

**Woodslee United Church**

**Sunday, January 4, 2026**

**Matthew 2:13-23**

**Minister: The Rev. Carl Emke**

**Pianist for Today: Anita Leschied**



## **PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP – PRELUDE**

**PRE-WORSHIP SINGING – (Starting at 9:50 a.m.)**

## **THE WORSHIP SERVICE**

### **QUIET TIME REFLECTIONS**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES**

### **LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:**

We light the Christ candle to remind us that we want the light of Christ to shine on our time of worship; and that the words that the Pastor shares would point us to that light. This is the understanding of the symbolism of the lighted candle in front of the pulpit.

Jesus said in John 8:12, “**I am the Light of the World: the one who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**”

This is a brand-new year and God has given us opportunities to worship Him with others of like precious faith. The Christ candle reminds us that we need Jesus Christ to guide us in each step that

we take as we walk with God. We want to ‘step’ in the light of Jesus.

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP:** “Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet” (Words, music ©1976 Hinshaw Music Inc. used by permission)

Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet,  
praise the Lord with the harp and lute,  
praise the Lord with the gentle-sounding flute.  
Praise the Lord in the field and forest,  
praise the Lord in the city square,  
praise the Lord anytime and anywhere.  
Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine,  
praise the Lord in the dark of night,  
praise the Lord in the rain or snow or in the morning light,  
Praise the Lord in the deepest valley,  
praise the Lord on the highest hill,  
praise the Lord, never let your voice be still.

**PRAYER OF APPROACH:**

**Heavenly Father, thank You for this day in which we can recognize and celebrate new beginnings. We ask, O God, that You would begin a new work in us as we desire to walk with You. We ask that You would prepare our hearts to hear Your will for us. As people look at us in the coming year, we ask that You would show us how to put You first in our lives. We want others to see You in us; in what we do and say; and in how we honour You. May the ‘Bible’ of our lives speak to the needs of each heart that we touch.**

**Speak to us, O God, as Your children, for we look up to You as we come before You in the name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Matthew 2:13-23 (p. 784 in the Bible in the pew.)

**HYMN:** “Another Year Is Dawning” (Words are by Frances R. Havergal; music is taken from J. Michael Haydn. It is in the public domain.)

Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be  
In working or in waiting, another year with Thee;  
Another year of progress, another year of praise,  
Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.

Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace,  
Another year of gladness in the shining of Thy face;  
Another year of leaning upon Thy loving breast;  
Another year of trusting, of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of service, of witness for Thy love,  
Another year of training for holier work above;  
Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be  
On earth, or else in Heaven, another year for Thee.

## **A TIME FOR CHILDREN**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – A NEW CREED:** We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

**PREPARATION FOR PRAYER:** Please remain seated as the pianist plays # 400 "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" (sung twice) (Words, Music: © 1971 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission.)

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord,  
send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying, send  
us love, send us power, send us grace!

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:** Anita Leschied is the pianist for today.

**HYMN:** "Sound the Battle Cry" (Words and music are by William F. Sherwin. It is in the public domain.)

Sound the battle cry! See, the foe is nigh,  
Raise the standard high for the Lord.  
Gird your armour on; stand firm every one;  
Rest your cause upon His holy word.

**Refrain: Rouse, then, soldiers, rally round the banner!  
Ready, steady, pass the world along;  
Onward, forward, shout aloud hosanna!  
Christ is captain of the mighty throng.**

Strong to meet the foe, marching on we go,  
While our cause we know must prevail.  
Shield and banner bright, gleaming in the light,  
Battling for the right, we ne'er can fail. **R**

O thou God of all, hear us when we call,  
Help us one and all by thy grace!  
When the battle's done, and the victory won,  
May we wear the crown before thy face. **R**

**SERMON: “Time to Get Moving!”**

**OUR GIFTS IN SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH:**

The Bible tells us: “Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all His benefits.”

We read in Deuteronomy, “No one shall come into the presence of the Lord empty-handed. Each of you shall bring such a gift as he can in proportion to the blessing which the Lord your God has given you.” The ushers will now receive the offering.

**HYMN OF DEDICATION: MV #191 “What Can I Do?” (2 X)**

(Words and Music by Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy. Please visit [paulrumbolt.com](http://paulrumbolt.com) for more information. Used by permission.)

What can I do? What can I bring?

What can I say? What can I sing?  
I'll sing with joy (I'll sing with joy)  
I'll say a prayer. I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**HYMN:** "Stepping in the Light" (Words are by Eliza E. Hewitt; music is by Wm. J. Kirkpatrick and it is in the public domain)

Trying to walk in the steps of the Savior,  
Trying to follow our Savior and King,  
Shaping our lives by His blessed example,  
Happy, how happy, the songs that we bring.

