



BAPTISM of the Lord

*and the holy Spirit
descended upon him
in bodily form like a dove.
And a voice came from heaven,
“You are my beloved Son;
with you I am well pleased.”*

Luke 3:22



NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Sunday, January 9th, 2022

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Music as We Gather

Welcome, Celebrations, Life and Work of the Community

Acknowledgement of the Land:

As we gather, we acknowledge that we meet and live on the traditional territories of the Mississauga Anishinaabe People. We give thanks for their care for the land over thousands of years and for their deep spirituality and honouring of the Creator and the creation. May we live with respect in God's creation and in harmony with our neighbours.

Call to Worship:

One: Called to the riverbank as Jesus is baptized...

All: Called to remember our own baptism.

One: ...and as Jesus rises up out of the water, the writers remind us of the presence of the Holy.

All: Called to worship as we experience the presence of the Holy.

One: Let us worship.

All: Let us worship the Holy. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Words of Assurance:

One: The Holy promises us eternal presence.

All: As we offer prayers for growth and new life on our journey through Epiphany in search of Emmanuel, the eternal presence reminds us we do not have to be

perfect. If we name and own our mistakes while working to correct them, we will find forgiveness.

One: In the name of the Incarnate One...

All: Amen.

Hymn: VU559

“Come O Fount of Every Blessing”

- 1 Come, O Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing
call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love.

- 2 Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger,
precious presence, precious blood.

- 3 O, to grace how great a debt
or daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known:
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.

First Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-7

(Joyce Armstrong)

^{43:1} But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

Responsive Selection: VU756

Psalm 29

(Led by Joyce Armstrong)

One: Glory, glory,

All: glory to our God!

One: Ascribe to God, you powers of the heaven, ascribe to God
all glory and strength!

**All: Ascribe due honour to God's holy name, and worship
in the beauty of holiness.**

One: Glory, glory,

All: glory to our God!

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

All: God's voice is power, God's voice is full of majesty.

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

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

One: God's voice forks into tongues of fire, God's voice shakes

the wilderness, sets trembling the wilderness of Kadesh.

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

One: Glory, glory,

All: glory to our God!

One: God sits enthroned above the waters,

All: God is enthroned as sovereign forever.

One: You give strength to your people, O God.

All: Now give to your people the blessing of peace.

One: Glory, glory,

All: glory to our God!

Young at Heart Time:

"Welcome"

Music for Meditation

Gospel Lesson: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

(Joyce Armstrong)

^{3:15} As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

One: As we listen to the words from our scripture...

All: ...may we hear the stories from our faith history that prepare us to embrace the intimate presence of the Holy alive in all of us.

One: In the name of Jesus, the Incarnate One...

All: ...Amen.

Hymn: VU100

“When Jesus Came to be Baptized”

- 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.
- 3 He will not quench the dying flame,
and what is bruised he will not break,
but heal the wound injustice dealt,
and out of death his triumph make.
- 4 O Spirit help us be like Christ:
to live in love and charity,
to walk in truth and justice now,
and grow in Christian dignity.
- 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.

Meditation:

“A Dip in the Creek”

The New Creed:

One: Let’s share together in the New Creed:

All: **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. Amen.**

Hymn: VU101

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

- 1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus Christ, to you we raise,
manifested by the star
to the sages from afar;
branch of royal David's stem
in your birth at Bethlehem;
anthems be to you addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.
- 2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
and at Cana wedding guest,
in your Godhead manifest;
manifest in power divine,
changing water into wine;
anthems be to you addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.
- 3 Manifest in making whole
palsied limbs and fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight,
quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will,
ever bringing good from ill;
anthems be to you addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.
- 4 Grant us grace to see you, Lord,
mirrored in your holy Word;
with your grace our lives endow,

grace to imitate you now,
that we like to you may be
at your great epiphany,
anthems be to you addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.

Invitation to Offer Our Gifts

Dedication of Our Gifts

A Minute for Local Mission:

*“United Way Peterborough and District”
(Joyce Armstrong)*

United Way Peterborough & District inspires people from all walks of life to come together to raise funds, volunteer and stimulate policy and attitude changes that lead to the improvement of people’s quality of life in the City and County of Peterborough.

United Way’s community investment focus is on helping individuals and families move from a life of poverty to one full of possibilities, and building strong healthy communities.

