

Port Wallis United Church

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Minister: *The Rev. Ivan Gregan*, BA, MDiv. Assisting Min: *The Rev. Blake Caldwell*, BTh.

Secretary: *Cheryl Settle* Custodian: *Judy Zinck* Student Minister: *Tamsin Michael Robson*

Musician: *Adam Johnson*, BA, M.Mus., Mus.Ed.

* Εν αρχη ην ο λόγος * In the beginning was the Word * Au commencement était la Parole * An toiseach bha am Focal * Al principio, c'era colui che è "la Parola

Epiphany

09 January 2022

**Port Wallis United Church
is an open Congregation
that affirms you as a child of God,
made in God's Image,
and loved by God.**

WORDS OF WELCOME / BIENVENUE / FAILTE / PJILA'DIK

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND

We acknowledge that we are meeting in Mi'kma'ki,
the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

LIGHTING OF A CHRIST CANDLE (*for use at home and together on Sunday morning*)

You, O God, are light shining in the darkness of the universe,
guiding us onward from what was to what can be.
Your Light from heaven shines out to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.
May this candle, whether lit or unlit,
remind me of your presence and bring me comfort in every day.
In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Working through dreams and visions,
God calls us to gather together.
Working through the world around us,
God calls us to gather together.
Working through people we encounter,
God calls us to gather together.
Working through this time of worship,
God calls us to gather together.
Working for the fulfillment of the Kingdom in our time,
God calls us to gather together.
Let us worship God.

GATHERING MUSIC (*tune at # 79 in Voices United*)

Arise, your light has come, the Spirit's call obey!
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!

Arise, Your Light is Come. Words: Ruth Duck. Music: William H Walker. Words copyright © 1992 GIA publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted with permission under License # A-734202. All rights reserved.

PRAYER OF APPROACH and the LORD'S PRAYER

God beyond the confines of time and place, Dieu de l'univers,
**open our minds, our hearts and our imaginations
 to perceive your Presence.**

You are the Light of the universe,

Incarnate in Jesus Christ,

**And present when two or three are gathered together in His Name
 Continue to guide us through life.**

May your Light, fanned by the Breath of the Holy Spirit, become a beacon
Illuminating the pathway home.

As Christ taught us, we are bold to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father..... Notre Père..... Ar n-Athair.... 주님의 기도 Fader vår....

Ons Vader.... Onze Vader... Vater unser... Padre Nostro... Padre nuestro...

主の祈り 主禱文 أَبَانَا Isä meidän Πάτερ ἡμῶν Baba yetu

HYMN # 81 (VU) AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold,
 as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright,
 so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore your splendour see.

As with joyful steps they sped, to that lowly manger bed,
 there to bend the knee before Christ, whom heaven and earth adore;
 so may we with eager pace ever seek your throne of grace.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare,
 so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
 all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
 and, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed lives at last
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright none shall need created light;
 you its light, its joy, its crown, you its sun which goes not down;
 there forever may we sing hallelujah to our King.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ever-Merciful and All-Forgiving God,

**We are conscious of our errors, things we have done and left undone,
 we are remorseful for the injuries we have caused, to the world and to others,
 and we are aware of the times we have yielded to temptation.**

Imperfect human creatures that we are,

we still know that You love us with a love that will not let us go.

**Holding us now in your Presence,
forgive what is past, pardon our offences, and restore us with mercy,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.**

SILENT CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: Isaiah 60: 1 – 6 *arise and shine*

Matthew 2: 7 – 16 *Outwitted by the Magi*

A TEACHING TIME *(a time of learning for younger folk)*

TEACHING PRAYER

In peace, dear God, I come to You through Jesus Christ who makes me new
And while I run or play or rest, be with those whom I love best,
Guide me in your Holy Way, as You walk with me each day, AMEN.

HYMN # 92 (VU) IN THE DARKNESS SHINES THE SPLENDOUR

In the darkness shines the splendor of the Word who took our flesh
welcoming, in love's surrender, death's dark shadow at his creche.
Bearing every human story Word made flesh reveals his glory.

Light of nations, veiled in history, born of woman's flesh and blood,
calling to the depths of mystery restless hearts that seek the good.
Healing every human story, Word made flesh reveals his glory.

Broken bread, sustaining us in sorrow, wine poured out to toast our joy,
exodus and new tomorrow, life's full promise to enjoy!
Gladdening every human story, Word made flesh reveals his glory.

All God's people, sing in jubilation of the birth that sets us free,
telling of the revelation: Jesus, God's epiphany.
Celebrate the human story! Word made flesh reveals our glory.

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REFLECTION

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We are not alone. We live in God's world.

We believe in God:

Who has created and is creating,

Who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,

To reconcile and make new;

Who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church;

To celebrate God's Presence,

To live with respect in creation,
 To love and serve others,
 To seek justice and resist evil,
 To proclaim Jesus,

Crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.
 Thanks be to God. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Almighty and ever-present God, You have given your Son to this world,
 incarnated in the flesh of humanity and born with the breath of your Spirit,
 we offer to Christ our gifts,
 both visible and invisible,
 and use them and us
 for Your Glory and the good of all people.
 In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN # 87 (VU) I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

**I am the Light of the World! You people come and follow me.
 If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery
 Of what you were meant to do and be.**

When the song of the angels is stilled. When the star in the sky is gone.
 When the kings and the shepherds have found their way home.
 The work of Christmas is begun!

**I am the Light of the World! You people come and follow me.
 If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery
 Of what you were meant to do and be.**

To find the lost and lonely one, To heal that broken soul with love,
 To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
 To feel the earth below the sky above!

**I am the Light of the World! You people come and follow me.
 If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery
 Of what you were meant to do and be.**

To free the prisoner from all chains, To make the powerful care,
 To rebuild the nations with strength of goodwill, To see God's Children everywhere.

**I am the Light of the World! You people come and follow me.
 If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery
 Of what you were meant to do and be.**

To bring hope to every task you do, To dance at a baby's new birth,
To make music in an old person's heart, And sing to the colours of the earth!

**I am the Light of the World! You people come and follow me.
If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery
Of what you were meant to do and be.**

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PARTING PRAYER *(in unison)*

**Bless to us, O God, this day,
The doors we open, the thresholds we cross, and all the roads that lie before us.
Go with us always as we go, and, at the close of our day, welcome us home.**

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLE

*We are reminded that the Light of Christ is not in candles nor institutions
but within each of us. We are the Light of the World*

EXCHANGING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Mention someone's name and hold them in your heart.

HYMN # 92 (VU) WHEN HEAVEN'S BRIGHT WITH MYSTERY

When heaven's bright with mystery and science searches nature's art,
when all creation yearns for peace and hope sinks deep in human hearts,
appear to us, O Holy Light; lift from our eyes the shades of night.

When Herod barter power and lives And Rachel's weeping fills the night,
When suffering's mask marks every face And Love's a refugee in flight,
Reveal to us your word of grace And make us witness to your peace.

When fragile faith, like desert wind, blows dry and empty, hope erased,
when withered grass and fading flower proclaim again our day's brief space,
breathe on the clay of our despair and work a new creation there.

When heaven's bright with mystery and stars still lead an unknown way,
when love still lights a gentle path where courts of power can hold no sway,
there with the Magi, let us kneel, our gifts to share, God's world to heal.

When Heaven's Bright with Mystery. Words: Rob Johns. Music: English Traditional; arr Ralph Vaughn Williams.
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COMMISSIONING and BENEDECTION

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