

*One: Herein is Wisdom*

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Psalm: 148 NRSV** *Please follow along on the screen.*

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 2: 1-12**

**One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ!**

**ALL: Glory to you O Christ.**

**Sermon: 'The Substance of Stars'**

**Prayer of Ascription: An Epiphany Prayer VU#80**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn: "I am the Light of the World " VU#87**

**Offering**

**Offertory Response:**

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,

if I were a wiseman, I would do my part,

yet, what can I give him Give my heart.

*"In the Bleak Midwinter" VU#55 (v.3)*

**Offertory Blessing:**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**SENT TO SHOW CHRIST'S LOVE**

**Closing Hymn: "Arise, Your Light Is Come" VU #79**

**Benediction**

**Choral Benediction:**

Go now in peace, never be afraid

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.

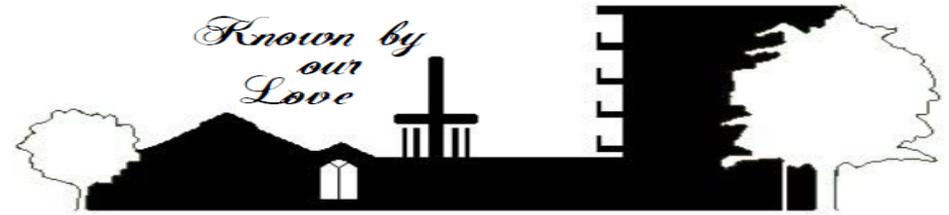
Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith and in love.



**EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH**

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*Emmanuel United Church shall be a caring,  
welcoming faith community, nurturing  
spiritual life and sharing God's love  
and grace as experienced in Jesus Christ.*

**January 6, 2019 10:30am**

**Thank you for worshipping with us today!**

**If you are new to Emmanuel,  
we hope that you feel welcome.**

**Please introduce yourself to our minister,  
Rev. Roni Beharry,  
and sign the Guest Book before you leave.**

**We hope that your faith has been enriched  
through the worship today and that you may come again!**

**A special thank you to all participants  
in today's service.**

**Ushers: Barb Maeck & Myrna Bennison**

**WE GATHER**  
**CELEBRATING EPIPHANY STAR GIFTS**  
**SUNDAY JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2019**

Welcome

Announcements

**Territorial Acknowledgement:**

“We gather today on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg people and, specifically, the Nipissing First Nation, the land they share with us as a result of the Robinson-Huron Treaty. May we live in peace and friendship as a treaty people.”

**Greeting:**

*Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

**Congregation: And also with you.**

**WE ENTER INTO GOD’S PRESENCE**

**Call to Worship:**

Holy One, you gather us together

We come seeking you. We coming discerning, searching for light and love.

You are the giver of the first Star gift, Jesus Christ the light of the world.

Wisemen inspired by you, gave gifts that this child grew into...

So too your spirit meets in this place, you also give us star gifts that we grow into along the journey of faith.

**Opening Prayer:**

Send O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do here.

Grant us faith to discern the gifts that you give as we seek you.

Fill us with joy, faith and courage as you did for those wise ones

who had the wisdom to seek the Christ child. Help us to be truly wise. In Jesus’s name we pray, Amen.

Opening Hymn: A Light Is Gleaming VU#82

**Prayer of Confession:**

Like the wise men, we journey with our vulnerabilities, our unique gait and stride, charting unfamiliar terrain, seeking the child. We recall the identity forming gifts the child Jesus received; gifts of Gold, frankincense and myrrh. They seemed odd; yet, they pointed to his particular way of shining in the world.

We recall the star gifts we received last year: the ones that affirmed us, even challenged us, and blessed us. Perhaps, they proved to be a blessing to others, in their shining through us.

Your light shines through the substances of all these things. A light is gleaming, shedding its arms across the night, reflecting and refracting the glow from within each one of us. Help us, as a whole people of God, to burn brightly, reflecting your glory and your praise. And the people of God say, Amen.

**Choral Assurance of Forgiveness:**

How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is given!

So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessed gift of heaven.

No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,

where meek souls will receive him still,  
the dear Christ enters in.

*“O Little Town of Bethlehem” VU#64 vs. 3*

**Children’s Time: “Receiving A Star Gift”**

Hymn: “Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God” VU#356

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6