**Refrain: How beautiful to walk in the steps of the Savior, Stepping in the light, Stepping in the light; How beautiful to walk in the steps of the Savior, Led in paths of light.**

Pressing more closely to Him who is leading  
When we are tempted to turn from the way,  
Trusting the arm that is strong to defend us,  
Happy, how happy, our praises each day. R

Walking in footsteps of gentle forbearance,  
Footsteps of faithfulness, mercy and love,  
Looking to Him for the grace freely promised,  
Happy, how happy, our journey above. R

Trying to walk in the steps of the Savior,  
Upward, still upward we'll follow our Guide;  
When we shall see Him, the King in His beauty,

Happy, how happy, our place at His side. **R**

**COMMISSIONING:** ““O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee” (Author: Washington Gladden (1879); Composer: H. Percy Smith)

O Master, let me walk with Thee in lowly paths of service free;  
**Tell me Thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.**

Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;

**Teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.**

Teach me Thy patience! Still with Thee in closer, dearer company,  
**In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.**

In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way,

**In peace that only Thou canst give, with Thee, O Master, let me live.**

## **BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION:** “Go Now In Peace” (Words and music are by Don Besig and Nancy Price. Copyrighted in 1988 by Harold Flammer Music. Used by permission)

Go now in peace, never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.

Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there, watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love,  
Amen, amen, amen.

## POSTLUDE

Woodslee Pastoral Charge CCLI # 465534

**Right after the service**, please stay for a time of friendship and fellowship in the Hall. The friendships are a blessing, and the time together is a treat. TREAT YOURSELF!!!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Church Family Prayer List:** Dan Diemer, Roger Dorion, Doug Wilson, Brad - Joan Lauzon's son, Shirley Trepanier, Ron McLean Jr., Cheryl Affleck, Kady Sharp, Lynn Land and her daughter Carissa Bondy, Donna Hanson, The Emke Family, Willy Biebaut, Jack & Dorothy Olson, Nancy Cassels, a friend of Shannon & Vicky Olson is battling cancer and a rare disease that has settled in her heart and Shelley Verbeek & Sharon Mills - a mother and daughter, who are a cousin and Aunt to Cindy Curtis, they are both battling cancer, Ted, Jacki and Janette (Riley Gifford's grandparents) and Nino and Darlene (clients of Nancy Elias), Annika & Parker Hasson, Lawrence Armstrong. Please also pray for family members of individuals who are facing the challenges of depression and the struggles that come with that. Pray for all of the people who are trying to understand their own feelings of loneliness and discouragement – that they may allow God to surround them with His love. In care homes: Wendy Knowler, Elaine Ireland, Ruth Anne Rhea, Doris Graham, Sally Scheckenberger, Betty Layfield, Doug Boylan and Jean Matalik.

The ANTLER RIVER WATERSHED REGION has a prayer cycle that includes the churches in the Antler River Watershed area. We have not received any information yet about the schedule for 2026. In light of that, please pray for the churches of the United Church of Canada, including ministers and congregants. May this year be one year in which each church desires to see what God would have them to do. Praise be to God!

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** today. It starts up again on Jan. 11! **That's next week!!!** See you then!

**CAN YOU SMELL THE COFFEE??** Every Thursday at 10:00 a.m., the coffee is brewing and **YOU** are invited to join in as we munch, mingle and mindfully mull over whatever topics the conversation will unearth as we share in friendship. **During the coffee time, the only agenda is to appreciate one another's company.** We'd love to have you join us!!!

**KEEP IN MIND** that it will soon be time to prepare the Annual Report. Are you responsible for the Committee or Group that you are in? Have you started to prepare that yet? A word to the wise is sufficient!

**IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE** – about what is going on in the wider United Church as a denomination, please google or call the United Church of Canada. You will be able to find out what mission causes are supported and what our official response is to various issues that arise in different parts of the globe.

**Thought for the Day:** “We are addicted to our thoughts. We cannot change anything if we cannot change our thinking.” - Santosh Kalwar

**Stewardship Seconds:** On this good day, at the celebration of a new year, let us resolve to be generous.

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### **God’s Mission, Our Gifts: Building on a Year of Care**

As we step into a new year, we pause to celebrate the faithful work of our Mission and Service partners around the world. These partners—farmers, educators, community leaders, and local organizations—are on the ground responding to needs, creating opportunities, and building stronger, more resilient communities.

Through your prayers and your support of M & S, they are able to focus on what matters most. Financial support helps ease the practical challenges of running programs, providing meals, training leaders, and responding to emergencies. Your partnership allows them to carry out their work with steadiness and care.

As 2026 begins, our partners have already been looking ahead with intentionality and hope. They are preparing to support people seeking stability, respond to crises both local and global, strengthen communities, and equip people with the skills, confidence, and opportunities to thrive. Each partner continues to adapt and innovate, finding new ways to meet the needs of their communities today, while preparing for the challenges of tomorrow. This year, and in the years to come, your support helps

ensure that these efforts can continue. Together, we walk alongside partners who are living out God's call to justice, care, and hope—creating spaces where people are seen, supported, and empowered. As we look forward to 2026, we do so with gratitude for what has been achieved, and with intentional hope for all that is yet to come. © 2026 The United Church of Canada

*Sermon Notes*

Please use this space to take notes

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