

Order of Service for January 3, 2021
Knox United Church

Swagatam, Tansi, Welcome

As we join together in worship we acknowledge that we live on Turtle Island, land that creator brought out of the waters so all could have life. Turtle Island is the traditional territory of Anishinabek, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Dakota peoples, and the home of the Metis Nation.

Gathering Together in Song:

This is the day

This is the day [x2] That the Lord has made [x2]
We will rejoice [x2] And be glad in it [x2]
This is the day that the Lord has made
We will rejoice and be glad in it
This is the day [x2] That the Lord has made.

Aja ko din, Aja ko kin,
Unle sree je ka, Unle sree je ka,
Romaundai jaun Khushee manow
Ra ananda Garoun, Ra ananda Garoun,
Aja ko din Unle sree je ka
Romanundai jaun Khushee manow
Aja ko din, Aja ko din
Unle sree je ka

Uyai Mose / Come all you people* *MV2

Come all you people, come and praise your Maker [x3]
Come now and worship the Lord

Uyai mose, tinamate Mwari Uyai mose svino

Welcome and Community News

Call to Worship

The journey of the Magi led them to a house.
There they found a young child, God's special gift to the world.
They gave thanks and worshipped him,
and their lives were transformed from that point onward.
Today we journey to seek Jesus again, to celebrate,
to sense our lives uniquely touched, to find ourselves transformed for a future in God's presence.
Come, let us worship God.

Singing: *The First Nowell* VU91

The first Nowell the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!
Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!
Born is the King of Israel!

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!
Born is the King of Israel!

This star drew nigh to the northwest:
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!
Born is the King of Israel!

Then entered in those wise men three,
Full rev'rently upon their knee,
And offered there, in his presence,
Their gold and myrrh, and frankincense.
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!
Born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with His blood mankind hath bought.
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!
Born is the King of Israel!

Opening Prayer

**God of the starry heavens, God of the struggling earth.
We have seen your star of hope, and long to kneel at the cradle of your love.
By the power of your Spirit, shine forth among us.
Calm our fears with the luminous reality of your abiding presence.
Still our cynical minds with imaginative possibilities
to confound violence and oppression, and assure freedom for the vulnerable.
Empower us to journey with you as did those of old,
into a future of risk and promise. Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

Singing: *A light is Gleaming* VU82

Refrain

***“A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night,
living in the light.
Come share its gladness,
God’s radiant love is burning bright, living in the light.***

*When light comes pouring into the darkest place,
It hurts our eyes to see the glow.
Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears,
Our memories and tears.*

Refrain “A light is gleaming,....

*When night is round us and every shadow grows,
A star is there to light our way.
It tells a story of Jesus who came near to say:
“God’s light will ever stay.”*

Refrain “A light is gleaming,....

*And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk.
He showed us things we hadn’t seen.
Now we, like Jesus, can help creation shine,
And this will be a sign:*

Refrain “A light is gleaming,....

*So let us live in the brightness God has giv’n,
And let us rise to see the dawn.
We trust that God is here asparkle and ablaze,
Warming all our days.”*

Refrain “A light is gleaming,....

Children's Time

Lord's Prayer (all languages welcome and spoken)

Peace

Singing: *Alleluia, Praise to God*

Alleluia, praise to God. Alleluia, praise to God.
Praises, high praises, we bring you O God,
Alleluia, praise to God.

Songs of joy sing out to God, songs of joy sing out to God
Dancing and singing, we praise you O God
Songs of joy sing out to God

Beat the drums sing out to God, Beat the drums sing out to God
Praises, high praises, we bring you O God
Beat the drums, sing out to God.

Yoruba

Aleluya Y'in Oluwa, Aleluya Y'in Oluwa
O seun, o seun, o seun baba
Aleluya Y'in Oluwa.

Nepali

Alleluya aadar Prabhulai (x2)
uchcha ma, uchcha ma, uchcha ma dinchhau
Alleluya aadar Prabhulai

Tagalog

Alleluia purihin ang Dios (x2)
hanggang, kalangitan, sa'yo O Dios
Alleluia purihin ang Dios

A Christmas Affirmation of Faith

We believe in Jesus Christ, and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

We believe in the One whose spirit was glorified a little town, and whose spirit brings music to people all over the world, in communities both large and small.

We believe in the One for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and we confess that our hearts still sometimes wish to exclude Christ from our lives today.

We believe in the One whom the rulers of the earth ignored, and the proud could never understand, whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

We believe in the One who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible; whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love as its only wealth.

We believe in the One who looked at people and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to wholeness, and who lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

We confess our ever-lasting need of God, the need for forgiveness for our selfishness and greed.

We acknowledge our need for life for our empty souls, and the need for love in hearts grown cold.

We believe that God's love is with us today as it was on that first Christmas and that we are never alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen

Singing: *All Poor ones and Humble* VU 65

All poor ones and humble,
and all those who stumble
Come hastening and feel not afraid.
For Jesus our treasure,
With love past all measure,
In lowly poor manger was laid.

Though wise men who found him
Laid rich gifts around him,
Yet oxen they gave him their hay;
And Jesus in beauty
Accepted their duty;
Contented in manger he lay.

Then haste we to show him
The praises we owe him;
Our service he ne'er can despise:
Whose love still is able
To show us that stable
Where softly in manger he lies.

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Reflection

Offering//Offering Song: *In the Bleak Midwinter* VU 55 v4

What can I give him, poor as I am,
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,
Yet, what I can I give him, give my heart.

Offering Prayer

May our gifts enable for others the blessings we receive this Christmas: the gift of a childlike wonder, the gift of a radiant hope, the gift of the peace that passes all understanding, the gift of a joy which knows no bounds.

With our gifts we bring ourselves, O God, in response to the greatest gift of all—yourself in the Babe of Bethlehem.

Community Prayers

Holy God, we do not understand why you keep on loving us. We hurt each other; we turn our backs on need; we seek revenge for petty wrongs in petty ways. We know that sins against each other are truly sins against you; yet you keep on loving us.

Forgive us when, like Herod, selfish pride twists us into cruelty. Forgive us when, unlike the Magi, we refuse to follow your guiding star. Shine in our lives and in our church in this Epiphany. Beckon us on to follow and be faithful.

Hear now the prayers of our community of faith as we pray in the silence of our hearts:

Singing: *As with Gladness, Men of Old* VU81

As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore your splendour see.

As with joyful steps they sped
to that lowly manger bed,
there to bend the knee before
Christ whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with eager pace
ever seek your throne of grace.

As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger rude and bare;
so may we with holy joy,
pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last

where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright
None shall need created light;
You, its light, its joy, its crown,
you its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing
alleluias to our King.

Blessing

Go now in hope, with a song in your hearts.
Go now into the service of the Prince of Peace.
Go now with joy, a sign of God's presence.
Go now with a love which is gently strong,
to take up the work that Christmas begins.

May the love of God, the great source and mystery of life, surround us.
May the presence of our Saviour, whose birth we celebrate, be with us.
And may the Spirit of God empower and enable us today and always.