



## **St Ives Uniting Church**

**Sunday January 8<sup>th</sup> 2023**

### **Epiphany**

*“Gifts”*

**Notices and Welcome**

**Introduction and Call to Worship**

**We Light the Christ Candle**

**Prayer of Invocation**

**Gathering to Praise God**

**Hymn 314**      As with gladness men of old      *Dix*

**Prayer of Confession and Thanksgiving**

## **Declaration of Forgiveness**

*God is love. Through Christ, your sins are forgiven. Take hold of this forgiveness, and live your life in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen*

## **Listening to God's Word.**

### **Responsive Reading Psalm 29**

#### **A Psalm of David.**

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendour of his<sup>[a]</sup> holiness.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the LORD is powerful, the voice of the LORD is majestic.**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar, the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

<sup>6</sup> **He makes Lebanon leap like a calf, Sirion<sup>[b]</sup> like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD strikes with flashes of lightning.

<sup>8</sup> **The voice of the LORD shakes the desert; the LORD shakes the Desert of Kadesh.**

**<sup>9</sup>The voice of the LORD twists the oaks<sup>[c]</sup> and strips the forests bare.  
And in his temple all cry, “Glory!”**

<sup>10</sup>The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD is enthroned as King forever.

**<sup>11</sup>The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.**

**Amen.**

## **First Lesson**

John Ruskin

Ephesians 3:1-12

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

To Timothy, my dear son:

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>3</sup>I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This

grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.

What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us

*This is the Word of the Lord*

*Thanks be to God*

## **Second Lesson**

Matthew Chapter 2 Verses 1 – 12

Hazel Ruskin

### **The Magi Visit the Messiah**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi<sup>[a]</sup> from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup> “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.’<sup>[b]</sup>”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord  
Lord Jesus Christ we give you our praise.*

**Hymn** We, three kings of Orient are

**A Thought** “The Magi of O’Henry”

**Musical Interlude** “The Three Kings” Peter Cornelius

**Sermon** “The Gifts of the Magi” Lawrence Peak

**Responding to God’s Word.**

**Hymn 454** Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness *Was Lebet*

**Offering**

## **Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
praise him, all creatures here below,  
praise him above, ye heavenly host,  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

## **Prayer of Dedication**

### **Prayers of the People**

Lawrence Peak

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.  
Amen.

### **Closing Hymn** 310 Brightest and Best *Spean*

**Benediction** *The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make his face you shine upon you and be  
gracious unto you  
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you  
And give you peace. Amen*

### **Blessing 779** May the feet of God walk with you *"Aubrey"*

May the feet of God walk with you  
And his hand hold you tight.  
May the eye of God rest on you  
And his ear hear your cry.

May the smile of God be for you,  
And his breath give you life.  
May the child of God grow in you  
And his love bring you home.

## Postlude



