

Welcome to First-St Andrew's UNITED CHURCH

Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition



January 9, 2022
“Arise,
Shine”
10:30 am



350 Queens Avenue, London, ON N6B 1X6

TEL (519) 679-8182

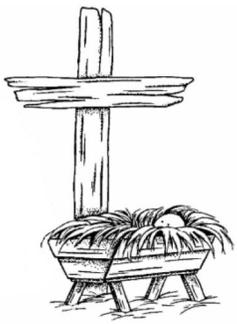
www.fsaunited.com

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

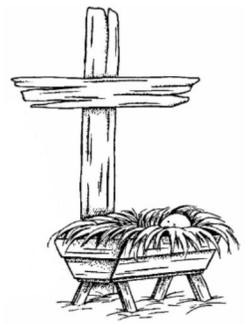


First-St. Andrew's United Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence Minister of Worship and Congregational Life
Paul Merritt Organist Emeritus, Interim Organist
Elizabeth Stewart Interim Youth & Young Families
Tim Miedema Facilities Manager
Kathryn Skelly Office Manager
Dr. Jo Ann Silcox Designated Pastoral Care Volunteer
Dr. Victoria Meredith Interim Choir Director
Riley Langley Nursery Care
Steve Elson Chair of Council
Rev. Dr. David McKane Minister Emeritus



Welcome



Together we all make up the family of First-St. Andrew's.
If you are new to the family, please know that
you are always welcome here.

*Hymn and anthem texts reprinted under
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Bold type indicates congregational response. * indicates to stand, if able.

Music to Enter into God's Presence:
Three settings of "We Three Kings"

Lynda Kennedy, Organist
G. Young, A. Fedak, W. Held

Welcome and Announcements:

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

Acknowledging the Traditional Territory

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship:

The wise ones saw the star in the east and followed it, trusting they would find God. We gather here today, with the same trust that we too will find God. Moving past fear and doubt, they followed the star until it stopped right over the place where the Christ child was. We come hoping to move past our fear and push beyond our doubts so that we, too, might find the Christ among us. Upon finding him, they offered their finest gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We bring our best gifts also, knowing that in God's presence they will be transformed and so will we.

Prayer by Rev. Catherine Tovell, Kilworth United Church, London, ON

Opening Prayer:

Light of our ancestors, light of our days and nights, continue to shine forth through the actions of your children. Encourage us to follow the paths we must walk to bear witness to your love and steadfast presence. Grant us a way through the darkness, so that our community will know you are with us, even to the ends of the Earth.
Amen.

Hymn: VU #79 "Arise, Your Light Is Come" - verses 1 & 2

FESTAL SONG

Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.

Scripture: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Kathryn Skelly

Anthem: "Nativity Carol"

John Rutter

Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago;
Born 'neath light of star He who loved us so.
*Far away silent lay, born today, your homage pay,
For Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas day.*

Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby;
Over her son so dear angel hosts fill the sky.
Refrain

Wise men from distant far land, shepherds from starry hills
Worship this babe so rare, hearts with his warmth he fills.
Refrain

Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow;
Innocent dreaming babe, make me thy love to know.
Refrain

***Scripture:** Matthew 2: 1-12

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

Sermon: "An Illuminated Interruption"

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

Hymn: VU #81 "As with Gladness Men of Old" - verses 1, 2 & 5

DIX

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.

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 for ever may we sing
hallelujah to our King.

Prayers of Confession & Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Offering

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

Offertory Anthem: "The Kings"
Alastair Smyth, baritone

Peter Cornelius/arr. K. Lee Scott

Three kings from Persian lands afar to Jordan follow the pointing star:
And this the quest of the travelers three, where the newborn King of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King: gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray; the kings to Bethlehem make their way,
And there in worship they bend the knee, as Mary's child in her lap they see;
Their royal gifts they show to the King: gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

O earthly child, lo, to Bethlehem the kings are trav'ling, travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace shall lead thy heart to its resting place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring: Offer thy heart to the infant King.

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn: VU #96 "Will You Come and See the Light" - verses 1, 2 & 4

KELVINGROVE

Will you come and see the light from the stable door?
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.
It will be your guiding star,
it will show you who you are;
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you step into the light that can free the slave?
It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.
By the pyramids of greed
there's a longing to be freed;
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you join the hope, alight in the young girl's eyes,
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?
When the lowest and the least
are the foremost at the feast,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Blessing and Benediction:

Music to Commission Us Into Service and Witness:
"Canticle of Praise"

Lynda Kennedy, Organist
J. S. Bach, arr. Van Denman Thompson