

**First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge
Sunday, January 5th, 2025
Epiphany Sunday**

Praise Medley: Sometimes Alleluia, Wide as the Ocean

Greeting and Announcements

Introit: In the Bleak Midwinter **VU 55 vs 2**

Call to Worship:

We gather wondering, "Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?"

**We will find the Babe in the laughter of children,
in the wisdom of grandparents.**

We gather asking, "Where will we find the Child of Christmas?"

**We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with
hope, where the oppressed are set free.**

We gather wanting to know, "Where will we find the Christ who has come for us?"

**We will find our hope where fear is overwhelmed by
grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where
all people are overwhelmed by joy.**

Prayer of Approach: (unison)

Loving God, we have heard of your grace; from those set free from injustice; from our children who whisper of your joy; from greeters of dawn's fresh start; from late risers who listen to the stories of the needy. We have heard of your light: which can illumine the shadows of our lives; which can show the path to God's heart; which can point the way to where we become servants of the gospel. We have heard of your promised peace: that peace which can end war, as well as heal our hearts; that peace which can conquer our fears and flood us with faith; that peace which can enter our lives and overwhelm us with hope. We have heard of you, Holy One, and will proclaim your glory to all. Amen.

Hymn: A Light Is Gleaming **VU 82**

A Time for All People

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

We search for your light, Star Caster, but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure, for we expect him to fulfil our desires, rather than your hopes for us. We want the gifts of wealth, health, success, fulfilment, rather than those of servanthood, of compassion, of peace. Forgive us, Shaper of our lives, that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace. Help us to be like those wise people of so long ago, who found hope, instead of a destination; who found grace, instead of gratitude; who found salvation, instead of a sign. As we journey with your Son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, fill us with the light of your joy and love. (Silent reflection)

Assurance of Pardon:

Up, on your feet! Grace has been poured into our hearts, love has flooded our souls, the light of hope shines in us.

This is the light which has come to all, the light we will carry and give to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn: As with Gladness Men of Old **VU 81**

Offertory Hymn: A Gift From Your Children

Offertory Prayer: (unison)

May the gifts we offer bring food to the hungry, healing to the broken, community to the lonely and hope to those who live in the shadows of our time. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-8,10-14 on **page 790 of VU, Parts 1 & 2**

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 3:1-12

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

Ministry of Music

Meditation

Hymn: All Who Hunger **VU 460**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion (see insert)

Hymn: I Am the Light of the World **VU 87**

Commissioning and Benediction:

Now, God sends us out by a different road.

**So we may find those who have been left by the side
of the road.**

Now, Jesus walks with us down a different road.

**So we may serve those who are lonely and
frightened.**

Now, the Spirit illumines a different road.

**So we may take our sisters and brothers by the hand
to walk in wonder and grace.**