

**WELCOME TO MEMORIAL
UNITED CHURCH
3rd Sunday after Epiphany
January 22, 2023**

* please stand as able

Prelude

Welcome and the lighting of the Christ Candle

Life & Work of the Community

* Hymn When Heaven's Bright with Mystery **VU #93**

Call to Worship: Psalm 27:1, 4-9 [VU p. 754]

An Epiphany Prayer of Confession: [VU p. 88]

Minute for Mission

* Hymn: God Who Gives to Life its Goodness **VU #260**

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 9:1-4
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

Sermon: *Different Wavelengths*

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Offering Anthem

Offertory Prayer

* Hymn I Have Called You by Your Name **MV #161**

* The Christ Candle is Extinguished

Commissioning and Benediction

*Sending Forth When You Walk from Here **298VU**

"This service has now ended. Our service now begins."

Thanks to The Rev. Dr. Larry Siebrands for conducting today's service. Rev. Debbie will be leading the service next week.

Jan 22 - 10:30 - Worship - Larry Siebrands
Jan 29 - 10:30 Worship - Debbie Aitken
- Deadline for Reports for the Annual Report
Feb. 5 - 10:30 - Worship Debbie Aitken
Feb. 7 - 7:00 pm - Session will meet by Zoom
Feb. 12 - 10:30 - Worship - Mark Tiller
Feb 19 - 10:30 - Sacrament of Baptism - Debbie Aitken
- Official Board Meeting following worship
Feb. 26 - 10:30 - First Sunday in Lent - Debbie Aitken

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

About this day: This is the 3rd Sunday in Epiphany. Epiphany means the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12). Each of the Sundays in Epiphany uses a Gospel story to reveal to us who Jesus is. You are urged to listen carefully to those revelations.

We can help our volunteer January janitor, Becky Gosbee, by taking our bulletins with us, putting our hymnals back beneath the chair ahead of us, and straightening out a chair or two. Thanks to you and to our volunteer janitors who serve our church.

Did you know that the lectionary readings in 2023 are from series A. That means that most of the Gospel readings will be taken from the Gospel of Matthew; series B highlights readings from Mark; series C features readings from Luke The Gospel of John is interspersed into all three series.

Did you know.....Canada carried out its last execution on Dec. 11, 1962, when Arthur Lucas and Ronald Turpin were executed. Five years later, the government temporarily suspended the death penalty until 1976, when it was officially abolished. [Broadview, Dec. 2022]

Notes from our Session meeting, January 11: Plans are developing for our monthly senior meal, January 20. Communion is planned for February 5; communicants will be invited to come forward to receive the elements. Vera and Larry will assist. Chair Donna White has been working on the Session annual report; she shared her preliminary draft online with us. With Covid restrictions relaxing, Session voted to return to our regular plate offerings versus keeping

the offering plates near the sanctuary doors. Re: Sunday School, two more children's chairs are needed, since we have quite a number of youngsters attending. Delite brought two from home. Three baptisms are scheduled for February 19, each of the youngest children of Murray and Megan MacLeod. Rev. Debbie is planning a Lenten Bible Study, using "Honest Questions for Deeper Faith." The study will be held on Wednesday mornings during the first week in Lent, which starts Sunday, February 26. Session will meet by Zoom at 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 7. Donna will chair the meeting and Delite will offer the evenings devotions.

An idea: The empty section of the chancel, where the Christmas tree used to be, calls for attention. Someone suggested putting up a banner stand, hoisting a banner emphasizing the season of the church year. If so, we need a banner stand; others could make banners displaying seasons of the church year, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, etc. Symbols could be applied to the banner also. Sound like a creative idea?

About our hymns for today: When Heaven's Bright with Mystery was chosen, because it's an Epiphany hymn reminding us of the Holy Light, Herod and Rachel, hope and mystery. God Who Gives to Life its Goodness was chosen, because the sermon this morning emphasizes the goodness of God in all things. I Have Called You by Your Name also reflects the Gospel story, the calling of the disciples.

As we get ready for our annual general meeting, we pause to give thanks to those committee chair women for their service, as well as their efforts to provide for our annual reports. Thank you, too, to those who religiously serve on committees for the good of the church.

The funeral service for long-time member, Mary Hicken, was held last Sunday afternoon, despite freezing rain and difficult weather conditions. Many thanks to Rev. Debbie for her worship leadership, as well to those who made the service uplifting; thank you to those who contributed finger foods and helpfulness for the funeral reception following the service!

Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord ... " "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them." Rev. 14.

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