

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BAYFIELD

January 9, 2022

May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you ... **and also with you.** Welcome to worship at Knox Presbyterian Bayfield on Sunday .

Announcements

The people of Knox Bayfield acknowledge with gratitude the territory upon which we live, work, play and worship. Knox is on the traditional lands of the Anishinabewaki, Attiwoonderonk (Neutral), and Mississauga peoples within Treaty 29, of 1827. We are all treaty people. We acknowledge that The Presbyterian Church in Canada was a part of the residential school system. We seek a new relationship with the First Nations of this land, one based in truth, respect, and reconciliation.

HYMN Let There be Light #727

CALL TO WORSHIP [responsive]

One: Arise, shine; for your light has come.

All: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

One: Come, worship the Lord of glory.

All: Proclaim God's praise among the nations.

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON¹

Ps. 72:1-7, 10-14

Holy Creator you move among us to reveal your light. Your Spirit leads us in new directions as your Son calls us to new life. Holy One, we praise you for the abundant blessings you provide in our baptism into Christ and through your love that weaves throughout our day. Merciful God, you promise forgiveness and new life, and yet we linger in our old, familiar ways. We cling to destructive habits, we harbor grudges, and we are reluctant to forgive one another. In your loving kindness, forgive us. Have mercy upon us and move among us so that we might pursue new life in Christ together.

This is the good news: Christ is the light of the world, who grants forgiveness and healing. Thanks be to God.

¹ PCC Worship Planner Advent December 2021 Year C

May the peace of Jesus the Christ, which surpasses all understanding, be with you. **And also with you.**

To Hear The Word Of God

Prayer For Illumination

Spirit of God, in the proclamation of your Word, reveal to us the hidden mystery of your love in Christ, and strengthen our faith that we may approach you with boldness. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Hebrew Bible	Isaiah 60:1-6	[B#690/W#766]²
Hebrew Bible	Psalms 72:1-14	[B#533/W#589]
Epistle	Ephesians 3:1-12	[B#193/W#205]
Gospel	Matthew 2:1-12	[B#2/W#2]

May God bless our understanding of this, God's holy word. **The word of the Lord.**

Hymn Hail to the Lord's Anointed #115

The season of Epiphany

This is the first Sunday after Epiphany. This time of epiphany is between the celebration of the birth of Jesus and the coming season of Lent and Easter. We often think of Epiphany as a sudden sense clarity when a deeper meaning or understanding is revealed. It is an intuitive grasp of a concept, an illuminating discovery, or a realization.

Epiphany does not often occur on Sunday and this year Epiphany was Thursday. In Western traditions, the Twelve Days of Christmas start Christmas day and go until January 5th. The Twelfth Night is the eve of Epiphany. It is the day to recognize the epiphany revealed to the Gentile Magi as they encountered the divine manifestation within Jesus.

During December our readings focused on the gospel of Luke. Today we read from Matthew. The two gospel offer different accounts of the Christmas story and the stories often become blended in our thoughts. The gospel of Matthew begins with an extensive

² Page #'s for pew bibles with Blue or White edged pages

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genealogy with 42 generations from Abraham to King David to Joseph. Matthew's Christmas story is a brief account from the perspective of Joseph, the Magi, and King Herod. Mary does not speak or receive revelations in Matthew's account.

Joseph faced a dilemma when the Holy Spirit told Mary she was pregnant. Joseph was a righteous man. He was unwilling to expose her to disgrace and planned to end their relationship quietly. When an angel appeared in his dream, Joseph was told 'do not be afraid- take Mary as your wife for she will have a son and you will name Jesus. He will save people.' Joseph did as God commanded him and named the infant Jesus.

Herod is described as paranoid and brutal king. Paranoia led him to fear that people were plotting against him. He executed one of his wives and several of his sons out of this fear. Fear causes chaos when it turns to paranoia. In contrast, the infant king born in humble circumstances comes not to take life but to give life. He will not use his power and authority against people. He will live among people to as a servant.

This gospel speaks of the fulfillment of Micah's prophecy (5:2) as it points toward the expectation of the Messiah. The prophet Micah foretold of the ruler "who would shepherd my people Israel" from the village of Bethlehem. The magi are the first Gentiles to recognize the coming of the Messiah.

when Herod heard of an infant born to be king of the Jews, he devised ways to destroy him. He called for his chief priests and scribes who spoke of the prophecy to the frightened Herod. The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem of Judea. Herod then called for the wise magi and encouraged them to search for the child. The Gentile Magi, likely astrologers from other countries, were led by God by the bright star to find Jesus. Herod asked about the timing of the bright star. Using this information he would calculate the age of the child. The Magi were told to report back to Herod once they found the child. The Magi followed the star and found Jesus. They arrived bearing gifts fit for royalty. The gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh were offered. Their gifts are a foreshadowing of the unfolding events. Frankincense and myrrh come from the fragrant resins of trees and are used in perfumes and incense. Myrrh has distinctive properties and its name means "bitter" in Arabic. Its yellowish-white resin seeps from the trunk of a small desert tree when wounded and hardens into teardrop shapes, as though the tree is weeping. Once exposed to the air, its color deepens into gold, then amber, and then scarlet—like drops of

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blood against the bark of the trees. The resin is bitter to taste. When it is ground into a powder or burned as incense, it releases an extraordinary fragrance. Myrrh was used as an antiseptic or analgesic medicine. In the gospel of Mark, Jesus was offered wine mixed with myrrh at his crucifixion. In the ancient world, myrrh was used for embalming and John's Gospel reports that it was used at the burial of Jesus. Myrrh is a bittersweet gift yet fitting for the Messiah who will be put to death as a threat against the empire. This gift, perhaps, reminds us that every birth begins a journey toward death while the healing properties of myrrh point us toward Jesus who provides healing for all our ills.

