

WE GATHER

Welcome, Life and Work of the Church

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgement of the Land

Call to Worship:

O God, we've come thirsty—thirsty for your Spirit.

Living water, bubble up from inside us and lead us toward deep spirituality.

O God, we've come hungry—hungry for community.

Bread of life, feed our spirits, and lead us toward bold discipleship in community.

O God, we've come searching—searching for wholeness.

Source of Life, guide us, and lead us toward daring justice.

Holy God, feed, nourish, and prepare us to be your church in the world.

Amen.

—Alydia Smith and Teresa Burnett-Cole

Opening Hymn: I Am the Light of the World (music video w. lyrics)

Jim and Jean Strathdee

Prayer of Approach (unison)

Come to us, Holy God, as we draw near to you.

As we gather, encircle us with your love.

Bless us with your sustaining presence;

surround us with your grace.

and bind us to one another as your people

Alive with Your Spirit in our midst. Amen.

WE LISTEN AND RESPOND

Scripture story: Mark 9:2-8 (from Living God's Way)

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Response: Thanks be to God

Hymn: "God Is" by Luke Langman

Sermon The Mystery of Light

In Epiphany we declare Jesus to be the light of the world. Light is the milieu that surrounds and suffuses our lives, so it is easy to take it for granted. But there are those who have never taken it for granted. For artists, when the light is just right, a fence post becomes a sacrament of the holy. When sailors are lost at sea, they look for the beacon of the light-house to guide them to safety.

Scientists certainly don't take light for granted. The universe began as an explosion of light and heat that expanded out in all directions. Physicist David Bohm called matter "frozen light"⁶—light that vibrates slowly enough to assume form. It turns out that our entire planet is reconstituted sunlight: certain cells learned to "eat" the sun through photosynthesis; animals then eat the plants, and humans eat the animals and plants. Everything we see around us, including our own lives, is a transformation of the sun's light, which pours out four million tonnes of hydrogen every second in the service of life.

No small wonder that Jesus came to be associated with light, the source of all life, the radiance that reveals the inner beauty of even the most mundane objects, the one who lights our path to the heart of God when we are lost, and the one who pours himself out completely and in awesome abundance in the service of the spiritual evolution of the universe.

In the human realm, light is often associated with conscious awareness. When we shine the light of consciousness upon previously unconscious thoughts, beliefs, and worldviews, we experience a kind of spiritual freedom. What was subjectively hidden to us becomes objectively obvious.

Through the light of conscious awareness, we are able to see what had been shrouded in darkness, and therefore had power over the choices and the kind of life we could create. As teacher of divine truths, Jesus shone the light of his consciousness onto the realm of the kin(g)dom of God, an interior, relational, and social realm. By bringing to bear his enlightened consciousness, he revealed dimensions of reality that were always present but not seen by those who dwelled in the darkness of unconsciousness.

After years of contemplative and meditative practice, mystics describe experiencing uncreated light, the luminous presence of the sacred before the realm of space and time—of suns and planets—came into being. All light in the realm of creation is borrowed light. The Christian tradition claims that Jesus, the Christ, shone with this uncreated light.

Offertory: We give You But Your Own VU#542

**We give you but your own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone,
we give it gratefully.**

Offertory/Prayer of Dedication

HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer and Communion

Presider: God is with you.

All: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your heart.

All: We lift our hearts to God.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the one from whom all blessings flow.

All: It is good and right to give thanks.

Presider: We are thankful for light,
for the great radiance that gave birth to space and time,
to the starfield garlands strewn through space,
to the supernova fireworks in which were forged the elements for life on Earth,
to our sun that burns itself out in the service of life
and takes form in a baby's smile,
in the leafy green expanse we call "tree,"
and in the gaze of the gorilla.
We give thanks for the mystery of light.
The light of all lights
radiated in the consciousness of many prophets:

When Jesus was born, his light lit our path:

**a path of sacred wisdom,
a path of forgiveness,
a path of emerging grace,
a path of compassion for the left-behinds,
a path that makes room for all,
human and other-than-human,
at the banquet of life.**

And so we join in a canticle of the cosmos, singing:

**Holy, holy, holy,
our hearts, our hearts adore you.
our hearts are glad to say these words: *You are holy, God.***

Presider: At his final meal with his disciples,
Jesus broke bread and helped them to understand
that he had given himself as bread for a hungry world:
"This is my body, broken for you."

When the meal was finished,
he helped them to understand
that he had poured himself out completely
for the emergence of a new humanity:
“This is my blood, poured out for you.”

**Holy One, May your ever-present spirit bless these gifts
and bless this gathering,
that we may be transformed by his radiance
and become, by a grace beyond our understanding,
the light that shines, first upon those places within ourselves that are born of fear,
and then those dark places and ways of being in the world that are the children of
fear.**

**To you, whose light and love “fires the sun” and keeps us burning,²⁸
we dedicate this banquet of love.**

Amen.

Prayers of the People based on A New Creed

Closing Hymn: Dear Friends We have Gathered (music video w. Lyrics)

Jim and Jean Strathdee

Commissioning and Benediction

**God of immeasurable grace,
Bless us with spirituality as deep as the ocean
Call us to a discipleship as bold as the saints'.
Compel us to a justice as daring as the Redeemer's love,
In the name of Christ Jesus, our Hope and our Way**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Feb 13	Shrove Tuesday. PANCAKE LUNCHEON 11:30 am-1:30 pm.
Feb 14	ASH WEDNESDAY Beginning of Lent
Feb 18	Lent 1
Feb 20	Lenten Study group meets 3:30-5pm
Feb 22	Circle Dancing in Pioneer Hall 6:30-8pm
Feb 25	Lent 2 Worship Meeting
Feb 27	Lenten Study group meets 3:30-5pm
Feb 29	“Shirley Valentine”. 7 pm Premiere

SPREAD THE WORD!!BRING FRIENDS!

March 1	“Shirley Valentine” 7 pm
March 2	“Shirley Valentine” 2 p.m

March 3	World Day of Prayer service 10:30 am
March 3	“Shirley Valentine” 2 p.m
March 5	Lenten Study group with Rev Dr Carmen Landsdowne’s online Mod Squad Book Group 3:30-5 pm. Pioneer Hall
March 15	Annual Reports due to Rev Meg
March 26	Palm/Passion Sunday
March 31	Easter services. SUNRISE (outdoor fire) EASTER BREAKFAST FESTIVE CELEBRATION
April 7th	Guest preacher: Lorna Bywater
April 14	Shared Worship and Annual Meeting



LAKE OF BAYS PASTORAL CHARGE
3 communities of faith worshipping together
Pioneer, Hillside – 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship, February 11, 2024
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Minister: Rev Meg Jordan (705-789-6600) jordanm@vianet.ca
lakeofbayspastoralcharge196@gmail.com
Bookkeeper/Administrator: Linda Pinkerton
Leadership Chair: Jennifer Parker
Musician, Knox: Cynthia MacLean