

**Sunday, January 10, 2021  
Holy Communion  
Epiphany Sunday**



**11:00 am Sanctuary Service**

**Prelude:** *Abundant Light*

**Welcome:** Rev. Shelagh MacKinnon

**Territorial Acknowledgements:** David Bray

**Announcements:** David

**Lighting the Christ Candle:** David

**Invitation to Worship:** Marion Denton

**Hymn:** VU 79 *Arise Your Light Has Come* (Song leader: Mary Byrne)

**Prayer:** David

**Scripture:** Matthew 2:1–12 David

*This is part of our story. Thanks be to God!*

**Anthem**

**Reflection:** Rev. Shelagh MacKinnon

**Hymn:** *Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ* Bell

### **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

*Marion:* God be with you. Let us give thanks to God. In the rich dark of winter, God makes an astounding promise: “I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up.” (Jeremiah 33:15) In the wilderness, a voice cries out, longing for the Refiner’s fire, repair, and renewal, the promised birth (and rebirth) of hope. Called to bear the weight and fruit of promise, Mary sings ancient trust—the song of generations—that God comes to fill the hungry and lift the humble. She sings that love and truth will meet, that justice and peace will kiss. In the midst of uncertainty, Jesus assures his disciples: Just as the tree blooms, so the signs are clear that the kingdom of God is near. In the deep of our own winter, we look for them: bud of hope, branch of peace, sprig of joy, blossom of love.

While around us the snares of fear and conflict lie in wait of infant hope, you, O Wisdom, O Endless Love, O Radiant Dawn, are there, keeping vigil with us, in this season of expectation. We gather at this table, praying that crooked ways be made straight, that valley’s peace be lifted up and mountain’s might brought low so that all God’s people might rejoice together, saying: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one that comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

We give thanks for the mystery and wonder revealed that first Christmas and Epiphany, as magi led by hope and a star found their way to a quiet stable and were witness to your promise reborn.

*Shelagh:* We give thanks for the blessing and love Jesus shared with all whom he met, in food and story. We remember that, on the night before he was handed over to die, Jesus broke bread with his friends, blessed it, gave thanks, and said, "Take, eat. This is my life's work, my eternal intentions and my very self, which I give for you. When you share it, remember me." We remember that he took the cup and, giving thanks, said, "This cup is the new covenant given for all. When you drink it, remember me." Revealed in stable, cross, and empty tomb, we give thanks, O God, for your limitless love for all. With your people of all times and places, we await with hope the fulfillment of your vision for all creation. Bless us, O God, and these your gifts. Encourage us to share your life and love, which make us, and the gifts we share, truly holy. Transform us, God, and your world, and bless your children: those who feel alone or afraid... those whose souls and homes are broken by violence... those who will go hungry, thirsty, and cold tonight... those who long only to hear that they are loved... God made known in Jesus Christ, hear our prayer. We pray these things, trusting in God's faithfulness revealed: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again

**The Prayer after Communion:** Marion

At this table, Christ is the host, welcoming all who hunger. At our tables, may Christ be our guest this day and always, that we might welcome hope, peace, joy, and love into our lives, and become hosts to God's presence and people. God of Love, guide us to the stables of our world, where the lonely and longing gather. Lead us to the mangers of our time, where hope and renewal are born again. Make us heralds of your love and joy.

At this time, we also remember

all with whom you would have us share your feast.

We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain...

all who are ill or alone...

all who are close to our hearts...

all our sisters who live with fear, oppression, or hunger...

all whose lives have been blighted by violence, racism, or poverty...

for all whom the world counts as last and least.

We pray for the church and its many ministries,  
for nations as they strive for peace and justice,  
for an end to violence against women.

God of hope, make this bread the means of our rebuilding,  
this wine the medium of our transformation,  
this table the foundation of our renewal,  
and this community the place of our rebirth. Amen.

**Hymn:** *I am the Light of the World*

**Blessing:** Rev. Shelagh MacKinnon

**Postlude:** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

**Thanks to:** *Opening Prayer sequence: Shannon Neufeldt. Originally published in Gifts for Another Way: Epiphany Year B Resource for Justice Seekers by KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, 2017. Image: UCC*