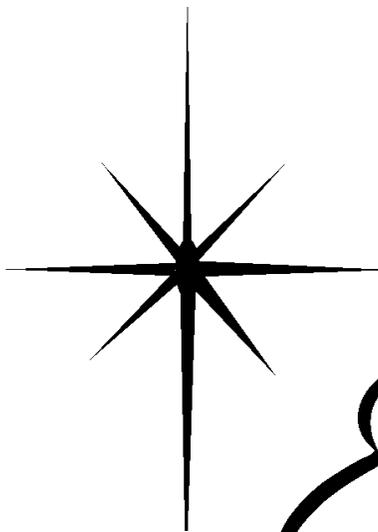


**PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2019**



# *Epiphany*



**Reflection: “Wisdom and Awe”**



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

**Sunday, January 6, 2019**

**Epiphany**

**Reflection: “Wisdom and Awe”**

**Rev. Joe Gaspar, 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:** “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

*arr. Lloyd Larson*

**Welcome**

**Statement of Welcome**

One: In gratitude and with respect we begin by recognizing the First Nations 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 rarely 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: Once we walked in darkness;

**All:** Now we have seen a great light.

One: The wise ones came from many places, following the light of a star.

**All:** We come from our homes, following a hunger.

One: The wise ones brought gifts to offer the Child.

**All:** We too bring gifts—our hopes, our dreams, ourselves.

One: We gather as people of the light,

**All: offering our lives to God's vision of the world.**

★ **Introit:** "Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom"    🎵 MV #10

## Passing of the Peace



One: God is the source of peace within us.

**All: In humility and surrender let us claim it.**

One: Jesus is the way of peace among us.

**All: With courage and faith let us live it.**

One: The Holy Spirit is the unity of peace between us.

**All: With generosity and joy let us share it.**

One: May the peace of Jesus, the Christ be with you...

**All: And also with you.**

Adapted—Rex A. Hunt Adapted—Rex A. Hunt  
www.rexaehuntprogressive.com/liturgy\_collection/year\_b\_liturgy\_collection/year\_b\_pentecostafter/pentecostb2452015.htmlOne:

## EXPLORING

### Prayer of Preparation

**All: O radiant God, living wisdom,  
eternal love revealed in time,  
revealed in our stories, ancient and new:  
come, open us to risk and courage,  
make your home within our hearts,  
that we may live in awe and wisdom always.  
Amen.**

★ **Children's Song:** "The First Nowell"    🎵 VU #91  
(vss. 1-5)

## Story Time

Following the story time, children and youth will leave for Sunday School activities!

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.

## Scripture— Matthew 2: 1-2

### Acclamation

One: This is the good news of Jesus.

All: **Thanks be for this grace.**

### Questions for Reflection:

- \* In what ways does God's wisdom seem foolish in the eyes of the world?
- \* Who are the wise ones in your life? What makes them so in your eyes?

**Matthew**— Three gospels<sup>†</sup> (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.

<sup>†</sup> *The stories of Jesus—Mark and Luke being the others.*  
Chris Haslam- [www.montreal.anglican.org/comments/aadv1m.shtml](http://www.montreal.anglican.org/comments/aadv1m.shtml)

**Matthew 2: 1-2**— The magi from afar were astrologers who studied the stars for meaningful signs of significant events. Despite the many legends and fictitious stories about them, we can only speculate, rather unprofitably, who they were and whence they came. In Matthew's original narrative their search for a new-born king of the Jews had great meaning for both Herod, then ruling Israel, and for Matthew's world at large two

generations later. The gifts the magi offered were intended only as gifts fit for a king, as Matthew believed so long after the resurrection and exaltation of Jesus.

*John Shearman-<http://seemslikegod.org/lectionary/>*

**Ministry of Music:** “Love Like This” *by Lauren Daigle*  
(soloist, Angie Murray)

**Reflection:** “Wisdom and Awe” Rev. Joe Gaspar  
*(My reflections often contain material from other sources that are awkward to acknowledge when speaking. Please pick up a copy of the sermon or check the website if you would like more information.)*

★ **Hymn:** “God of the Sparrow” 🎵 VU #229

## RESPONDING

**Offering – invitation**

**Offertory:** “We Three Kings” *arr. Mark Hayes*

★ **Dedication:** “Christ Has No Body Now but Yours” 🎵 MV #171

**Christ has no body now but yours, no hand but yours.  
Here on this earth, yours is the work,  
to serve with the joy of compassion.**

★ **Offering Prayer**

**Prayers of the People**

**Lord’s Prayer Paraphrase**

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker,  
Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be.  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven;  
The hallowing of your name  
echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice  
be followed by peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created things!**

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
 sustain our hope and come on earth.  
 With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
 In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
 In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
 From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
 From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
 For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
 now and forever. Amen.

