

**Kindred Spirits Worship  
Epiphany Sunday  
JANUARY 4, 2026  
Communion**

**PRELUDE**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND AND TREATIES**

**One:**

Called to live with respect in Creation  
as Indigenous, Métis, Settler and Newcomer people,  
We acknowledge that the land on which we worship, work, learn and serve,  
and the water which sustains life on this land,  
is of God, Creator,  
and in the farthest reaches of memory  
was entrusted to the original peoples who walked this land,  
and to their descendants.

**One:**

With the coming of colonizers,  
treaties were made,  
but again, and again the colonizers disregarded and broke the treaties,  
causing grave and lasting harm to the historic caregivers of the land,  
to the generations that followed them,  
and to the land itself.

**All:**

**Called to action for Truth and Reconciliation,  
we who gather here on Treaty One territory  
and the homeland of the Red River Metis  
commit ourselves to finding faithful ways  
of honoring the treaties, the land and one another  
in a spirit of openhearted respect.**

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **OPENING STATEMENT**

Today we gather to celebrate Epiphany and the dawning of a new year. As the Magi followed the star to find the Christ child, we too are invited to follow the light of God into the year ahead leaving behind what no longer serves us, embracing hope, and seeking God's guidance. May this year be one in which we live in God's light, share our gifts generously, and walk in faith, joy, and love.

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

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

One: Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

**All: We gather to follow the guiding star of Christ, bringing our gifts of love, hope, and faith.**

One: Let us worship the God who calls us to be bearers of light in the world.

**All: Let us rejoice in God's presence, now and always. Amen.**

### **Opening Prayer:**

**God of light and new beginnings, You revealed your glory in a humble child, and drew seekers from afar to your side. As we enter this new year, open our eyes to your presence and guidance.**

**Help us to follow your light in the paths of justice, peace, and love. May this year be one of growth, hope, and courage, where we reflect your glory in our words, actions, and choices. In Christ's holy name we pray. Amen.**

**HYMN: VU#82     A Light is Gleaming**

**MOMENT TO PONDER**

There's a very simple story of a person walking down a dark road at night. They are scared because they don't know what's at the end of the road. They want the daylight so they can see clearly. They're given a little lantern instead. This lantern light doesn't shine the whole way down the road, but it's enough to take the next step. As they walk on, the path becomes clear before them one step at a time. This is how faith works. They're like the Magi who followed the star; they don't have the whole route ahead of them, they only follow the star.

So, as we begin our new year and gather around this table, Epiphany reminds us that God does not always answer all our questions at once. What God provides is light enough for one day. In the sharing of the bread and the cup, we are reminded that we are not alone. Christ meets us here, gives us the strength, and sends us out once again. As you prepare for the sacrament, consider the question of what may be the next step that God is calling you to take and what gift there is that you have to offer as you begin the new year.

**HYMN: MV#12     Come Touch Our Hearts (1, 2 & 5)**

**SCRIPTURE:**

Isaiah 60:1–6

Psalms 72:1–8, 10–14 (VU pg. 790 Part One and Two)

Matthew 2:1–12

**CHOIR ANTHEM:    “We Three Kings”**

**REFLECTION:**

**HYMN: MV#209    Go, Make a Difference**

**Offering Invitation**

As the Magi offered their gifts to the Christ child, so we are invited to offer our gifts, our time, our talents, and our resources to God's work in the world. Let us

give joyfully and generously, knowing that our offerings become instruments of hope, healing, and love for our communities and beyond.

### **Offering Prayer**

God of light and new beginnings, we offer these gifts with gratitude and hope. May they be used to share your love, bring justice, and shine your light in the world. Bless our giving and our living in this new year. Amen.

### **HYMN: MV# 198 When We Gather At the Table**

### **SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

#### **Invitation:**

Friends, we are ordinary people gathered to pray and sing and worship God together. This place is open to all. God's love is available to all. When we gather around this table, we say to young or old, newcomer or regular you are precious, you belong here, you are beloved. This celebration is for you!

#### **Greeting:**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise**

#### **Prayers of Thanksgiving**

We give you thanks, O God, for revealing your love in Jesus Christ.

We celebrate the light that shines in the darkness, guiding people from near and far to your presence.

As we begin this new year, we rejoice in the hope and promise that your light brings to our lives.

We thank you for the gifts of faith, courage, and community.

Guide us in the days ahead, so that we may live as bearers of your light, reflecting love, justice, and peace in the world.

And so we lift our hearts and voices in praise saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory,**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

O God, you are the light that shines in the world.

We lift our prayers for those who live in darkness:

for the hungry, the oppressed, the lonely, and the lost.

Guide leaders to walk in justice and righteousness,  
and inspire peacemakers in every nation.

We pray for our local community:

for those who struggle with illness or sorrow,

for the young and old, newcomers and the long-time faithful,

for those searching for meaning or hope.

We remember all who serve your children through acts of love and service.

May we, too, carry your light to those in need.

We pray in the name of Christ, the light of the world.

Amen.

### **Words of Institution**

Throughout his life Jesus shared meals with ordinary people. The displaced and the outcast yes, his friends and disciples, yes, and throughout the span of history, all those who have embraced his calling and endeavored to follow his way. We remember one such meal he ate with his disciples. He took the bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and passed it to them saying, take this and eat. This bread is the body of life, broken by the world. Eat it in remembrance and in Hope.

After that, he took the cup, poured it and blessed it, and passed it to them saying, "This cup is the sign of the new covenant. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

### **Prayer for the Holy Spirit**

Pour your Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, O God,  
that we might be transformed more and more into the likeness of Christ.  
Dying to our old ways, may we rise to life anew.  
Through your presence, may the garden of your Creation flourish and thrive,  
and the fruits we bear nourish others. AMEN.

Let us unite in the words of the Jesus prayer: **LORD'S PRAYER (sung VU# 959)**  
**AMEN**

### **THE SHARING:**

May this bread nourish and sustain us in our search for light and life! **AMEN**

May this cup bless and refresh our living and our serving! **AMEN**

**Come, for all it is now ready.**

### **Prayer After Communion:**

**God of grace and love, we thank you for feeding us with your bread of life and the cup of love. Empower us to go into the world as carriers of your love, creating beauty, justice, and peace wherever we go. Amen.**

**Hymn VU#273      The King of Love**

### **Commissioning and Blessing**

Go now, shining with the light of Christ.  
Follow the star that leads to hope, peace, and love in this new year.  
Bring your gifts of faith, your acts of kindness, and your prayers into the world.  
May God's blessing guide you, Christ's love surround you,  
and the Spirit's presence sustain you in every day of this year and always. Amen.

**Choral Blessing: Go Now in Peace (VU 964)**

**Postlude**