadows of silence,  
you hummed the first chords of creation,  
Heart of Tenderness,  
your Word crafting the sun to welcome each day,  
the moon and stars to guide the night.

The Spirit gathered up the dust of chaos  
and shaped it into vast universes,  
flinging them into space and time.

Floating on the warm waters of Eden,  
cradled in your love and joy,  
we could have lived with you forever.

But we made mud pies from death's dirt,  
shaping our own foolish dreams,  
chasing after sin, and always being caught.

Prophets came, sent from your heart  
to call us back to you,  
but we could not hear them  
over the shouts of our desires.

So, when we had no hope,  
you sent your Child, Jesus,  
the One who was willing to take on  
anything, and everything, which kept us from you.

With those who travel great distances to greet him,  
those who embraced his teachings,  
and with our beloved sisters and brothers  
in every time and place, we sing of your love:

**Holy, holy, holy! Creator of Light and life.  
Heaven and earth sing forever of your love and joy.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is the One who comes to proclaim your truth.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessedness is your nature, Holy Imagination,  
and your Bright Morning Star, Jesus Christ.  
When our hearts were hardened towards you,  
he came to soften them with your grace.

Knowing we had lost our way,  
he came to walk at our side,  
unfolding the map of your commonwealth  
and pointing out the new way home.

Standing with us in the newness of your grace,  
he journeyed alone to the cross,  
bearing witness to your limitless love,  
and leading us into your heart,  
leaving death empty and alone.

On this day as we start something new,  
we proclaim the life which was his,  
and the hope which is ours in that mystery we call faith:

**Christ has died.**  
**Christ has risen.**  
**Christ will come again!**

As your Spirit changed chaos into creation,  
may these simple gifts  
of the bread and the cup  
be transformed into  
your life and peace for us.

We come to this table,  
your beloved community,  
hungry for your hope in our lives,  
yearning for your peace to fill us.

And when we have been fed by you,  
we would go forth into the world  
to bring the homeless off lonely streets,  
to feed the hungry with more than clichés,  
to welcome the stranger as our sister,  
to embrace the outcast as our brother,

And when time has ended its journey,  
and we are gathered as your family  
around the Table of grace,  
we will join our hands and hearts together,  
singing to you through all eternity  
God in Community, Holy in One, You present in Trinity. Amen.

## BLESSING THE BREAD AND CUP

Everyone is welcome to be here.  
**In this way, we lift up a world of inclusion,  
where all people live with respect and dignity.**

**Everyone present will receive a share.**

**In this way, we lift up a world of generosity,  
where, as in the examples of Jesus,  
abundance overcomes scarcity so all are fed.**

Everyone is invited now to take a portion,  
and to see others also receive.

**In this way, we lift up a world of sufficiency,  
where entrenched systems of privilege are challenged,  
wealth is shared equitably, and all are satisfied with enough.**

#### SERVING ONE ANOTHER FOR THE WORLD

*This morning we will be serving communion by intinction. You are invited to come to one of the three stations at the front using the center aisle, tear off a piece of bread or take a rice cracker, dip it in the cup, take a small cup, eat and drink, and return to your seat using one of the side aisles. If you have health or gluten concerns please use the third station with Rev. Bob.*

Receiving the Elements:

Bread: The bread of unity with Christ.

**Amen.**

Cup: The cup of solidarity in Christ.

**Amen.**

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**God of the Magi who embarked on a journey not knowing the destination, we are grateful that you call each of us to join with you and one another in a grand adventure of faith. We pray that these symbols imbued with metaphor and meaning will sustain and challenges us, comfort and afflict us, as we move into a new year and a church community. May your Spirit strengthen us to follow in the way of Jesus in this city through a living faith, inclusive fellowship, and joyful service. Amen.**

† **COMMISSIONING** and BENEDICTION

**Go into the world and be God's Christmas light. Go and be Trinity United!**

BENEDICTION

† **Sung Response:** *This Little Light of Mine*

**Projection**

## POSTLUDE

### Pastoral Prayer:

Creator, regularly you invite us to come and see and catch a glimpse of what is possible when we join our lives to your mission in the world.

Like Magi setting out without a clear destination we too seek to follow you into this new year. We acknowledge that, sometimes, the unknown bring with it a sense of fear and unease. Help us to resist the temptation to limit ourselves and the potential of our community. Help us to find the courage to look forward with awe and wonder rather than shame and trepidation. Help us to take ownership of the various emotions and put our trust in you knowing that together and in this community, we have all the resources we need.

As another new year begins we celebrate the ending of the last and the anniversary it represents. We give you thanks for the wonders of our Trinity community. For the faith and discipleship of each person who helps knit our rich tapestry of inclusive fellowship. We acknowledge that embodying a living faith isn't always easy and that sometimes it puts us in challenging conversations. We accept that sometimes our service isn't rooted in a place of joy and yet here we are. Not perfect, nor without error or misunderstanding, or ill spoken words, but fully human and committed to walking in the way of Jesus to the best of our abilities. It's from that place of humility that we:

We pause in this moment, to offer gratitude for the people and situations that cause us discomfort.

We pause in this moment, and ask for blessings over that which calls us out of comfort, that which we cannot ignore, that which requires us to do or be more.

We pause in this moment, and seek to remember those who taught us, prophesied over us, pointed us toward your light, and named us to be children of God.

We pause in this moment, and remember that for many a new year is just another way to measure pain, suffering, and neglect.

We pause in this moment, and celebrate the places where we see your light in our lives and in the lives of others.

We pause in this moment, and remember people, places and events that we would hold before you in prayer.

Turn our prayers into actions and our actions into prayers, O God, as we join together in singing the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples so long ago....Our Father...Amen.

