

# **St. Andrew's by the Sea Uniting Church**

**Christian Community in the Heart of Glenelg**

**Rev. Christine Gilbert**



Image: Flight to Egypt by Kelly Latimore

## **Celebration of the Epiphany**

**5 January 2020**

Any spirituality that makes your heart  
narrower than the globe is a bogus one.

— Joan Chittister

## **GATHERING**

### **Preparing Our Space and Our Hearts**

#### **Call to Worship and Prayer**

We come,  
 drawn in by deep, inner wisdom.  
 God's Spirit illumines the path before us.  
 Like a candle's flame  
 or a brilliant star at night,  
 spirited insight inspires and guides  
 those who are open and willing.

May we be among the willing.

May we be pilgrims in search of the living Christ.

We pray:

***Rise in our hearts and in our world,  
 O Holy Light – Love's Pure Light –  
 that we may follow you into life. AMEN.***

#### **We Sing**

"Of the Father's love begotten"

(TiS 290)

<p>1</p> <p>Of the Father's love begotten          ere the worlds began to be,          he is Alpha and Omega,          he the source, the ending he,          of the things that are,              that have been,          and that future years shall see          evermore and evermore.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>O that birth for ever blessed          when the virgin, full of grace,          by the Spirit's power conceiving          bore the saviour of our race,          and the babe,              the world's redeemer,          first revealed his sacred face,          evermore and evermore.</p>
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<p>3</p> <p>This is he whom seers and sages sang of old with one accord, whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word; now he shines, the long-expected: let creation praise its Lord evermore and evermore.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>In the heights of heaven adore him, angel hosts his praises sing, all dominions bow before him and extol our God and king; let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice together sing evermore and evermore.</p>
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Words: Aurelius Prudentius (348-413)  
Tune: CORDE NATUS

### **Prayer of Confession**

God from God and Light from Light:  
You came that we might have life,  
but we confess we often prefer the dark.

We allow our minds and hearts to be dimmed  
by the half-light of the world around us.  
***Lord, have mercy.***

Bound by the familiar and fearing change,  
we abide too much in the shadows of what has always been.  
***Christ, have mercy.***

We are slow to awaken to the new day  
that, in you, has dawned among us.  
***Lord, have mercy.*** *(silent prayer)*

Have mercy on us and illumine the path  
of deeper love and truer living  
on which you walked and your Spirit leads us now. ***AMEN.***

### **Passing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you.  
***And also with you!***

**ENCOUNTERING****Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 60:1–6

**We Sing**

“Epiphanies”

Long was their journey,  
guided by starlight;  
bright were their dreams for a child new-born;  
searching and yearning,  
hearts with hope burning,  
they longed to see a brighter dawn.

Strange was their journey,  
burdened by treasure,  
kneeling they offered gifts so rare:  
gold for life’s gladness,  
myrrh for its sadness,  
incense as fragrant breath of prayer.

Homeward their journey,  
pond’ring the wonder,  
stirred by the love in that humble place;  
new visions springing;  
new life beginning;  
gifts from the child of peace and grace.

Now is our journey,  
pilgrims together,  
called by our dreaming, we travel far;  
searching and yearning,  
hearts with hope burning,  
love, joy and justice as our star.

Words: Helen Wiltshire  
Tune: St Elisabeth

**Scripture Reading**

Matthew 2:1–15

*(Those who are able are invited  
to remain standing for the Gospel reading.)*

May your word live in us:

***and bear much fruit to your glory.***

**Reflection on the Word****RESPONDING****Prayers of the People****The Disciple's Prayer**

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.***

***Give us today our daily bread.***

***Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.***

***Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.***

***For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.***

**Offering and Song of Praise**

(TiS 768 ii)

To God, all glorious heavenly Light,  
to Christ revealed in earthly night,  
to God the Spirit now we raise  
our joyful songs of thankful praise.

Words: Charles Coffin, 1736

## Prayer of Dedication

O God, like the wise ones of long ago,  
we have followed the stirring of your Spirit  
and give freely now with open hands.

***May the offering of our gifts and lives to your service  
kindle your love in the world.***

Through our just actions and deeds of kindness,  
we join in the incarnation of Christ.

***May we help you make love real  
especially in places of suffering and need.***

In Jesus' name we pray, **AMEN.**

## JOURNEYING

### We Sing

"Christ, be our light"

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

Refrain: Christ be our light!  
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
helping your kingdom come.

Refrain: Christ be our light!  
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

Words and music: Bernadette Farrell

**Commissioning** from a hymn by Shirley Erena Murray

Set the sun dancing! New life has begun!  
Star, you must fade, for your journey is done,  
New Year rides onward now, Christmas is gone,  
We carry the light with us as we move on.  
***For the light that is shining is our light to hold,  
facing, embracing the darkness and cold,  
light that's not hidden where Good News is told:  
the hope that is born with Christ Jesus.***

**Sung Blessing** “May the feet of God walk with you” (TiS 779)

May the feet of God walk with you,  
and his hand hold you tight.  
May the eye of God rest on you,  
and his ear hear your cry.  
May the smile of God be for you,  
and his breath give you life.  
May the Child of God grow in you,  
and his love bring you home.

Words: Aubrey Podlich  
Tune: AUBREY

**Please gather for morning tea, in the hall after worship**

# St. Andrews by the Sea Uniting Church

## 5th January 2020



### Readings for Sunday 12 January 2020

#### Baptism of Jesus Sunday

Isaiah 42:1-9  
 Psalm 29  
 Acts 10:34-43  
 Matthew 3:13-17

#### Rostered Duties:

##### **Welcomer:**

Chris Croucher

##### **Scripture Reader:**

Lyn Anesbury

##### **Prayers of the People:**

Avril Noy

##### **Morning Tea:**

Judy Clayton and Lyn Anesbury

##### **Birthday Cake—January**

TBA

### This Week at St Andrews:

#### **Sunday:**

9:30 am	Worship
10:30 am	Morning tea
6:30 pm	Narcotics Anonymous

#### **Monday:**

#### **Tuesday:**

9:30 am	Office re-opens
10:30 am	Open Church
12:00 pm	Community Aid

#### **Wednesday:**

#### **Thursday:**

10:30 am	Open Church
12:00 pm	Community Aid

#### **Friday:**

10:30 am	Open Church
12:00 pm	Community Aid

### Re-Open Dates for 2020

Church office	Tuesday 7th January
Open Church	Tuesday 14th January
Community Aid	Tuesday 14th January
Friendship Café	Tuesday 28th January
Op Shop	Tuesday 28th January
Mary's Kitchen	Tuesday 28th January