

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH



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Ministers: The people of St. Andrew's

Pastor: Rev.Cheryl Bolton

Ministry of Music: Brian and Lynn Sloan/Merna
Edison

January 15th, 2023

Baptism of Jesus

WE GATHER

Welcome

Announcements

Acknowledging Our Kinship - As we begin today, we acknowledge the history, spirituality, culture, and stewardship of the land of the Indigenous People of this region. We seek to live in respect, peace, and right relations as we live, work, and worship upon Traditional Territory. We are mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.

Candle Lighting - We light this candle, honouring the One who said “I am the Light.”

Call To Worship

One: Come in, hearing these words:

All: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

One: Come in, knowing these words to be true:

All: I have called you by name, you are mine.

One: Come in, feeling these words in your bones:

All: You are precious in my sight.

One: We come to worship, hearing, knowing, feeling the love and wonder of our God.

Prayer of Confession -

Holy One, on this day when we bear witness to the baptism of Jesus, we hear a story of blessing, of love, of transformation. But over time, this story may have caused us to see ourselves as separated, as special, as those who are better than others. Instead of being inclusive and celebrating who we are and whose we are, baptism has sometimes led us to believe that we are “more special” and “more favoured” than others. For all of these beliefs, we are sorry. May we see the power of transformation that baptism holds and be transformed to see your grace, offered to all of us. Forgive and inspire us, reminding all of us that we are yours. Amen.

Words of Assurance

One: Throughout scripture, we are reminded that grace is God's greatest gift to us. Let us draw nearer to that gift, soaking in its light so that we might, indeed, remember who we are, to whom we belong, and that we are called to share your light and grace.

Gathering Hymn - Come Let Us Sing - 222 VU

Young at Heart - *Exploring the Epiphany Box*

Hymn - Jesus Bids Us Shine - 585 VU

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading - Isaiah 43: 1-7, Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

Meditation - *The Gift of Affirmation*

Hymn - I Have Called You By Your Name - 161 MV

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to Offering -

We are indeed recipients of God's grace and generosity. God loves us and affirms us. But, in receiving, we are also called to give, to share, and to live lives of gratitude. Baptism reminds us that ordinary gifts can do extraordinary things. Baptism inspires us to use our gifts not knowing how they might transform.

Offering Prayer - Gracious God, bless what we offer this day. These gifts, though ordinary, are given in response to your extraordinary love for us. Through your Spirit, may these gifts be transformed to reveal your extraordinary love and may your love be shared in all that we say and do. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern -

God of Mystery and Light, we come to you this day in awe and wonder at your beauty and your ability to create and recreate all that swirls around us.

You call us to be in covenant with you—to know and receive your love and to give it back to all creation, to each other, and to you. Envelop us this day, surrounding us in the safety that is the knowledge that your Spirit is with us as we seek to follow the path of Christ.

So much of your world is lost this day.

People are lost to each other.

Children are lost from their parents and caregivers.

Men and women are lost in their struggle with drugs and alcohol.

Families are lost because of disagreement, unemployment, and heartbreak.

Countries are lost in the dust of war; refugees cry out in their loss of home and loss of safety. (*name current situations*)

But yet, your light shines wherever we are, searching us out as a lighthouse searches for a ship at sea. Your grace reminds us that we are worthy to be named—even if you must name and rename us so that we hear you calling to us. We are affirmed before we ask for affirmation. May we live in awe and wonder at this reality.

This day, we lift up those in our community who feel like they don't belong:

because they might not fit in with social norms at either school or work,
because they are controlled by fear and anxiety,
because they feel alone or judged,
because they are sick or paralyzed by grief.

Enable us to be the ones who help others to hear their name being called, to receive your love, your hope, and your Spirit of Peace.

We thank you that you have given us hands that can reach out, eyes that see deep beneath the surface, ears that hear truth, mouths that speak justice, and hearts that open wide to give and receive your love. Thank you for the will to try again when we fail, when we fall, when we need to learn from you and from each other.

Send your Spirit once again to help us use these gifts for the betterment of your world and the coming of your kingdom. In the strong name of Jesus, who taught us to pray together, saying ...

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn - God Be With You Till We Meet Again - 422 VU

Commissioning and Benediction -

May God's love and grace shine upon you.

May the Light of Jesus shine from within you.

May the joy of the Spirit shine all around you.

And may you and those you love, wherever they might be, remember who you are and to whom you belong.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING

January 18-Knitting Group

February 12-Annual Meeting



**Reports are due
for the Annual Report,
please email or submit to
the office by January 22nd.**



Knitting group meets on
January 18th. Bring your knitting,
crocheting, craft project etc. Enjoy
some meditation and fellowship.