



The United Church of Canada
L'Église Unie du Canada

St. Andrew's United Church



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Sunday, January 4, 2026

Epiphany Sunday

St. Andrew's United Church is a Christian community that shares Christ's love through worship, fellowship, spiritual growth, and outreach.



Worship Leader: Mr. Merle Milson

Organist and Choir Director: Lois McKinnon

Greeters: Dennis & Judy Morrison

Sunday Worship Service

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

*Stand as you are able.

Musical Prelude

*Introit: VU #79, "Arise Your Light is Come" vs. 1

**Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.**

Welcome

Lighting of the Christ Candle: Linda Laviolette

Long ago, before there was a world, before there was anything, before there was day or night, there was God, our Creator and Source of Life and Goodness. Then God said, "Let there be light." We light this candle to remind us of that gift of light and love.

Candle is lit as we sing: VU #82, "A Light is Gleaming" (refrain only)

**A light is gleaming, spreading its arms
throughout the night, living in the light.
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love
is burning bright, living in the light.**

Call to Worship:

Come, let us gather together in expectation.

We come hoping to find Jesus in our midst.

The one who opens our hearts
and helps us discover God.

The one who calls us to faith
and reminds us of God's love.

The one who delights in surprising his people,
a giver of good gifts.

turning water into wine,
giving hope when our hope has run out.

Come, let us worship together in expectation.

We come searching for Jesus in our midst.

Sue Webb, *Faith Centennial U.C. Selkirk, ON*

Opening Prayer:

Epiphany God, You are the one who shatters the despair and hopelessness.

You place a star in the sky as a guide, and you lead us to find new life in unknown places.

We gather in worship this day to give thanks for the light your presence offers, the confidence your love gives, and the sanctuary your peace places before us.

Bathe us in your light this day and help us feel the warmth of your love in this community of hope. Amen.

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

Prayer of Confession: (leader)

Gracious God, you call us to be the light of the world. Yet sometimes our light flickers like a candle, threatened by the storms of life. We are frightened that if we don't protect the light, it will go out and leave us in the shadows. So instead of sharing your light, we hoard it. Loving God, we pray for your light to open our hearts and free us from our fears. Renew our faith so we will be your light in the world. Amen.

Humorous Story: "Jesus and the Elves"

We Hear the Word Proclaimed

Prayer of Illumination: *Wanda MacDonald*

Holy One. Light of the Sun and Stars, God of New Stories and New Directions, as we receive the stories and scripture today remind us that you are with us on our journeys, both expected and unexpected, so that we may share your presence with all that we encounter and the world may be changed by your love.

We pray in the name of the holy human child, the one we know as Jesus. Amen.

*Responsive Reading: VU 790, Psalm 72 (Parts 1-3)

Reflection: Readings & Carols

1) Matthew 2:1-6 "The Visit of the Wise Men" - *Pat Boucher*

* Hymn: "As with Gladness Men of Old" VU # 81 vs. 1,3,5

2) Matthew 2:7-12 - *Jeanne Breau*

Hymn: (seated) "The First Nowell" VU #91, vs. 1,2,3

- 3) Matthew 2:13-15 “The Escape to Egypt” – *Debbie Stymiest*
*Hymn: “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” VU #75,
vs. 1,2,3,6
- 4) Matthew: 2:16-18 “The Massacre of Infants” – *John Bosma*
Hymn: (seated) “Will You Come and See the Light” VU #96,
vs. 1,3,4,5
- 5) Matthew 2: 19-23 “The Return from Egypt” – *Joan Savoy*
* Hymn: “We Three Kings” vs. 1,2,3,4

We Respond

Announcements: *Jeanne Breau*

Offering

Choral Offertory: VU 55 In the Bleak Midwinter (vs.4)

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:

You turn water into wine, Jesus.

You make miracles everywhere we turn.

Take these gifts of ours and turn them into wine for your world, a blessing and a promise, bringing your love. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Prayers of the People & Lord’s Prayer

* Hymn: VU 59, “Joy to the World” vs. 1,2,4

*Commissioning & Benediction:

In God’s wisdom, may we move out from this place of worship.

Through Jesus’ teachings kept in our hearts, may we examine the world from a new perspective.

And may the love of the Holy Spirit flow in and around us through all our interactions this week.

Amen.

*Choral Closing: “Lord Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing” vs. 1

Lord dismiss us with Thy blessing,
Fill our hearts with joy and peace.
Let us each, Thy love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh refresh us, Oh, refresh us,
As we enter the New Year. Amen.

Musical Postlude



Announcements

Memorials:

In loving memory of **Roberta Bass**, a donation to Local Funds has been received from Barb Doucet and Family.

In loving memory of **Perley & Ernestine MacKnight**, a donation to Local Funds has been received from daughter, Anne MacKnight.

Greeters: **Jan. 11th** – Cynthia Duplessie & Patty Deitch/**Jan. 18th** – Ferne & Ernie MacLean

▪ **Sound System:** **Jan. 4** – Barry Campbell/**Jan. 11** – Don Bowman

▪ **PowerPoint:** **Jan. 4** – Mary Reynolds/**Jan. 11** – Barry Campbell

- **Offering Collectors:** **Jan. 4** – Barry & Bev Campbell, Holly Daley, Judy Donnelly/**Jan. 11** – Patty Deitch, Cynthia Duplessie, Dennis & Judy Morrison

▪ **Offering Counters:** **Jan. 4** – Judy & Dennis Morrison/**Jan. 11** – Betty MacDiarmid, Debbie Stymiest

▪ **Weekly Collection:**

Collection on Sunday, Dec. 28 th	\$ 1,370.00
Weekly Par Collection	<u>\$ 1,259.00</u>
Total for Week of Dec. 28th	\$ 2,629.00

This Week:

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9-4

1. **Monday, Jan. 5th** – 10:00 a.m. – Take down the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary and St. Luke's Hall.
Volunteers are needed.

**We gratefully acknowledge the dedication of the bulletins in
loving memory of Walter & Shirley Traer by the Family.**



Online St. Andrew's United Church
www.standrewsunitedmiramichi.org
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