



Epiphany: A New Year, a New Vision
Sunday January 8, 2023
Worship Leader: Sandra Fowler

Welcome and Announcements

Prepare for Worship: Dance With the Spirit (Jenna)

Call to Worship: Called to a Spirit Journey

You call us to a journey of the Spirit, Loving God.

As we prepare, you speak, and we listen.

You call us to a journey of the Spirit, Loving God.

Our goal is clear; we seek the highest good.

You call us to a journey of the Spirit, Loving God.

We are not alone; our faith companions go with us.

You call us to a journey of the Spirit, Loving God.

You are our guide; we have nothing to fear. Amen

Hymn: VU #87: I am the Light of the World

Opening Prayer: A Prayer of Bold Discipleship

Loving God, In our discipleship we will be bold.

As bold disciples, we will listen carefully to those who experience life differently from us.

In our discipleship we will be bold.

As bold disciples, we will work out our own faith and explore that of other faith communities.

In our discipleship we will be bold.

As bold disciples, we will meet with the powerful ones but will not submit to them.

with us on our personal quest,

with us as we draw strength and go forward as a faith community.

In our discipleship we will be bold.

As bold disciples, we will humbly worship with the faith of a little child. Amen

Theme Conversation: Its not easy

Hymn: VU79 Arise Your Light Has Come.

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 60:1–6 The future glory of Jerusalem

Matthew 2:1–12 Visitors from the East

An Epiphany Reflection in Light of the Call and Vision Statement of the United Church

Called by God, as disciples of Jesus, The United Church of Canada seeks to be a bold, connected, evolving church of diverse, courageous, hope-filled communities united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship, and daring justice.

Hymn: VU #96 Will You Come and See the Light?

Offering

Offering Song

Hymn: MV #145 Draw the Circle Wide

Offering Prayer

We offer our gifts to nurture the faithful journey of this community.

We offer our money to sustain its teaching and worship.

We offer our time for compassionate care.

We offer our talents to support its work for justice.

As these gifts are used in this fellowship,
and worldwide through Mission and Service,

Loving God, you will bless them,

and you will bless us, the givers.

In the name of Jesus, who could not have given more, we pray,

Amen.

Pastoral Prayer: A Prayer of Daring

Loving God, there are opportunities for us to work and advocate for cleaner air and cleaner water.

(Time of silent reflection)

As those who believe the environment matters way beyond our lifetime, **we will dare to get involved.**

Loving God, the never-ending procession of refugees fills us with horror

(Time of silent reflection)

.As those who believe that every family has the right to a safe home,

we will dare to get involved.

Loving God, we are among those who are ignored and looked down on because of an addiction.

(Time of silent reflection) As those who have a difficult story to tell,

we will dare to get involved

Loving God, we know those who are going through hard times with sickness, in relationships, and because dreams will not become reality.

(Time of silent reflection) As those who are ready to listen and act compassionately,

we will dare to get involved.

Loving God, we rejoice in this faith community, our work in this neighbourhood, and our outreach through the Mission and Service.

(Time of silent reflection) As those who, in community, are ready to renew and commit

time, talents, and gifts, **we will dare to get involved**

Loving God, we give thanks for our Christian faith.

Our faith has been a rock, is a source of strength, and will be a beacon of hope in all the years that lie ahead

(Time of silent reflection) As individuals we acknowledge all that is ours in Jesus the Christ.

We dare to witness, “Yes, I am faithfully involved!” Amen.

The Jesus Prayer

An Act of Faithful Commitment

Follow the star!

The light of Jesus Christ will be our light in the new year.

We will study faithfully and listen patiently.

We will proclaim Jesus joyfully and care compassionately.

We will play our part in the faith community fully

and pursue justice with daring.

You will go with God,

and God will go with us.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn: VU 82 A Light is Gleaming

A Commissioning for the New Year

**You go into the new year with us, Loving God,
with us as we test the depth of our spirituality.
You go into the new year with us, Loving God,
with us as we are emboldened as disciples of Jesus the Christ.
You go into the new year with us, Loving God,
with us as we dare to confront and overcome injustice,
We will suffer setbacks, we will encounter challenges,
we will feel like giving up, we will say, "What's the use?"
But you, Loving God, will forge us in hope; you will renew our strength.
With us when life is good,
with us when life is tough,
our Never-Failing God. Amen**

Benediction:

Hymn: Go Now In Peace (2X)

David Sparks is a retired United Church of Canada minister living in Summerland, British Columbia. He is the author of the Prayers to Share, Pastoral Prayers to Share, and Responsive Prayers series of lectionary-based prayers (Wood Lake Publishing). He is also the author of Off to a Good Start and A Good Ending (United Church Publishing House).

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Prayers of the People - Prayer Cycle 2023

January 8

- **Wider Church volunteers**
- Yorkton: Westview
- Abbey-Lancer-Portreeve (*Abbey, Lancer*)
- Asquith-Perdue (*Perdue*)