



Welcome to the worship service of
St. Andrew's United Church, Chalk River, Ontario
on this **New Year's /Epiphany Sunday**
January 3, 2021
Kindly enter this time centering on God, prepared to meet God.

GATHERING IN COMMUNITY

SCRIPTURAL GREETING/WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN: "Arise, Your Light is Come" VU 79 X1
LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

WE ARE CALLED TO WORSHIP: This is a time for worship and praise. This is a day for song and celebration!

God calls us away from our earthly lives and invites us to examine our life and times. God wills our happiness and enjoyment of life but at the same time gives each of us important work to do. This is the season for every matter under heaven, the time to heal and build up. God is here with us now as we rejoice together.

CENTERING PRAYER/ PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, our God, how majestic is your name in all the Earth! You have gifted us with food and drink, with times of laughter and times of weeping, you have been our comfort through pain and confronted us in the needs of our neighbors. You have called us to responsibility for the well being of this planet and the welfare of all its people. As we ponder your vast creation, we are awed by what we see and all we cannot see. We get so busy and forget how small we are amid the far reaches of time and space. Creator God, reorder our priorities so we live up to your high expectations. Forgive our faltering ways Embrace us in your tender mercy. Come among us once more equipping us for the tasks you set before us in this new year, we pray in Jesus name. Amen

ASSURANCE: What has been is now wiped away. A new year is dawning in which God offers new life. You are crowned with glory and honor. God entrusts all you touch to your care. In communion with God, find pleasure in everything you do. Halleluiah!

SPARK: What is your vision of humanity joining together as God's family, forming a new earth?

HYMN: "I See a New Heaven" VU 713 X2 v 2&3

HEARING GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:1-12

MESSAGE: "Why do you follow the star?"

HYMN: "Spirit Open My Heart" MV 79 X4

OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

COMMUNITY LIFE

OFFERING PRAYER: Loving God, there are hungry people who have no food, hurting people with no one to bring them comfort, people suffering injustice with no one to take up their cause. There are many without faith and hope who have never known the love of God. We offer our time and talents to make our world a better place, answering to the needs of others. Amen.

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" VU 400

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER:

CLOSING HYMN: "How Great Thou Art" VU 238 X3 v1,2,4

BLESSING

GO NOW IN PEACE VU 964 3X