



**Trinity United Church
January 4, 2026
Eleventh Day of Christmas
Epiphany Sunday**

Land Acknowledgement

As we gather to celebrate Epiphany, we acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of Treaty 18, Lake Simcoe Nottawasaga Treaty and the Chippewa and Anishinaabe peoples whose deep relationship with this land continues today. Epiphany reminds us that God's light is revealed to all nations and peoples. In that spirit, we honor the wisdom, resilience, and care of Indigenous communities past and present, and we pray for the grace to listen, learn, and walk together in truth, reconciliation, and hope.

God Welcomes Each One of Us with Loving Grace

Lighting the Christ Candle

We light this candle, honouring the One who said, "I am the Light."

Introit – We Three Kings vs 1

We Three Kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain,
Moor and mountain,
Following yonder Star.

O Star of Wonder, Star of Night,
Star with Royal Beauty bright,
Westward leading,
Still proceeding,
Guide us to Thy perfect Light.

Announcements and Opportunities @Trinity

Call to Worship

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

People: We come to worship the Light of the world, revealed to all nations and peoples.

Leader: From the east and the west, from near and far, God gathers us to behold Christ's glory.

People: Like the Magi, we seek the One who leads us by grace and truth.

Leader: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

People: We follow the light of Christ, bringing our hearts, our lives, and our gifts.

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord, revealed to the world in Jesus Christ.

People: We worship with joy, wonder, and praise. Amen.

Opening Hymn: VU 56 Jesus, Our Brother

Opening Prayer

Holy and radiant God,
You revealed your Son to the nations as the light of the world.
As we gather in worship, draw us into that holy light.
Open our eyes to see your glory,
our hearts to receive your truth,
and our lives to reflect your love.
Like the Magi, lead us beyond our own understanding,
so that we may seek Christ with wonder,
worship him with humility,
and follow him with faith and joy.
Guide us by your Spirit today,
that all we do and all we offer
may honour Jesus Christ,
the light who shines forever. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

**Holy and revealing God,
You shine your light into the world,
yet we confess that we often choose the shadows.
We follow familiar paths instead of your leading star.
We cling to fear instead of trusting your guidance.**

**Forgive us for the times we have failed to see you
in the stranger, the neighbour, and the ones you love.
Forgive us when we close our eyes to injustice
and our hearts to your truth.**

**Turn us again toward your light.
Open our eyes to recognize Christ among us,
and give us courage to follow where you lead.
By your grace, transform us
so that our lives may reflect your glory.**

**In the name of Jesus, the Light of the world, we pray.
Amen.**

... a pause for silent contemplation

Words of Assurance:

Hear the good news: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it. In Jesus Christ, God's grace is revealed for all people. Our sins are forgiven, our paths are made new, and we are set free to walk in the light of God's love. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn - VU 679 Let There Be Light

Theme Conversation (Children's Time) – "Noticing the Light"

God Speaks to Us with Peace and Assurance

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, send your Spirit now. Illuminate your Word for us, that we may hear, understand, and live what you reveal. Amen.

Scripture Reading - Ephesians 1: 3-14

Responsive Psalm 147:12-20 (VU pp. 868-869, Part Two)

Message: "The Light That Still Shines"

Hymn - MV 10 Come and Seek the ways of Wisdom

God Supports and Lifts Us

Star Words

Prayers of the People

(by Rev. Anna Strickland | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.)

Beckoning God,
from every corner we have come looking for you.
A thousand monsters reared their heads along the way, threatening to derail us.
But we are here nonetheless.
We have gone over, around, under, and through our fear.
And when we faced fears we couldn't evade,
we took that fear by the hand and dragged it along with us on the journey,
because we will stop at nothing to follow you.
Your star calls us forward, ever forward
toward our convictions,
toward our dreams,
toward a world that reflects your justice, peace, and love,
toward our belonging in the great family of creation.
Your star calls us forward, and the gifts that await are too great to hand over to fear.
May we find courage and strength for the journey in these star words we are about
to receive.
When fear threatens to stop us, may we hold onto these words and remember what
lies ahead.
When the journey is challenging, lift our heads to see our companions on the
journey and the shining star that lights the way.
You go with us, and if you are with us, what shall we fear?
Beckoning God, we follow you into the unknown, with heads held high or knees
quaking in fear.
When the way ahead is unsure, we return to what we know:
You are Emmanuel, God-With-Us.
We join now in one voice to pray in the way Jesus taught us, saying...

All are invited to receive a Star Word

Acknowledging our Offerings in Support of Trinity United's ministries

The star still shines, and the journey continues. Epiphany reminds us that the good news of Christmas is not meant to be stored away, but revealed in how we live and give. Like the Magi, we are called to respond to what we have seen—to bring our gifts, our resources, and our lives as signs of love, generosity, and justice in the world. As we offer our gifts today, we do so in gratitude for Christ's light among us and in hope that through our giving, others may come to see that light as well. Here at Trinity, we strive to live in light of the good news of Christmas all year long. Thank you for your generosity which helps us to do that. If you are able to offer us financial support, you can do that on-line through our website, via e-transfer to office@collingwoodunitedchurch.ca or by leaving cash or cheque in the offering

places at either entrance. If this is your first donation, please be sure to give us your name, address and email (if available) so we can get you a tax receipt. Let us pray with gratitude:

God of light and generosity, we thank you for every gift given this day. Receive these offerings as signs of our gratitude and as reflections of the light you have shown us in Christ. Use what we bring—our resources, our time, and our lives—to share your love, seek justice, and serve our neighbours. May these gifts help your light shine more brightly in the world, so that all may come to know your grace and hope. We offer all this with thankful hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen.

Closing Hymn - VU 87 I am the Light of the World

Commissioning

(Adapted from a Prayer by Rev. Anna Strickland | A Sanctified Art | sanctifiedart.org)

*Holy God, you go with us—
before us, behind us, and beside us—
surrounding us with your love.
As we go from this place,
we carry these star words,
each one a spark of your wisdom and guidance.
May they challenge us, comfort us, and call us forward,
reminding us that your light shines in every step we take.
Go with courage, go with hope,
and trust that wherever we journey this year,
you are with us.*

Benediction

*May the light of Christ guide your path,
may your star word inspire and challenge you,
and may God's love go before you, behind you, and beside you,
now and always. Amen.*

Choral Blessing - This Little Light of Mine (chorus and vs 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.**

**Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

Music to Inspire our Serving
