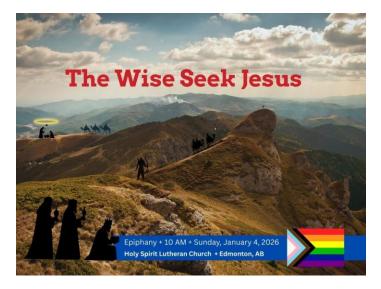


A Welcoming Christ-Centered Community

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January 4, 2026 – Epiphany Service of the Word

Pastor: Rev. Liz Bell

Assisting Minister: Marlene Gold

Ministers: Every member

Ushers: Paul

Council President: Karen Oko Musician: Jared Samborski

Video/Live Streaming: Anton Chell Worship Host: Arvid Pederson

Welcome

Gathering Song "We Three Kings of Orient Are" (WOV 646) vs 1 - 4

Children's Time

Thanksgiving at the Font

Kyrie & Gloria - Canadian Liturgy

Prayer of the Day

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³ Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Psalm 72:1-7,10-14 read responsively

- ¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
 - ² that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;
- ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
 - ⁴Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.
- ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
 - ⁶ Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,

like showers that water the earth.

- ⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish;
- and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
 - ¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.
- ¹¹ May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.
 - ¹² For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed, and those who have no helper.
- ¹³ He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.
 - ¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.

Second Reading Ephesians 3:1-12

¹ This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, 4 a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: 6 that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. 8 Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, 10 so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Gospel Acclamation Canadian Liturgy

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: 6 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' " ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." 9 When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Sermon

Song of the DAY 'What Child Is This' (ELW 296)

A Statement of Faith: written by two fourteen-year old boys

We believe in God.

who made the sun and the sky,

the stars and the sea.

who calls us to live responsibly.

We believe in Jesus Christ,

who became human, who healed the sick,

who talked to children.

who made friends with sinners.

He burned brightly and offended many.

His journey was one of life and death and resurrection.

His light continues to shine in darkness.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

we believe in the noty Spirit

who inspires the scriptures

and whose breath we breathe.

We believe that God calls us to be a community,

committed to one another

offering a welcome to everyone,

old and young, rich and poor,

strong and weak.

We believe that God calls us to be peacemakers,

workers for justice,

brothers and sisters

a light for our world.

Amen

Prayers of Intercession

In our prayers: Gertie B, Carl C, Tom d, Susan K, Cody M, Pr. Richard R, Brendan S, Pr. Erin T, and those we hold dear in our hearts.

Lord's Prayer - from the New Zealand Prayer Book

Eternal Spirit Earth-Maker,

Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all.

Loving God, in whom is heaven.

The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today,

feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another,

forgive us.

In times of temptation and test,

spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil,

free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Peace

Offertory: Canadian Liturgy

Offering Prayer

Blessing

Community Life

Sending Song 'As with Gladness Men of Old' (ELW 302) vs 1,3,4

Dismissal

Online Giving

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