

Waterloo North Mennonite Church  
Sunday, January 6, 2019 10:45 a.m.  
Epiphany Sunday – Light

**Focus Statement:** On Epiphany Sunday we bask in the glow of Christ, the light of the world, who brings all the powers of the world to their knees. This week we name the powers of our own modern world that seek to overcome the goodness of God's creation through sin and death. To counteract this evil in our world, we give glory to God, the one who gave us the Son, who himself leads us in the ways of God's justice and righteousness.

**Gathering hymns:**

**HWB (blue) #221 Hail the bless'd morn**

**STJ (green) #5 Come and be light for our eyes**

Welcome and announcements

**Call to worship**

**Leader:** Arise, shine, for our light has come and the glory of God has risen upon us!

**People:** **Nations will come to the light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.**

**Leader:** The love of God for all peoples and nations is revealed through his Son, Jesus Christ.

**People:** **We are now one world and one family, called to be children of God.**

**All:** *Arise, shine, for our light has come!*

**Invocation in unison**

*Gracious God, as the magi followed your star, we now look to your light to guide us. As the magi knelt before Jesus in worship, we now worship you, and as they presented their gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh, we now present our gifts of love, faithfulness, and our very selves to you. Fill us anew with your Spirit through our worship, that we may be your faithful disciples. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.*

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

Scripture reading Isaiah 60:1-4a; Matthew 2:1-13 (see insert)

Children's Time

Offering

**Hymn: Insert (#10) Jesus Entered Egypt**

Sermon *“Stars and Angels”*

**Hymn of Response: HWB (blue) #517 Open my eyes...**

Congregational Prayer

**Hymn: STS (purple) #57 Go, my friends, in grace**

**Benediction**

**Headsets** for hearing assistance are available from the ushers.

**Childcare** (infants to age 4): The nursery is located next to the sanctuary. Infant change table is located in washroom next to nursery. Ushers can direct you.

**Children’s Worship Binder**, an instrument to help children through the worship service, is available by the sanctuary entrance.

**Offering:** Thank you to those who contribute electronically. Offering cards are available (or use loose change/cash) so that you can participate in the giving of offering worship experience.

## **Welcome Visitors**

We are glad you are worshipping with us this morning. If you would like to learn more about our church and our ministries, including our care groups, education opportunities, seniors group or youth groups, and if you'd like to be added to our email list, please contact the church office or one of the ministers.

***At Waterloo North Mennonite Church we welcome all people to participate fully in our Christian community of faith with all its expectations, responsibilities, and opportunities regardless of personal characteristics such as race, ethnic background, age, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, income, or education.***

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*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.*

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## **Isaiah 60:1-4a** (NRSV)

- <sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- <sup>2</sup> 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.
- <sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- <sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around;

## **Matthew 2:1-13** (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> 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.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> “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.”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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.” <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

<sup>13</sup> Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”