

Prince Edward North Pastoral Charge
Friendship United Church
January 3, 2010

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Gathering Hymn VU 315 Holy, Holy, Holy

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of The Christ Candle

Call To Worship

A star shining brightly in the East,

Discovered, by those who have eyes to see the unusual and the challenging.

A journey into unknown territory,

Taken by those who have courage and curiosity.

An encounter with an evil, commanding presence,

Evil that was faced, yet resisted with care.

The Holy One recognized, in spite of humble origin,

The glory and the gifts, given to God's Chosen Child.

Let us worship God!

Hymn VU 79 Arise, Your Light Has Come

Opening Prayer

We recognize your Epiphany gifts, O God.

As one of the Magi brought frankincense,

So we bring our wholehearted worship to you, and ask that you will bless our praise and prayer.

As one of the Magi brought myrrh,

So we bring our recognition of Jesus your Anointed One, whose life and death is salvation for us and our world.

As one of the Magi brought gold,

So we affirm our joyful loyalty to Jesus, who brings your glorious Realm closer.

Bless every gift that we bring to Jesus Christ, O God, and enable us to use these gifts in compassionate service. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Living God, your star in the East guided the Magi to Jesus your Chosen Child, but it was a disturbing and difficult journey.

When we lack the courage to venture into unfamiliar territory, O God, forgive us.

Your star led the Magi to grapple with Herod, an evil person.

When we fail to name a source of evil, or fail to affirm the good, O God, forgive us.

Your star came to rest over the birthplace of Jesus Christ, where gifts were given him.

When we fail to bring our best gifts, or our most appropriate gifts, to serve you, O God, forgive us.

Your star was left behind as the Holy Family fled the anger of Herod to Egypt.

When we are not able to see the refugee, or to help the stranger in our neighborhood, O God, forgive us.

(Time for silent reflection)

Words of Assurance

You care about the gifts that are ours, O God, and you want us to recognize them, and to use them well.

You will bless us when we confront our lack of courage, and decide to take the rough but right way.

God will go with you when you do!

And we will rejoice in God's supportive presence.

Pardon and peace are yours!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn VU 81 As With Gladness Men of Old

Caregivers In Action

Children's Time

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

Choir

Scripture

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Matthew 2: 1-12

Sermon

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

Hymn

VU 96

Will You Come And See The Light

Offerings of Our Life's Work

"Take These Gifts"

**Take these gifts and let them be
Used as blessings sent from thee
Take our lives and use us all
For your glory and your call.**

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

VU 87

I Am The Light of The World

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Amen