United Way Peterborough & District is part of a National not-for-profit movement which raises support and fundraises locally to affect change in your community. For the past 80 years we have grown to service more than 60,000 people in our local communities. We’re governed by an autonomous Board of Directors that, along with staff and volunteers, helps to build a caring community. Our network of 20 partner agencies are local charities in the community that focus on the persistent social issues such as homelessness, domestic violence, mental health, unemployment, addiction and more. These local agencies can be relied on during times of stability and crisis, providing thousands of people with much needed support, close to home.

Our work consists of extensive research to identify the social issues in our community that need attention to make a better life for all. We lead and facilitate conversations on these issues, and we have powerful partnerships with businesses, government, and donors. Through this process, we’re able to invest community donations where they will have the most impact to build a stronger and healthier community for us all.

Please check out the many ways United Way Peterborough and District supports our community.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: VU376

“Spirit of the Living God”

- 1 Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

- 2 Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!

Blessing as We Go Forth:

One: As our time together comes to an end...

All: ...the Spirit of the Creator stirs us to live faithfully and love openly as we continue to welcome Emmanuel, God – with – us.

One: As we journey together with each other and our Creator during this Epiphany Season, may the Eternal Light of the Holy shine brightly as we live and love together in faith.

All: In the name of the Incarnate One, Amen and Amen!

Music as We Depart

Prayer Cycle

As church, we are called to pray for each other and for our mission in the world.

Regional Council Prayer Cycle
for the week of January 9, 2022

**St. Mark's United, Cannifton Pastoral Charge
St. Mark's United Church, Cannifton**

[East Central Ontario Regional Council]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ontario COVID-19 Restrictions:

GATHERINGS

- Social gathering limits will be reduced to five people indoors and 10 people outdoors.
- Capacity will be limited at organized public events to five people indoors.
- Businesses and organizations will need to ensure employees work remotely unless the nature of their work requires them to be on-site.

REDUCED CAPACITY LIMITS

- Capacity at indoor weddings, funerals, and religious services, rites and ceremonies will be limited to 50 per cent capacity of a particular room. Outdoor services are limited to the number of people that can maintain two metres of physical distance. Social gatherings associated with these services must adhere to the social gathering limits.

***Northminster United Church has always set our capacity limited to “less” than required amount to keep everyone socially distanced. We will continue to have in-person worship services. We asked that if you do not feel well or have symptoms, to please stay home.*

Due to the increased numbers relating to the covid-19 variants of concern it will be prudent to know who is coming to the office and for what purpose. Please make an appointment [in advance] by calling the office at 705-748-4881. Thank you for your cooperation.

“Worship Services” and “Prayer” videos continue weekly on our YouTube channel, which can be found on our website: www.northminsteruc.ca

“**Grief & Loss in a Time of Pandemic**” meeting will resume when we can have more than 10 people able to gather indoors.

OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING will be held on Tuesday, January 18th at 7 pm. by Zoom. A link will be emailed out closer to the date.

NEXT WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING will be held on Tuesday, January 11th at 7 pm. by Zoom. A link will be emailed out closer to the date.

All Covid-19 protocols are still in place. Masks “must” be worn at all times, if you do not have a mask, we will provide one to you. Social distancing must be kept and hand sanitizer used.

If you are planning to attend the Sunday Worship Service, we ask that you pre-register on “Eventbrite” located on our website at www.northminsteruc.ca . Please call the church office if you have difficulties in doing so and we would be happy to do it for you. 705-748-4881 [*leave a message if after office hours*]

“Proof of Vaccination” is required to enter the building, this includes for Worship services, weddings & funerals. **Proof of Vaccination will be checked every week, so please make sure to have your information with you.**

Attention Volunteers:

If you are a Sunday volunteer, i.e. Duty Person, Elevator Person, Usher, scripture reader, etc. Please make sure to register on “Eventbrite”

THANK YOU TO THIS WEEK’S VOLUNTEERS-Jan 9/22

Duty	<i>Jaymes Winch</i>
Elevator	<i>Paula Winch</i>
Contact Tracing Rep	<i>Bev Sherwin</i>
Ushers/Greeters	<i>Ken Nash, John Taylor</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>Joyce Armstrong</i>
Congregational Elder	<i>Mary Hess Northey</i>
Sound	<i>Bill VanTol / Alex Brunton</i>
Video	<i>Ron Kervin / Nelson Pickett</i>
Videographer	<i>Ken Nash, John Taylor</i>