

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, January 15, 2023
Baptism of Jesus Sunday & Remembering Our Baptismal Faith
Welcome to Worship
Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time at 7:00 p.m.
Email smiletoday9@proton.me to get the Zoom link.

Prelude

Opening Hymn: VU 100 *When Jesus Comes to Be Baptized, vv. 1, 2, 5*

1. When Jesus comes to be baptized,
he leaves the hidden years behind,
the years of safety and of peace,
to bear the sins of humankind.
2. The Spirit of the Lord comes down,
anoints the Christ to suffering,
to preach the word, to free the bound,
and to the mourner, comfort bring.
5. We praise you, God, source of all life,
we praise you, Christ, eternal Word,
we praise you, Spirit, gracious gift;
your triune presence fills our world.

Inviting Holy Light

As the prayer bowl rings, we pause for a moment of silence before we light the Christ candle.
(*Prayer bowl rings.*)

Let us pray: Eternal light that shines through our hearts and illuminates our soul, bring calm and strength to us this day. O Great Creator, may this candle's light remind us that you are always present. Amen. [*lights candle*]

Sung Response: MV 137 *Welcome, Jesus, You Are Welcome, vs. 4*

4. Welcome, Jesus, you are welcome; let your loving light appear.
In our seeing, in our being, Jesus, you are welcome here.

Nurturing Safe Space

We are all children of God. Each one of us here, or at home, have answered the call of God inviting us to worship together. All are welcome, regardless of race, age, gender identity, ability. We celebrate our differences and rejoice that we are all welcomed in this space.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

We at St. Andrew's offer our gratitude for the lands that we live and worship on. Lands that have sustained countless peoples from time immemorial to the present. We gather as a people of faith seeking to find ways to live with justice and respect with all those who call these lands home. As Indigenous and Non-Indigenous brothers and sisters, we are called to honour the land, to live with respect in creation...to love and seek justice for all peoples. We particularly give thanks for the Wahnapiatae First Nation and the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek who cared for this land long before the Robinson Huron Treaty was made.

May we be guided by the principles of right relationship and reconciliation, healing our relationship with both the land and its original stewards, in our worship and work as St. Andrew's United Church.

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to everyone, in person and online. Together in Spirit. Today is the day we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, and remember our own Baptismal faith.

Those at home, if you are new here, note that our contact information is at the end of the video, and you might want to visit our Facebook page, YouTube channel, or website, or email our office manager so you can receive our weekly e-newsletter. We also have a Social Hour on Zoom, every Sunday night at 7. As always, you can get your Zoom link to join that time of connecting by sending an email to Diane. That email address was in the opening slides and is on our main YouTube page.

Call to Worship

When we are reluctant to dip our toes into faith's river,
Jesus comes to teach us how to swim.

When we are hesitant to cup our hands
to drink from the fountain of grace,
Jesus comes to reach in and splash our faces with God's joy.

When we are unwilling to be the pipeline of hope,
**Jesus comes to turn on the faucets
God has installed in our hearts.
Creator, be with us now in worship.**

Opening Prayer

Your voice thunders in the night, and sings love songs in the morning.
Your voice tumbles raging rapids, and ripples pools of peace.
Your voice snaps trees in two, and can mend broken hearts with a sigh.
We give glory to your name, God of our lives.

Beloved of the sightless, you release those we would shackle.
We give glory to your grace, Child of the waters.
You cup your hands around our flickering faith, breathing into us new life.
You call us to work for justice, teaching us intentional acts of service.
You immerse us in courage, daring us to speak words of hope.
Spirit of wonder, we have come. God of Community, Holy in One, we pray this version of the prayer we were taught...

The Prayer Jesus Taught/Lord's Prayer

Eternal Spirit, source of all that is and ever shall be, Loving Parent in whom we discern heaven, may knowledge of your holiness inspire all peoples, and may your commonwealth of peace and freedom flourish on earth until all of humankind heed your call to justice and compassion.

May we find the bread that we need for today, and for the hurts we cause one another May we be forgiven in the same measure that we forgive. In times of trial and temptation, help us to be strong; When life seems overwhelming, help us to endure; and thus from the yoke of sin deliver us.

May you reign in the power of human love, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture Readings (Dan Desormeaux)

Psalm 29, VU p. 756

Refrain: Glory, glory, glory to our God!

God's voice is over the waters –
God's glory thundering across the great waters.

**God's voice is power,
God's voice is full of majesty.**

God's voice shatters the cedars,
splinters the cedars of Lebanon.

