

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**



**PRELUDE** We Three Kings (*Raymond H. Haan*)

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/  
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion** Mary Munro

**INTROIT** When Heaven's Bright with Mystery  
(*Rob Johns/English Trad. Melody arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams*)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Although the beckoning star  
heeded by wise travelers long ago  
no longer leads the way,  
**the manger-born Christ  
is still to be found and followed.**

We are not brought to our knees in surprise  
as were those journeyers of old,  
**yet our desire to worship  
can be as deep as theirs.**

And though we do not bear gifts of gold,  
frankincense and myrrh,  
**we offer ourselves and what we have.**  
The story continues,  
**as we worship.**

**\*HYMN** Arise, Your Light Has Come **VU 79**

**PRAYER FOR RENEWAL**

**Magi, wise men with the wisdom to know that light  
comes by searching, by following; and a touch of  
magical other-worldly majesty in a simple manger.**

**All people, lacking wisdom stumble around in the dark,  
in and out of the abyss, hoping for light, looking for  
angels, for revelation, looking everywhere but in the  
manger. And you, O God, weep grace over the world,  
leading wise men on to glory, and offering all manner  
of persons, possibilities. You pour out grace, weak and  
despised, but beautiful. Grace and glory in the manger.  
We struggle to be wise, but we get in the way, and find  
ourselves in the dark with everyone. Illumine our  
paths, O God of Epiphany, so that we may find our  
way to you. Amen.**

*(Adapted from 'Magi' Wildgoose Publications; Iona, Scotland.)*

**WORDS OF GRACE**

May the light of peace and hope  
fill our lives this day and always.  
**Thanks be to God, the peace-giver, light-bearer.**

**SUNG RESPONSE** Arise, Be Clothed in the Light  
*(VU 866)*

**Arise, be clothed in the light.  
Arise, be clothed in the light.  
Your light has come,  
your light has come.  
Hallelujah! (repeat)**

**THEME CONVERSATION**

**SONG** We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse  
afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following  
yonder star. **O star of wonder, star of night, star with  
royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.**

Born a king on Bethlehem plain, gold I bring to crown him  
again. King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.  
**O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal  
beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.**

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh,  
prayer and praising, all men raising, worship him, God  
most high. **O star of wonder, star of night, star with  
royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.**

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a sigh of  
gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in a stone-cold tomb. **O star of wonder, star of  
night, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading,  
still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 60:1-6 *p. 690 Pew Bible OT*  
(Arise, shine; for your light has come.) Bob McRoberts

**ANTHEM** What Can I Give? (*Deborah Governor*)

**GOSPEL** Matthew 2:1-12 *p.2 Pew Bible NT*  
(The visit of the Magi.)

*Come to the quiet...a time for reflection*

**SERMON** Light of the World

**\*HYMN** A Light Is Gleaming **VU 82**

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** In the Bleak Midwinter  
(Gustav Holst arr. Charles Szczepanek)

**DEDICATION** In the Bleak Midwinter (Tune: VU 55)

**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.**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER & Prayer Shawl Blessing**

**PRAYER PRELUDE** We Call to You O God (Mayberry/Kai)

**We call to You, O God, in faith and with open  
heart, hear our prayer. We call to You, O God,  
in faith and with open heart, hear, hear our prayer.  
Hear, hear our prayer.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER**  
VU p. 910

**\* COMMISSIONING**

Arise, shine, for your light has come!  
**May we, in whom the Spirit alights,  
give light to the world.**

**\* SUNG BLESSING** Hope Shines as the Solitary Star  
Love shines as the solitary star. MV 220  
**Faith is the inner light.**

**You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,  
and illumine the pathway home.**

**POSTLUDE** Song for a New Year (Gilbert M. Martin)

Thanks & Blessings...



*We are so grateful for the many contributions that led to  
such a meaningful journey through the seasons of  
Advent and Christmas.*

*Thank you to our ever-faithful Worship Committee for setting  
the frame for the seasons; to Margaret Heney, our most  
capable and talented Music Coordinator, and our  
wonderful AUC Chancel Choir; to Lisa Kyriakides,  
bell-director extraordinaire and the Bellissimo,  
Faith-A-Peal, and EmBellished handbell ensembles;  
to everyone, who in multiple ways added to the 'sparkle'  
of the seasons: singers, instrumentalists, scripture readers,  
Pageant and Carols by Candlelight participants, ushers,  
greeters, candle-lighters, audio and live-stream volunteers;  
Welcome Table hosts, Nursery providers; and to  
Suzanne Whitehurst, for office support.*

*Blessings to the AUC congregation for rising to the spirit  
of the seasons & for your ongoing faithful support!*



The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries,  
from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous  
Peoples.



**AURORA UNITED  
CHURCH**



An Affirming Congregation

Church Office 905-727-1935  
www.auroraunitedchurch.ca

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar  
Music Coordinator—Margaret Heney



**EPIPHANY**  
**January 5, 2025**  
**11:00 am**

*I struggle to be wise, but I get in the way, and find  
myself in the dark with everyone. It's a long way up  
to God...It's a long way down to the manger.*

(Carolyn Morris)