

January 22, 2012

## EPIPHANY III, Year B

### Welcome to Ellesmere United Church


Unit 160-8960 University High Street, Burnaby, BC, V5A 4Y6  
[www.ellesmereunited.org](http://www.ellesmereunited.org), [ellesmerestudents@telus.net](mailto:ellesmerestudents@telus.net)

If this is your first time with us, thank you for coming. Your presence is a blessing for us.

We hope you find a community for worship and a place for personal prayer.

If you have any questions about the order or nature of our community worship, feel free to ask your greeter today, the minister, or the people around you.

We want you to be comfortable and unburdened in our midst, and at peace in your experience of God in worship.

\*  Indicates the community standing as able.

@ Indicates the text the minister is reading and reflecting on this Sunday.

### What's Happening in Our Faith Community (from 9:45 until 10:00)

#### Thought for the Day

What are the chances of the Harper Government changing its agenda and calling for a National Day of Repentance and Fasting?

#### Opening of Worship

#### Lighting the Christ Candle

Leader: In the reading today we hear that though mighty, the powerful state of Ninevah was not set above the power of God. God chose to act through the words of an outsider who had no great status in that great realm. So this simple small flame stands for the great power of God that can even bring earthly powers and principalities to repentance. (*lights Christ Candle*)

Assembly: **May we have the wisdom to not dismiss the small voice that calls for change when that voice is in accord with the Gospel's message!**

## Silent Prayer of Centering

(Let the sounding of the singing bowl lead you into a time of silent centering prayer and with its second sounding bring you back to community.)

### Holy Greeting

Minister: The grace of our Sovereign Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Community: **And also with you.**

♪**Song MV# 82 *Bathe Me in Your Light***

### Prayer

Minister: Holy One, we gather to hear stories that are of the way we were long ago and the way we always are. Guide us in the interpretation of Scripture so that its pages have life and not dust.

Community: **O God, above all nurture within us a healthy sense of humour. Remind us that just because these stories are on sacred pages, they do not mean they are devoid of real humanity. Enable us to move beyond images of Sunday School pageants.**

Minister: Help us to hear the human truth and divine challenge contained within the stories.

Community: **Amen.**

### ♪**Invitation to the Scriptures:**

**MV# 81 *Love Us into Fullness***

**Hebrew Scripture:**

@ Jonah 3: 1-5, 10 *paraphrased*

Minister: This is the witness of the people of the Holy One.

Community: **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: 65 VU p. 782**

**Read responsively with refrain sung at places marked 'R'.**

**Gospel:** Mark 1: 14-20

Lay Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Community: **Write these words on our hearts dear God!**

### **Musical Reflections**

#### **Theological Reflections –**

Saturday Night's Alright for Fasting, Saturday Night's Alright

♪**Song MV# 78 *God Weeps***

#### **Invitation to Give**

♪**Song of Praise and Dedication**

*With grateful hearts and open hands*

*we bring our tithes this day*

*to aid your cause, proclaim your love,*

*and celebrate your Way.*

*O God, who shines most true for us,*

*in Jesus Christ, your Son,*

*teach us to walk by faith each day*

*until your realm has come!*

#### **Prayers of the Community – Voiced and Silent**

(If Voiced)

**Individual:** God hear our prayer.

**Community:** **And in your love answer.**

#### **Prayer of Jesus (Ecumenical Version)**

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours**

**now and forever. Amen and Amen.**

♪**Song MV# 171 *Christ Has No Body Now but Yours***

### **Closing of Worship**

#### **Extinguishing of the Christ Candle**

**Leader: The extinguishing of this candle signifies the end of worship but not of the story. (*Extinguishes candle*)**

**Community: O God, may we be mindful that we are your people and called to your service when we encounter the world this week.**

### **Closing Blessing**

♪**Choral Amen.**