The magi were warned in a dream not to return to Herod. Instead of following Herod's order they chose a different route directly to their own country. After the magi left, an angel of God appeared to Joseph in a dream telling him to take his family and flee to Egypt. They would remain in Egypt until Herod's death.

Each week in the bulletin you will find questions for reflection. Over the coming week you are encouraged to reflect on the spiritual practices you engage in. One of the questions asks, How do you create an openness within yourself to find, reveal, and activate God's reconciling love in the world? We ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten us, to help us be mindful of the ordinary and extraordinary ways in which the light of Christ has appeared in our lives. The magi made their great journey to see the Christ Child. In this story we find Jesus drawing all of creation to the divine life revealed in him. It is the realization of God's reconciled creation. In our own way, we are each blessed with unique and precious gifts for sharing God's healing love in a good but often divided world. Praise be to God.

Praise be to God.

Hymn Angels from the realms of glory #146

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOUR TO THE LORD

QUOTE It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving. *Mother Teresa (1910–1997), missionary*

BLESSING OF GIFTS & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Matt. 2:1, 9–11; Eph. 3:6

Prepared for Knox Presbyterian Church, Box 565, Bayfield, ON N0M 1G0

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Minister: Rev. Lisa Dolson 519-955-2158 revlisa dot knoxbayfield@icloud dot com

Resources include: PCC Worship Planner, <https://www.workingpreacher.org/> Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, and Feasting on the Word Companion, NRSV Bible

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Let us join in prayer:

Glorious God, you led people of wisdom to seek your Holy Child and they offered precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We offer our gifts in gratitude, reverence, and thanksgiving for the abundance provided by you, O holy One. We ask your blessing on this offering as a joyful sign of the boundless love and abundant life we are called to share in Christ.

Loving God, through Christ you call us into your covenant with Abraham and Sarah.

We pray for all people of faith who declare your wisdom to authorities. The wise men went to King Herod in trust and he betrayed them to do unspeakable evil. May all leaders reject the ways of Herod and act in truth, justice, and mercy.

God, we know the story of how Joseph, Mary, and Jesus fled the horror of Herod and became refugees in Egypt. May all refugees who suffer from political oppression, injustice, or war live in peace find peace within your creation.

In their journeys the Holy Family lived with neighbors and received help from strangers.

May our neighborhoods become communities who offer kindness to strangers.

God of love, we lift up those who travel the long journey of grief and mourning. Holy God, we bring before you the names of people on our hearts this day: Rudy and Grace; Bonnie; Rob; Courtney and Kyla. We lift up all those who prefer to remain un-named as they face immense challenges of health and finances. Merciful God, accept our prayers, spoken and unspoken. May your love overflow more and more in our lives, in your church, and in all the world.

We join our voices together across space and time to speak the words that Christ taught his disciples ... **Our Father who art in heaven, hallow'ed 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.**

Hymn Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine #687

To Go Forth In God's Name

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Commissioning and Benediction Isa. 60:1, 5; Matt. 2:10

May you go into your day rejoicing in the light of God's love.

May the love of Christ shine brightly in you wherever you are.

May the blessing of God, Divine Giver, Radiant Light, and Fountain of Life bless you and keep you this day and forever more

Postlude Holy, Holy, Holy

#623

727 Let there be light

Let there be light; let there be understanding; Let all the nations gather; let them be face to face. Open our lips; open our minds to ponder; Open the door of concord, opening into grace.

Perish the sword; perish the angry judgement; Perish the bombs and hunger; perish the fight for gain. Hallow our love; hallow the deaths of martyrs; Hallow their holy freedom; hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come; your spirit turn to language; Your people speak together; your spirit never fade. Let there be light; open our hearts to wonder; Perish the way of terror; hallow the world God made.

623 Holy, holy, holy

Words: traditional Music: F Schubert

Refrain: Holy, holy, holy, God almighty Lord!

Holy, holy, holy, everywhere adored!

God without beginning, God eternal One reigns and rules forever all beneath the sun

Refrain

Power and love and wonder, circling round God's throne, Praise our God most holy, Lord of Life alone **Refrain**

115 Hail to the Lord's anointed

Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son; Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun! He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free, To take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He brings salvation speedy to those who suffer wrong; He saves the poor and needy, and helps the weak be strong; They sing who once were sighing, their darkness turned to light, For they, who once were dying, are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth, And love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth. Before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald go, and righteousness, in fountains, from hill and valley flow.

All powers shall bow before him, and gold and incense bring; All nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing, For he shall have dominion o'er river, sea and shore, Far as the eagle's pinion or dove's light wing can soar.

O'er every foe victorious, Christ on his throne shall rest, From age to age more glorious, all-blessing and all-blest: The tide of time shall never his covenant remove; His name shall stand forever—that name to us is Love.

146 Angels from the realms of glory

Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth; Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Refrain Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing; Yonder shines the infant Light. **Refrain**

Sages, leave your contemplations; Brighter visions beam afar; Seek the great desire of nations; Ye have seen his natal star. **Refrain**

Saints, before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear, Suddenly the Lord, descending, In his temple shall appear. **Refrain**

Though an infant now we view him, He shall fill his Father's throne, Gather all the nations to him; Every knee shall then bow down. **Refrain**

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687 Blessed assurance Jesus is mine

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation,
purchase of God, Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain This is my story; this is my song: praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story; this is my song: praising my Saviour all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, Visions of rapture now burst on my sight; Angels
descending bring from above, echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **Refrain**

Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Saviour am happy and blest, Watching and
waiting, looking above, Filled with his goodness, lost in his love. **Refrain**