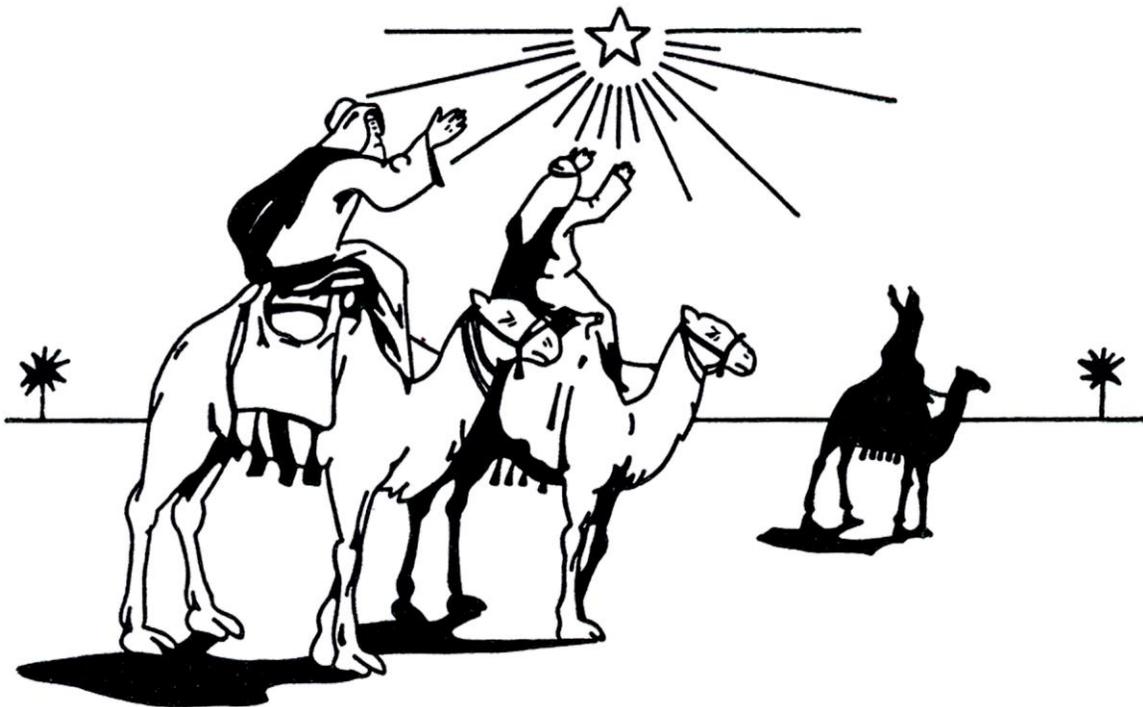


PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2019

Third Sunday after Epiphany



Reflection: “Wisdom and Change”

Rev. Joe Gaspar, Rev. Heather Power



PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
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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

“Scottish Air”

arr. by Joseph Martin

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 Silence

Call into Community

★ **Introit** “Holy Spirit, Come into Our Lives” 🎵 MV #6

PREPARING

Prayer of Confession 🎵 MV#85 (2x)

*Take, O take me as I am;
 summon out what I shall be;
 set your seal upon my heart and live in me.*

Words of Assurance

Passing of the Peace

One: Confession, repentance and forgiveness are the stepping stones to right relationship. Right relationship is at the core of a life of peace. Let us now exchange the peace with each other, inviting one another into the community of God proclaimed by Jesus. May the peace of Jesus, the Christ be with you...



All: And also with you.

Following the passing of the peace, 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.

EXPLORING

Prayer of Preparation

**All: Mother of all Wisdom, and Father of Surprise,
your thoughts are not our thoughts,
your ways are not our ways.
We will resist change,
we will defend what we know.
Open us with your Word,
that we might be lead home by another road.
Amen.**

Adapted—hamiltonunionpresbyterianchurch.org/files/HUPC%20-%20Prayers%20for%20Illumination.pdf

 **Scripture** — Matthew 2: 9-12 (NT. pg. 2)

Acclamation

One: This is the Good News of Jesus.

All: Thanks be for this grace.

Questions for Reflection:

- * What is the challenge, what is the grace of believing in the incarnation of God in our world?
- * When has an experience of faith sent you “home by another road”?

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.*
Chris Haslam- www.montreal.anglican.org/comments/aadv1m.shtml

Matthew 2: 2-12— 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 “Down to the River to Pray”
arr. by Mary McDonald

Reflection “Wisdom and Change”

(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:** “Come, My Way, My Truth” 🎵 VU #628

RESPONDING

Offering Invitation

Offertory “Sweet Hour of Prayer” *arr. by Joel Raney*

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

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

★ **Offering Prayer**

Prayers of the People “Spirit, Open My Heart” 🎵 MV #79

***Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.***

Lord’s Prayer Paraphrase

**All: 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

“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.**

Annual Congregational Meeting: On Sunday, February 10th, the ACM will immediately follow morning worship in the Sanctuary. It is important for as many people as possible to attend as we will need to have quorum for important votes. We will need to approve the 2019 budget, approve a new slate of volunteers for Council and Committees. Please note that there will not be a pre-ACM Budget Meeting on Sunday, February 3rd, as the budget will be presented February 10th. There will be coffee and a light snack available. ~ Maedith Radlein

About Worship - from Rev. Joe: Today is the third and last service focusing on the story of the Magi and what they have to say to us about wisdom. First it was "Wisdom and Awe" followed by "Wisdom and Fear" and now, today "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.

Study Leave: Rev. Joe will be away on study leave from Friday February 1st to Saturday February 9th. Please contact Rev. Heather in his absence: 885-0935 ext. 22 or revheather.parkminster@gmail.com

House Group #7: After worship next Sunday, February 3rd, HG #7 will gather in the Family Room to plan for March responsibilities.

Outreach: If you plan to make a donation to **TCOW (Colombia)** or to the **Nicaragua Project**, please do so by the **end of February** so that cheques may be delivered to the appropriate organization in a timely manner. Please make your cheque out to “Parkminster United Church” - clearly mark “TCOW” or “Nicaragua” on your envelope/cheque. Thank you.

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