

Isaiah 60:1–6 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.
³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
⁴Lift 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 on their nurses' arms.
⁵Then 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.
⁶A 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.

Matthew 2:1-12 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men 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 at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³ When 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."

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men 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 at its rising, 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.



YES! LET IT BE!

Waterloo North Mennonite Church
Sunday, January 7, 2018
YES! LET IT BE DECLARED

GATHERING

Hymn: STS (purple) #32 Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem

Hymn: STS (purple) #29 Brightest and best

Welcome and Announcements

PRAISING

Call to Worship

Leader: Yes! The light is here. We carry it within us.

All: It is the star of the East; it is the morning sun.

Leader: It is as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

All: Praise the Lord!

Leader: You, O God, have caused the mountains to shake. You have torn open the heavens, and your glory reaches the earth.

All: May we, like the magi, seek you until we find you. May we offer our gifts in your presence, no matter where you are found.

Leader: Yes! Let your mystery be declared.

Invocation

Hymn: STS (purple) #30 Arise, your light is come!

Children's time

CONFESSING AND RESPONDING

Confession in unison:

O God, your light has come, your glory risen,
and your brightness dawned, illuminating not only the way
of the magi, but all our paths.

From your fullness we have received grace upon grace as your
mystery has been revealed and your presence made known.
Now we too are called to arise, shine, and return by another road.
Yet we confess that instead of lifting our eyes and searching
diligently, instead of walking with boldness and confidence,
instead of revealing and proclaiming your presence, we cling
to what we have and know, and we continue on our old,
familiar ways home.

We are frightened by the unknown, and by the darkness that
covers the earth.

Forgive us.

(pause for silence)

Words of Assurance in unison

O God, Emmanuel,
in Jesus, the Christ, you have come among us.
You have given us life, and we are restored.

Hymn: HWB (blue) #216 Christ, whose glory fills the skies
Offering

LISTENING

Scripture readings: Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12 *(see last page)*

Sermon

Hymn: HWB (blue) #222 How brightly beams the morning

Congregational prayer

Lay Minister release and commissioning *(see insert)*

SENDING

Hymn: HWB (blue) #226 You are salt for the earth

Benediction

Focus statement: Drawn by the light, we, like the magi, are sent forth in new directions. We are empowered to be God's illuminating presence in the world. Arise, shine, for the mystery of Christ has been revealed!

With gratitude and respect, we recognize that we are worshipping on the traditional land that once belonged to the Haudenosaunee and Anishnaabe peoples. We regret the lack of respect given to the Indigenous people in the past, and pledge to work for justice and reconciliation.