

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Come forward and light a candle for a prayer of concern or a prayer for hope in the coming year.

Select a star word

LORD'S PRAYER:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.**

HYMN: "Will You come and See the Light" VU #96

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

CHORAL CLOSE: Hope Shines as a Solitary Star MVU #220

WELCOME REV. KELLIE MCCOMB!
Today we welcome Rev. Kellie to Waterford United!

PRAYERS – Please keep Cori Angus, Carol Chadwick and their family in your prayers as they mourn the passing of their sister Janet Moses on Wednesday.

Today we are gathered in the traditional territories of several indigenous nations with gratitude. As settlers, we take on the responsibility of learning about historic and current relationships, and our desire to engage in building right relations. We are also mindful of broken covenant, and the need to commit ourselves to deep reconciliation and healing. The Waterford United Church is a place where everyone is welcome regardless of their ability, age, class, ethnicity, gender, race, or sexual orientation.

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WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH
January 4, 2026 - Epiphany Sunday
Rev. Kellie McComb
Music: Azrael Hackshaw



THE APPROACH

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

OPENING HYMN: "I am the Light of the World"

VU #87

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Arise, shine, and let the light of God be with you.

All: **Be within us, O God, and share with us your light on our path.**

One: Be a beacon of light and hope in a world that is immersed in shadows and despair.

All: **Be among us, O God and shine your light on our path.**

One: Let the light of the star in the east remind us that we can find God's direction for our lives if we only look.

All: **Be with us, O God, to show your light on our path as we worship today. Amen.**

HYMN: "This Little Light of Mine" (*actions*)

v.1 This little light of mine. I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine. I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine. I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

v. 2 Hide it under a bushel (NO!). I'm gonna let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel (NO!). I'm gonna let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel (NO!). I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

v. 3 Don't let anyone blow it out. I'm gonna let it shine.

Don't let anyone blow it out. I'm gonna let it shine.

Don't let anyone blow it out. I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Repeat verse 1

Words: African American spiritual. In Public Domain.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION:

When the Magi needed a new path, God sent them a dream. When you need a new path, God will send you dreams and inspirations, too.

This is God's promise. Will you open your heart and mind to receive it?

In the silence of our hearts, let us share with God our longings and challenges, and the places in our lives where we need new paths:

(Time of silence)

O Generous God, as we look back on the year just passed, we know that we missed paths you were opening to us, perhaps because we were overwhelmed or afraid; perhaps because we did not have enough hope, peace, joy and love. May the courage and wisdom of the Magi be ours in this new year. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The magi followed a star on a long, difficult journey. They had to push aside their fear and doubt. They were cold and weary. Their story reminds us that we too can make the long, difficult journey even with our fear, doubt, and weariness because God is travelling along with us. We too can choose new paths and find the hope, peace, joy, and love we need in God. **Amen.**

HYMN: "A Light is Gleaming"

VU #82

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURES:

Isaiah 60: 1 – 6 NRSV

The Ingathering of the Dispersed

60 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the Peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Matthew 2: 1 – 12 NRSV

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶'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.' "

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN: The First Nowell

VU #91

MESSAGE: "It's about the Light"

THE RESPONSE

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

Offertory: "In the Bleak Midwinter" (v.4)

VU #55

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. Words: Christina Rossetti ca. 1872. In Public Domain.

Offertory Prayer