

BEYOND OUR CONGREGATION:

- A seminar in the **Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences Seminar Series** will be held on **Wed., Jan. 21** at 3:30 pm in the Carolyn Sifton Lecture Theatre, 130 Agriculture Building, University of Manitoba. **Martin Entz**, Plant Science, will present "Conservation agriculture, organic farming and agroecology: The three musketeers of a sustainable food system". Refreshments will be served at 3:00 pm. All are welcome.
- **MCC low on emergency resources** - because of humanitarian crises in places including Iraq, Syria, Ukraine, Gaza and South Sudan, MCC has more than doubled its distribution of emergency resources this year from the previous year. There is now a critical shortage of funds for emergency assistance and of material resources including kits and blankets. Call (204)261-6381 or visit <http://donate.mcccanada.ca/relief> to help MCC continue to provide critical assistance to thousands in these areas.

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Wed. 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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Office Hours:

Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Bulletin Submission: by Thursday evening 9:00 p.m.

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Epiphany Sunday – January 4, 2015

Your Saving Mystery Revealed

With the arrival of the magi in Bethlehem we see yet another promise of God coming to fulfillment. Isaiah said, “Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.” Magi come from the East to discover the mystery. They see it revealed in the face of a child.

Inviting the Mystery

Welcome

Prayer of Invocation

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 60:1-6

Call to Worship

Congregational Singing STS 32 Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem
HWB 218 As with gladness men of old

Engaging the Mystery

Poem

“Journey of the Magi” T.S. Eliot

Silence

Confession of Faith

Passing the Peace

Congregational Singing HWB 202 The virgin Mary had a baby boy
HWB 192 On this day earth shall ring

Congregational Sharing

Prayer of the Church

Celebrating the Mystery

New Testament Readings Matthew 2:1-12; Ephesians 3:1-12

Sermon: “The Mystery of Faith” Ron

Offering Offertory - Everett

Announcements

Congregational Singing HWB 210 Good Christian friends, rejoice

Benediction

Worship leader: Rudy

Song leader: Mo

Pianist: Esther

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- **Aberdeen Food Bank** - Next meets on Jan. 10 and Jan 24.
- **Sun., Jan 18** – Congregational meeting after the service.
- **Jan. 23-25** – Youth Retreat at Camp Assiniboia.
- **Sun., Jan 25** – Winter Retreat day at Camp Assiniboia. Details to follow.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **FINANCIAL UPDATE:** In 2014 donations in the amount of **\$102,283.69** were received. This includes designated donations of \$3,267.94, most of which were for the food pantry. **Thanks for your generous giving** in 2014 which allowed us to exceed our donation budget of \$90,000 by a significant amount! Complete financial information will be available at the upcoming congregational meeting on January 18th.
- **Address change for Holly** after Jan. 25:
Capernwray Bible School
P.O. Box 702
Cambridge 3450
New Zealand
Holly will continue to use the email address that is in our directory.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Remember Menno and Liz as they mourn the passing of Menno’s father on New Year’s Eve.
- Pray for Margaret who is in the Victoria Hospital recovering from a fall.
- Pray for students, teachers, professors and staff returning to school after their holiday break.



Coffee for next week Jan. 11 – Mak and Sokong
Upcoming coffee for Jan. 18 – Jeremy and Teresa

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.
But there was no information, and so we continued
And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I have seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.

-T.S.Eliot

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us worship in faith the God who is here and desires our worship.
Incarnate God, work in our hearts, that our worship would be filled with the awe that comes from remembering your saving mystery.

All: *In a little child, God is revealed to us.*

Leader: The mystery, kept hidden in ages past, has been made known.

People: *We, who were once outsiders, now share in the inheritance.*

Leader: All of us, part of the same body, sharing the same promise,

People: *Through the gospel of Christ Jesus, our Lord.*

Leader: Throwing light on the inner workings of this mystery was God's plan from all eternity.

People: *God's gift of grace is a gift to be received by all.*

All: *In thankfulness we treasure the immeasurable riches of Christ.*

Confession of Faith

Leader: The glory of the Lord has risen; the Light of God has come.

People: *You are gathering your people, all peoples, those far away and those close at hand.*

Leader: The mystery, long hidden, has been revealed to all. Our hearts are jubilant!

People: *This mystery, until now, was revealed to the apostles and prophets.*

Leader: But now, in Jesus, all people are heirs to this mysterious promise.

People: *So grace is our rich inheritance, more precious than gold, frankincense or myrrh.*

All: *We praise you, O God, for revealing your saving mystery. We will proclaim your promise with gratitude.*

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been

revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Journey of the Magi

"A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter."
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty, and charging high prices.
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.