



PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

275 Erb Street East, Waterloo, ON N2J 1N6
519-885-0935 | parkuc@golden.net | parkuc.ca

Sunday, December 31, 2017

10:00am

First Sunday after Christmas

Rev. Heather Power

LARGE PRINT Bulletins, Voices United Hymn Books and Bibles are available from the ushers.

BULLETIN NOTATIONS:

★ Signal to stand, for those who are able.

VU~Voices United Hymn book **MV**~More Voices Hymn book

Welcome Visitors! We're glad to have you worshipping with us at Parkminster and would like to make sure you feel connected. Please take a few minutes to fill out one of the white information envelopes found in the pews and place it on the offering plate, or put it in the mail slot outside the office. Whether you'd like more information about Parkminster's programs, want to request offering envelopes, or have a question about becoming a member – or whatever else is important to you, we'd love to hear from you! Welcome!

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Statement of Welcome

One: Today, we remember our relationship with First People which has not always been healing and empowering. With gratitude and respect, we recognize the tribes on whose traditional land we make our spiritual home, the Anishnawbe (A-nish-NA-bay) the Haudenosaunee (Ho-di-no-SHOW-nay), and the Neutral. We acknowledge with regret, that this history has not always been respectful. We commit to just relationship in the present.

All: Seeking true community, we welcome all who have no church home, need strength, and are seeking deep meaning. Welcome to those who have doubts or who do not believe. Welcome to those whose faith is sure, and to those who believe, but who are asking large questions.

One: Welcome to visitors and to familiar friends. Welcome to grandparents, to mothers, fathers, youth and children, couples, and single people.

All: Welcome to people of all colours, gender identities, abilities, and sexual orientations.

One: Welcome to each who is searching for meaning, who is seeking an understanding of community and what it means to accompany one another.

All: As we come together as church, we turn to one another with gratitude and pray that we will be strong together, faithful together, and loving together. We seek blessing as we welcome the great gift of spirit in us, through us, and among us.

Joys and Concerns

Call into Community

One: We gather in the Light that was before, is now, and ever will be.

All: We seek the Light's ancient wisdom.

One: We gather in the Light that is God's continuing gift.

All: We live into the Light's new wisdom.

One: We gather in the Light that is our own, emerging anew each day.

All: We seek to share this wisdom, nurtured in the Light from Bethlehem's cradle.

One: Come, let us worship!

★ Introit: "The First Nowell" 🎵 VU #91 vs. 1 - 5



Passing of the Peace

One: Unto us a child is born,

All: and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

One: For peace is the promise of Emmanuel-God with us.

All: Let us share that promise with each other.

One: The peace of Jesus the Christ be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Hymn Sing –

Choose your Christmas and Epiphany Favourites

Some selections can be found in Voices United #'s 35 - 98

Our Sunday activities leaders and teachers are taking a well-deserved break this morning! There are books and activity pages available for children in the narthex. Please feel free to help yourself at any time. Our regular Sunday programs for children and youth will resume in January.

For babies and toddlers, there is the Family Worship Space at the back of the sanctuary. Each week, there will be an adult present so that the children can play and be cared for while parents worship. Parents are free to come and go from that space, according to the needs of their children.

EXPLORING

Opening Our Hearts

**O Shining Light,
we give thanks for the light of this day,
for the light of eternal love,
for the light of the journey to justice and peace,
and for the light of your grace in our lives.
Let the revelation of your mystery
shine through the stories of our faith
and meet us in our daily living. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2: 1 - 12

Matthew 2:1-12: Matthew, in writing “In the time of King Herod”, sets a *late date* for the birth of Jesus: Herod the Great, puppet king of Judah, died in 4 BC. “Wise men” (Latin: *magi*) were members of a Persian caste of astrologers and interpreters of dreams. (Astrology was widely accepted then.) A star was associated with each person; the way the star rose told the wise men that a king had been born. If the story of the star is intended to be historically significant, the star may have been a supernova or a comet, or a conjunction of planets. Numbers 24:17-24 prophesies that “... a star shall come out of Jacob, a sceptre shall rise out of Israel”, and that this ruler will conquer surrounding nations.

Herod’s fears are aroused because his dynasty may be ended. He consults the religious experts to find out where the magi should look for the Messiah. They answer with Scripture: they loosely blend Micah 5:2 and 2 Samuel 5:2. (Such license was common at the time.) At David’s anointing as king, the elders quote God as saying “he shall be shepherd of my people Israel”. The maximum age of the children to be killed per Herod’s edict (v. 16) tells us the “exact time” (v. 7) that he learnt from the wise men. V. 8 is classical political duplicity. The star guides them to Bethlehem, where they are “overwhelmed with joy” (v. 10). The gifts are extremely generous; “gold” (v. 11) and “frankincense” are mentioned in v. 6 of today’s reading.

We read that Gentile wise men visited Jesus. A later church tradition called the wise men *kings*, and still later the Church said that there were three of them. The Western church gave them names.