**God's voice makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
Mount Hermon stampede like a wild young bull.**

God's voice forks into tongues of fire,
God's voice shakes the wilderness,
sets trembling the wilderness of Kadesh.

**God's voice causes the oaks to whirl,
stripping the forest bare;
and in the temple all cry: Glory!**

Refrain: Glory, glory, glory to our God!

Matthew 3:13-17 – New International Version

On this day, we focus on the God's message to witnesses of Jesus' baptism, this is my child whom I love. May we hear this message of profound love, for Jesus, but also for all of us as God's beloved.

When Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Let us pray: Faithful God, you invite us to be curious. You ask big questions with us and allow us to create big magic by your side. Help us to listen and wonder. Amen.

Message: A Fresh Start

The message will be posted on the website when it is available.

Introduction to Act of Reaffirming Our Baptismal Faith

In baptism, we welcome children into the love of a church community. Cute little babies and children, we give thanks to God for the miracle of children, and parents they promise to teach their children how much God loves them, loves all Creation. But it isn't just babies, with this font, this pool of water for Baptism, we also baptize adults.

We might hear messages on TV or in music that you have to be rich, or look a certain way, or successful to really be special, but with baptism we remember that we are ALL special. You... and you... and me... And you. We are ALL special and so loved.

Now, with the help of our leader (Marilyn N?), you will feel the waters from the baptismal font, and you will be invited to reaffirm your baptism. If you have not been baptized, that's ok, enjoy the water and ponder the relationship that Creator God, Redeemer Christ, and Sustainer Spirit invite you into with this act.

Remember, you and I are God's beloved child.

Reaffirming Our Baptismal Faith

Leader sprinkling water, the leader dips the branch in water and flings the water joyfully into the congregation.

We take a moment to quietly reflect on your recommitment to the relationship God has invited you into, renewing your commitment to the call of Jesus to seek justice, resist evil, proclaiming Jesus once crucified but now resurrected and shining in and around us. Will you join me in this collective prayer on screen:

**By your Spirit, Eternal God, grant us
Love for others,
Joy in serving you,
Peace in disagreement,
Patience in suffering,
Kindness toward all people,
Goodness in evil times,
Faithfulness in temptation,
Gentleness in the face of opposition,
Self-control in all things.
Then strengthen us for love and service
in your name. AMEN.**

Let us now proclaim together A New Creed, a statement of faith that calls us to commitment to the life and mission of Christ.

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.

Choir Anthem: VU 442 *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters*

Minute for Mission

Bridging Financial Divides – Lynn's Story

The Rev. Lynn Smith-Reeve knows what it's like to live in poverty. As a child, she grew up without financial advantages. Later, as an adult, when her husband became ill, was hospitalized, and entered long-term care, she raised their five children. Her family relied on financial support from the government to squeak by.

"When you are living in poverty, there's this attitude you feel all the time that what you have to offer isn't anything or of any value. You don't fit well with middle-class people because they have a different value system. You think and live differently. You have a different set of hidden rules," Lynn explains.

What's different? "For one thing, middle-class people are oriented to achieve, to get promotions and education. Living in poverty, the orientation isn't achievement—it's relationship. Because it's relationship that keeps people alive. It's through relationship that you can find help when the world falls apart," she says.

Facets of life are more closely connected, too. "If my car breaks down, it threatens my job, my home, so many different things. Whereas in middle-class life, things are a little bit more isolated," Lynn says.

After her husband died, Lynn studied to become a diaconal minister.

Now, through her work at Bridges Peterborough, Lynn brings together volunteers from across economic spectrums. She just founded an innovative program called Bridging Teams supported through your generous Mission & Service gifts. The goal is to build understanding, open social and economic doors, and change the conversation about poverty.

"Sitting together and listening to each other's stories, judgment kind of starts falling away. Middle-class participants gain more respect for how far others have gotten when the cards are so stacked against them. Low-income people realize that life for middle-class participants isn't perfect and they have struggles, too," she says.

For Lynn, the work is a culmination of her life's experience and a call God has placed on her life, one that Lynn says you help bring to fruition by giving to Mission & Service.

"Thank you for giving to Mission & Service. You have had a huge impact on my life and ministry, and you continue to have an impact on the work we are doing. Thank you."

Dedication Hymn: MV 85 *Take, O Take Me as I Am*

Oh! Prends-moi tel que je suis;
fais-moi vivre que pour toi.
Viens, mets ton sceau sur mon coeur;
viens vivre en moi.

Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.

Dedication Prayer

By your grace, God of the waters, we can open our eyes to see those in need around us. By your abundance in our lives, what we offer can bring hope and healing to more people than we can ever imagine. By your blessing, others are invited to the waters of life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of Community

Friends, like raindrops running across stones, finding their way down toward the shore to the racing rivers and deep into the earth, our prayers run together, returning to their source. Will you pray with me...

God receive our prayers, like parched earth soaking up cool rains, desperate to taste on her tongue the trust and vulnerability of her children. Welcome us with the tugging of love's tidal pull. Knowing this, we hold silence so that together in this silence, we can unburden ourselves, praying to the One Who Has Claimed Us as Her Own. Let's hold silence together:

(a time of silent prayer)

All these prayers, O God, we release to you, all our joys and fears, all our prayers for ourselves, and all our prayers for others. May your mercy and peace be on us. May your mercy and peace be upon the world. Amen.

Closing Hymn: MV 144 *Like a Healing Stream*, vv. 1, 3, 4

1. Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth...
like a healing stream.

3. Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel in a new direction,
calling for an end to hate and war...
like a river strong.

4. Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide!
Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,
like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

Blessing

Baptized, let us go to live in faith.

**We will bring healing to the broken
and offer God's joy to those who grieve.**

Baptized, let us go to serve.

At the side of Jesus,

**we will serve the hungry,
we will give shelter to those who need it.**

Baptized, let us go to be a voice.

**We will echo the Spirit of calling for peace,
we will never stop speaking against injustice.**

Baptized, let us go to do what is right,

**Just as you, God, wait for us to join you
beside all your Beloved children.**

Blessing Hymn: MV 161 *I Have Called You by Your Name*, vs. 4

4. I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul,
make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

Postlude

Inviting Holy Light written by Jim McKean, *Gathering*, page 42. Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2023. Used with permission.

Call to Worship, Prayer after Scripture, and Dedication Prayer from *Seasons of the Spirit, Fusion*. Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2022-2023, January 8, 2023. © 2022 Wood Lake Books Inc.

Opening Prayer adapted from two prayers from: *Seasons of the Spirit, Fusion*. Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2022-2023, January 8, 2023. © 2022 Wood Lake Books Inc.; and Thom Shuman, January 8, 2023, Baptism of Jesus. © Thom. M. Shuman, lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com

Lord's Prayer adapted from a prayer written by Tom Hall in the Prayer Book of the Anglican Church of New Zealand, page 6. Created by the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand. Republished by Harper Collins 1997.

Psalm 29 adapted from *Voices United: The Hymn and Worship Book of The United Church of Canada*, page 756. © 1996 The United Church Publishing House. Used with permission.

Matthew 3:13-17 from *New International Version®*, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Introduction to Act of Reaffirming Our Baptismal Faith:

Words for this Reaffirmation of Baptismal Faith from www.uccmanhasset.org. Manhasset Congregational Church, Manhasset, New York (The United Church of Christ, a partner denomination of The United Church of Canada).

Prayer of Recommitment adapted from "I am God's Beloved!" Service Prayers for the First Sunday after Epiphany, written by The Rev. Dr. David Bahr, pastor of Park Hill Congregational UCC in Denver, Colorado.

A New Creed from *Voices United: The Hymn and Worship Book of The United Church of Canada*, page 918. © 1996 The United Church Publishing House. Adopted by The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968, alt. **A New Creed** is a brief and well-loved affirmation of faith used widely in our worship (1968; rev. 1980, 1995). The 20 Articles of Doctrine; A Statement of Faith, 1940; A New Creed; and A Song of Faith are recognized as standards subordinate to the primacy of scripture in the doctrine section of the Basis of Union.

Prayers of Community written by Tori Mullins, © GatheringWorship.ca, 2022. Used with permission.

Blessing written by Thom Shuman, January 8, 2023, Baptism of Jesus. © Thom. M. Shuman, lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com

Thank you to: Rev. Dave Le Grand for leading worship; Graham Laporte for his musical leadership; Dan Desormeaux for reading the scripture; Suzanne Nykilchuk for assisting with liturgy preparation; Jen Bruneau for assisting with graphics for the PowerPoint presentation; Myfawny McIntosh for arranging the Sunday readers; Jen Bruneau, Maureen McGuinness, and Suzanne Nykilchuk for the sanctuary décor; and Mallon Appianing and Roger Pile in the audiovisual booth.
