

**Balzac Pastoral Charge  
of the United Church of Canada  
Sunday January 7, 2024  
Epiphany  
Minister: Kelly Grittner, DLM**

**Prelude:** *The Light of the World is Jesus* *arr. M. Hayes*

**Welcoming and Land Acknowledgement**

"As we gather together, let us pause to remember that we live, work and worship on lands that are, by law, the unceded territories of the nations of Treaty 7. As Christ's people, may we be people of love, of truth, and of reconciliation. May we live with respect on this land, and in peace and friendship with its people."

**GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

**The Blessing Bank, Announcements**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Light the candle:

**the hope of our hearts has been born!**

Embrace your neighbour:

**the cradle of compassion receives us all!**

Believe in the mystery:

**the love we long for is here.**

**INVOCATION AND GATHERING MV 21 "Open our Hearts" (Repeat x 2, remain seated)**

**"Open our hearts, open our minds,  
open our lives to you O loving God"  
Open our hearts"**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We are called together in a spirit of gladness  
for the presence of God, within and among us,  
the One who lifts the shadows of gloom.

**The light of Christ shines on.**

The lights of Christmas flicker and fade  
but the gift of God's love will never grow dim  
for a Great Light has drawn near.

**The light of Christ shines on.**

The love of God grows every time we give it away  
and our joy increases; we are like happy people at a feast.

**The light of Christ shines on.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**God of stables and stars, you are the hope that leads us forward.**

**You are the love that cradles our hearts.**

**You are the peace that quiets our fears.**

**You are the joy that sounds through our voices.**

**You are the face that shines through the Bethlehem baby.**

Encircle us with your love,  
bless us with your sustaining presence,  
surround us with your grace.  
Draw us together 'round your living Word  
and bind us to one another as disciples of  
your beloved Child;  
in whose name we come together in  
worship. Amen

**Hymn**

*Morning Has Broken*

VU 409

**Hearing God's Word**

**Matthew 2:1-12 "The Visit of the Magi"**

**Reflection: "Small Town Magi"**

**Hymn**

*I Am the Light of the World*

VU 87

**RESPONDING IN LOVE**

**Invitation to Offering**

In the gifts of word and song,  
we hear the story of your gift of life, O God.  
**Here, we offer what we can of ourselves,  
we who are part of that same story.**

**Offertory Refrain** (VU 55, verse 4)

*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/one, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him—give my heart.*

**Offering Prayer**

Receive these gifts, God of All, for the work of your kingdom.  
May our words become witness, and our witness become work,  
for your people, in your world. Amen.

**Prayers of the People and The 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,  
forever and ever. Amen

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)**

Amazing God, you come into our ordinary lives,  
and set a table, holy, among us,  
filling our plates with the Bread of Life

and our glasses with the Wine of Salvation.

Amazing God, bless us with your holy Presence,

as we give thanks for the many ways that you enter our ordinary world, in unexpected ways, in unexpected places, in unexpected people. Amen

Special Music      *At This Table*      -J. Myrin & I. Menzel  
Solo: Alex Shawn

### **Breaking of Bread and Pouring of the Cup**

Invitation to the Table

Distribution of the Gifts of God      *Let us Break Bread Together*      VU 480

Sharing the Gifts of God

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Life giving God,

May we who have shared Jesus' bread, live his risen life;

may we who have shared Christ's cup, bring new life to others;

may we who are born of your Spirit,

receive comfort, guidance and encouragement all our days.

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,

that we may faithfully live to praise your holy name.

Amen

### **Hymn**

*Let There be Light*

VU 679

### **Commissioning & Blessing**

Blessed by the faithful witness of this

community, and the abiding love of God,

we go to share the light that is within

to bring greater healing and peace to our world.

God's loving presence,

Christ's enduring grace,

and Spirit's power go with you. Amen

**Postlude:**    *This Little Light of Mine* arr. M. Hayes

### **Announcements:**

- For announcement Questions or addition, here is the contact information - [balzacunitedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:balzacunitedchurch@gmail.com). PHONE: 4032265844
- For any general information on the Church please see the BUC Website Linked here: <https://balzacunitedchurch.com/>
- Minister Kelly's phone number if needed: # 403 219 3535
- Zoom - Joining each Sunday service via Zoom is available every Sunday, every weekly email will have a link to follow that allows you to join the service. If you have trouble getting into the Zoom meetings or accessing the link information, please contact Zoe Walkes or Ruth Unser for further help.
- BUC is a scent-free church - Please be advised that our beloved BUC is a scent free church. This means perfumes or scents on your person or personal items are strongly not recommended. Please try your best to stay away from scents before attending service. Thank you!

## First Third Ministry Corner



### **Everything for our kids, youth & young adults**

The email address for all Sunday school, youth and young adult programming for Balzac United Church is [BUCfirstthirdministry@gmail.com](mailto:BUCfirstthirdministry@gmail.com). Please send all Sunday school and youth group correspondence to me through this new address. I am also available to chat on my cell number (587)229-3878.

Our programs can't run without the tremendous efforts of volunteers. We are currently in need of volunteers to help with the following:

- nursery volunteers, either for one Sunday or on a rotational basis

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are able to help support this vital ministry.