Adapted from <http://montreal.anglican.org/comments/archive/zepifm.shtml> by Chris Haslam

Matthew— Three gospels* (the good news) in the New Testament portion of the bible offer similar portraits of the life of Jesus. This gospel is the first in the New Testament, but it was probably the second to be written. Scholars recognize that it borrows material from Mark, and from a *sayings* source containing sayings of Jesus and known as Q (for *Quelle*, German for *source*). The author shows an understanding of Jewish culture and religion not found in the other gospels. It was probably written about 60 to 70 AD, possibly for a largely Jewish audience.

* The stories of Jesus—Mark and Luke being the others.

Questions for Reflection

- This story is about spiritual quest. The Magi didn't know precisely what they were looking for or what they would find. But they knew they were looking for something. When we are on a spiritual quest, we often know we are looking for something, too. Sometimes we can clearly articulate what we are looking for. Other times we cannot. Think of your own spiritual quest. How would you describe it? For what are you seeking? How do you go about your quest?

★ Hymn: "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" 🎵 VU #71

Reflection

★ Hymn: "A Light Is Gleaming" 🎵 VU #82

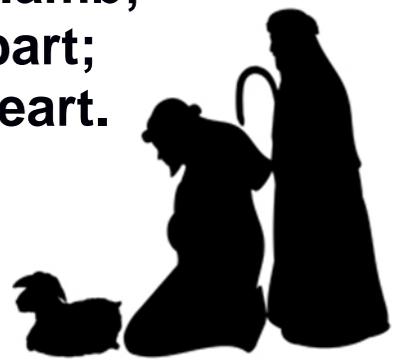
RESPONDING

Offering – invitation

Offertory

★ Dedication: "In the Bleak Midwinter" 🎵 VU #55, v. 4

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him – give my heart.**



★ Offering Prayer

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer - Paraphrase+

**God within us, God beyond us, God among us,
May the Mystery always be named and
known among all peoples and in all times.
May creation give way
to the rule of love and the power of life.
Satisfy our hunger, and grant us a
hunger to see the whole world fed.**

**Restore us to right relationship with You,
with creation, with others, with ourselves.
Strengthen us to reject all
that would lead us away from You,
Come to us when we choose death over life.
Give us courage to follow your call in this moment.
For in your love we find the only power,
the only home, the only honour we will ever need,
in this life and the life to come.
Amen.**

+Adapted from paraphrases found in the New Zealand Prayer Book (1989) and one by Sarah-Dylan Breuer found at http://www.theworshipwell.org/pdf/Lords_Prayer_Paraphrase.pdf

RETURNING

★ Hymn: “Arise, Your Light is Come”  VU #79

★ Commissioning and Blessing

★ Sung Blessing “Peace Be With You”  MV #215

**Peace be with you, peace forever,
peace be with you, my friends.
Till we meet again, may God be with you.
Peace, peace, peace.**

Postlude

Thank you to everyone who has offered their gift of time to volunteer in various ways this Sunday:

Ushers:.....Jack & Jean Wilson; Marjorie Eveleigh

Greeters:Don Pendlebury & Sheril Stinson

Lay Reader:.....Jeanne Foster

Audio/Visual Coordinator:.....Sandy Quehl

Chancel Arrangements:.....Chancel Committee

Coffee Hour:Darlene Basse; Delores Benedik

Coffee Hour Dessert:Don Pendlebury & Sheril Stinson

The Ministry of Parkminster:.. All of us

Ministers:.....Rev. Heather Power (x 22) & Rev. Joe Gaspar (x 23)

Music Director:.....Neil Murray (x 25)

Office Administrator:.....Melanie Chisholm (x 21)

Custodian:.....Allen Switzer (x 26)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For full details please refer to the weekly "What's UP" email.

(If you would like to receive "What's UP", please contact the church office.)

MINISTERS' MESSAGES

CHRISTMAS COVERAGE: Rev. Joe and Rev. Heather will both be taking some time after Christmas. Rev. Joe will be away from Monday, December 25 to Monday, January 1, while Rev. Heather will be away from Monday, January 1 to Monday, January 7.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

NEW YEARS: The office will be closed on Tuesday, January 2nd, in lieu of the January 1st stat holiday. Regular office hours will resume January 3rd.

2018 OFFERING/PAR ENVELOPES ARE READY!

Your letter and 2018 offering envelopes are now available in the upper hall. To save on postage, please drop by the table to pick up yours. Thank you. If you don't have offering envelopes and would like them, please contact Melanie in the church office.

JANUARY KIDS' PLAY DAY at Parkminster!

ATTENTION FAMILIES! Join us on Wednesday, January 3rd for a FUN PLAY DAY for children and a chance for parents to check out the new curriculum we will be using on Sundays at Parkminster beginning in the New Year! Join us at either: 11:30am – 1:30 pm or 5:30pm – 7:00pm. Childcare and activities provided at both times as well as family-friendly food. All are welcome! For more information or to RSVP, please contact Wendy Rudd: w.rudd@rogers.com

AUDIO/VISUAL ASSISTANCE

AUDIO / VISUAL Help is Available!: Please contact our A/V coordinator Sandra Quehl, should you require help with the "big screen" projector for your group's next event/meeting. Operators are standing by! You may reach Sandra by email at quewat1@outlook.com