



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

January 8, 2017

Epiphany Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Reading: Mel Friesen

Pianist: Mary Anderson

Organist: Patti McCleary

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*"The magic of the street is the mingling of the errand
and the epiphany."* — Rebecca Solnit

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Peace/Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Centering Hymn: MV #14 Where Two or Three Are Gathered
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship

ONE: Epiphany is a time when we see things
for the first time or in a new light.

ALL: Open our eyes to see your light, O God.

ONE: Epiphany is a time when we hear God's call
and all that God is calling us to be.

ALL: Open our ears to hear your calling, O God.

ONE: Epiphany is a time when we recognize
God's grace: abundant and overflowing.

ALL: Open our hearts to receive your grace, O God.

ONE: Epiphany is a time to celebrate God's presence.

**ALL: Open our voices to respond with song, O God
that we may worship you.**

Adapted from: Heather McClure, *Gathering* Advent/Christmas/Epiphany
2016-2017, page 40.

Worship Schedule

January 15	Following God's Call - Potluck following service	- Rev. Annette Taylor
January 22	Unity in Diversity - Communion	- Rev. Annette Taylor
January 29	Blessed Are	- Rev. Annette Taylor
February 5	Lost and Found	- Jim Worrell

Recent Events

Thursday, January 5th – Viola Dickie Memorial Service

Round the Table

*Sharing stories of life, faith, and ministry in the United
Church and beyond.*

Community Connections Through Art

Art has always played an important part in churches throughout the



ages, ranging from simple
sculptures to
Michelangelo's *Creation of
Adam* on the ceiling of the Sistine
Chapel.

The Rev. Jim Keenan of [Bradford
United Church](#) in Bradford,
Ontario, recognizes the important

intersections between art and religion. "A healthy arts community is
integral to the spiritual and overall health of the community and the
overall well-being of its residents," he says.

Since there is a shortage of performance and exhibition spaces in
Bradford, Keenan spearheaded a drive to turn the sanctuary and hall
of his church into the "[Bradford Arts Centre](#)." *(see back of bulletin)*

Opening Hymn: VU #96 Will You Come and See the Light
(please stand as you are able)

Morning Prayer & Jesus' Prayer
Holy Mystery, radiant with grace,
thaw our fears and snow-bound spirits.

Make us:

shine with your Word, our hope;
shine with your love, our life;
shine with your peace, our joy;
through Christ, our light.

Adapted from: Celebrate God's Presence, page 125.

WORD

Hymn: VU #91 The First Nowell *(verses 1, 3, & 4)*
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time - Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #91 The First Nowell *(verses 5 & 6)*
(please remain seated)

Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

We read this text so that in it we may find wisdom for life.
May we be open to the Wisdom we understand and hear.

Reflection: Epiphanies

Choral Offering: Living in the Light
- Linnea Good

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: A Warm Welcome

Offering

Offertory Hymn: VU #585 Jesus Bids us Shine *(verse 1)*
(please stand as you are able)

Prayer of Dedication:
God of love,
as the astrologers approached the child Jesus,
we, follow a star of hope,
we, come with awe and wonder,
we, bring gifts –
ourselves, our times, and our commitment.

Send us home a different way,
changed by coming here. Amen.

Adapted from: Celebrate God's Presence, page 130.

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: VU #87 I Am the Light of the World
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: MV #220 Hope Shines as the Solitary Star

Postlude

Lectionary Readings for January 15, 2017:

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11 (VU p. 764)
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

With its curved wooden pews and old plaster, he said the sanctuary of the church offers superb acoustics, and seating for up to 200 people.

Churches across the land may want to look at Bradford United, he said, to see how a small congregation “can rediscover themselves, and engage the surrounding community.” The centre’s success also shows how a small church can leverage money and guidance from [Embracing the Spirit](#) and the [Edge network](#), to revitalize their own ministries.

After a committee of congregation members decided that the best way to reach out to the community was through art, they approached Embracing the Spirit for funding. A \$500 grant allowed the church to set up a community roundtable, where area artists discussed what an art centres in Bradford should offer. In order to gauge the wider public’s interest in the arts, a grant of \$1,500 from Embracing the Spirit was used to plan and run three art-related events, with the marketing for those events branding the church as the Bradford Arts Centre.

More than 75 people came out to a Beer & Bach night at the centre, including Bradford’s mayor. The other two events were a Carrot Fest and a play reading.

“All the events were very successful,” said Keenan, noting that the events attracted new faces to the church. “Theologically, we started to interact with people we otherwise would not be connected to,” he said.

[Read More about Bradford United](#)

[Read More Inspiring Stories from Round the Table](#)