*Jim Cotter © 1988 VU #916*

## RETURNING

★ **Hymn:** "Will You Come and See the Light" 🎵 VU #96

★ **Commissioning and Blessing**

★ **Sung Alleluia** "Hallelujah" 🎵 MV #32

Halle, hallelujah, halle, hallelu,  
 halle, hallelujah.  
 Hallelujah!

**Postlude:** "Praise and Thanksgiving" *by G.F. Handel*

\* \* \* \* \*

***A note from Rev. Joe about upcoming services:***

Happy New Year! Beginning this Sunday and continuing January 20 and 27, I will be focusing on the story of the Magi and what they have to say to us about wisdom. This week it will be "Wisdom and Awe" followed by "Wisdom and Fear" and then "Wisdom and Change".

Take a look at this video:

**(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8QyVZrV3d3o>)**

on the role of awe in connecting us to a larger sense of self.

*Rev. Joe*




---

The flowers in the sanctuary today have been placed by Gord Chambers and family in loving memory of Pat Chambers.

---

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

**Greeters:**.....Janet Holland, Mary Flewelling-Pinchen

**Ushers:** .....The Ridgway Family: Terry & Wendy,  
.....Jocelyn and Trevor

**Lay Reader:** .....Isobel Field

**Sunday Activity Leaders:**....Joscelyn Alexander, Lynn Harper,  
.....Iso McGregor, Rob Vanderlinden,  
.....and Rev. Heather Power

**Soloist:** .....Angie Murray

**Counters:**.....Susan and John Bain

**A/V Coordinator:**.....Sandy Quehl

**A/V Operators:** .....Heather Watts and Sandy Quehl

**Chancel Arrangement:** .....Chancel Committee

**Coffee Hour:**.....Thelma Hamilton

**Coffee Hour Desserts:**.....Thelma Hamilton, Isobel Field

---

**The Ministry of Parkminster:** ....All of us

**Ministers:**.....Rev. Joe Gaspar (ext. 23)

.....Rev. Heather Power (ext. 22)

**Music Director:** .....Neil Murray (ext. 25)

**Office Administrator:**.....Melanie Chisholm (ext. 21)

**Custodian:**.....Allen Switzer (ext. 26)

---

## **“WHAT’S UP AT PARKMINSTER!”**

**For a detailed listing of events, activities & notices please refer to the “What’s UP” email sent out every Friday.**

If you have an announcement you’d like to include, please email the office with a brief message.

Deadline is Thursday at 10:00a.m.

To receive “What’s UP” please contact the office.

**A limited number of hardcopies are available on the table in the Upper Hall.**

## **This Week Let Us Pray For**

### **World Council of Churches:**

Iran, Iraq, Syria

### **Western Ontario Waterways:**

Calvary Memorial, Kitchener

**Rev. Heather is Back!** Heather is delighted to be back at Parkminster and would like to thank the congregation for their cards, emails and well wishes. Heather will be taking Thursdays as her day off for the next couple of months as she continues with her vision therapy program for her ongoing post-concussion recovery. While Heather has returned to us full-time some of her duties have been modified for the next few months per her doctor's orders. She looks forward to reconnecting with you all.

**Offering Envelopes Are Ready!** 2019 Offering Envelopes and PAR Letters are available for pick up in the Upper Hall.

**House Group 7 Meeting:** This group will meet in the family room after church on Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup> to assign worship service duties for the month of February. Please come with your talents and your calendars!

## **HELPFUL INFORMATION**

**Posters:** To maintain a clear sight line for the office administrator and to keep our glass clean, please refrain from taping posters to the main entry doors. Bulletin boards &/or "What's UP" are great ways to advertise!

**Community Events:** Local events are posted on the bulletin board beside the Family Room.

**Lost and Found:** Misplaced something? Items that are discovered at church throughout the week are placed in the Lost and Found box across from the office. Feel free to have a look!

**Defibrillator:** A defibrillator is located on the wall at the top of the basement stairs.

**Wheelchair:** A wheelchair is stored in the custodian's storage room (aka the penthouse). Please return it after each use.

**First Aid Supplies:** A container of supplies is located on the top of the coat rack across from the office.