

**Welcome to  
The Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge  
Woodhouse United Church and  
Grace United Church  
Worship From Home Service  
Sunday, January 9, 2022**



**Port Dover – Woodhouse Pastoral Charge  
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**Ministers: All People of the Community of Faith**

**Woodhouse Organist: Pat Tiller**

**Grace Pianist: Pat Tiller**

**Office Administrator: Jackie Misner-Hilton**

**Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Frank Walker, OM**

**Licensed Lay Worship Leader: Heather King**

**Volunteer Associate Minister: Rev. Sheena Riley-Marini**

**Pastoral Charge Minister: Rev. Kathryn Vance, DM**

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**Office Hours 9:00 am – 11:30 am (Mon. – Thurs)**

January 9 2022

## **Baptism of the Lord Sunday**

### **We Gather to Worship**

#### **Land Acknowledgement**

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

**Joke** – A Sunday School teacher asked, “Do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the ark?” “No”, replied David. “How could he with only two worms?”

#### **The Bible is Opened and Christ Candle Lit**

#### **Call to Worship**

Through the waters of baptism, Jesus was called.

**Through the sacrament of baptism, we too feel God’s call.**

By the voice from heaven, Jesus was claimed as God’s own.

**We too find ourselves marked by the love of God.**

By the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was commissioned to his ministry.

**By the Spirit’s breath, we too take our place as God’s servants.**

We gather here called, claimed, and commissioned as God’s people.

**Thanks be to God!**

*Frances Flook, Emo/Devlin P.C., Emo, Ont*

#### **Hymn – VU #82 A Light Is Gleaming**

A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love  
is burning bright, living in the light.

When light comes pouring into the darkest place,  
it hurts our eyes to see the glow.  
Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears,  
our memories and tears.

A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
    throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love  
    is burning bright, living in the light.

When night is round us and every shadow grows,  
a star is there to light our way.  
It tells a story of Jesus who came near to say:  
'God's light will ever stay.'

A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
    throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love  
    is burning bright, living in the light.

And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk.  
He showed us things we hadn't seen.  
Now we, like Jesus, can help creation shine,  
and this will be a sign:

A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
    throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love  
    is burning bright, living in the light.

So let us live in the brightness God has giv'n,  
and let us rise to see the dawn.  
We trust that God is here asparkle and ablaze,  
- warming all our days.

A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
    throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love  
    is burning bright, living in the light.

## Opening Prayer

Holy and Sustaining God, we come to worship and praise you.  
We journeyed with you to Bethlehem and followed the star of the east.

Today we gather with you at the River Jordan, remembering Jesus' baptism.

As we enter this season of epiphanies and revelations, may your Spirit stir our hearts and open our lives to new learnings and understandings.

Fill us with a willingness to go into the deep waters, ever mindful that you have called us by name and that you go with us.

We pray through Jesus our baptized Saviour. Amen.

*Dora White, Minnedosa U.C., Minnedosa, Man.*

## **We Listen for God's Word**

Time for the Young at Heart – How does paint remind you of God?

### Hymn - VU #100 **When Jesus Came to Be Baptized**

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

### **Prayer for Illumination**

God of wisdom and truth, shine your light upon the scripture passages today so that we may better know your will for your people. May these scriptures bring hope to us as we go forward. Amen.

### **Psalm 29 When the storm strikes**

Trust God – don't pin your faith on human potential.

**Science and technology, wealth and popularity –  
these will all pass away.**

Only God is worthy of lasting worship.

**Fame and fortune will not save you when the tempest strikes.**

The winds whirl in; waves crash upon your comfortable shore.

**Houses collapse like cards;**

**corporations crumble; assets become worthless.**

Branches break off, mighty empires are uprooted.

**Possessions, wealth, and status cannot save you.**

You stand alone before the power of God,  
as naked and helpless as the day you were born.

**You tremble like a twig in a tempest.**

All that you depended upon is stripped away,  
like the last leaves from autumn trees.

**Before God's power, you face your own frailty.**

Nothing can save you – except God.

Only God is greater than any human crisis.

**Only God can sustain you through the storm,  
and carry you to the calm on the other side.**

### **Isaiah 43:1-7**

But now, this is what the LORD says—

he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

<sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;

I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead.

<sup>4</sup> Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you,

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

<sup>5</sup> Do not be afraid, for I am with you;

I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west.

<sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’

Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth—

<sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

### **Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> John answered them

all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>21</sup> When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too.

And as he was praying, heaven was opened <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit

descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

## **Anthem**

### **Message**

Baptism is one of the two sacraments in the United Church. The other one is Communion.

In the first 2 centuries of the Common Era, adults converted to Christianity, pledged to remain sin-free, and were baptized. The baptism was said to wash away all pre-baptism sins. Then starting in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, infants started to be baptized. This was when the concept of original sin was taught. Original sin is the sin of Adam and Eve and the doctrine is that we are all born with it. Then, for many centuries, it was taught that if one died without being baptized, they could not enter heaven. During the mid-twentieth century, that teaching was repealed. Thank goodness.

The other thing about baptism when it was first initiated as the way to join the Christian church was the teaching that, while baptism washed away the sins to date, any sins after baptism could not be forgiven. That one's gone too.

So what do we have today?

Some denominations don't believe in infant baptism. They have what is known as “believer baptism”. Those churches usually have a large tank and persons are totally immersed in the water.

In churches where infants are baptized, the infants who are baptized obviously aren't able to make a choice. So their parents make promises to bring them up in the Christian faith and when the child is a teenager or beyond they take those promises on for themselves through Confirmation.

It is unrealistic to think or expect that a person would be able to remain sin-free, even after baptism. We're human. We mess up. Hopefully what does happen is that they recognize their sin, seek forgiveness, and continue to strive to do better. If we are serious about following Jesus, we will always do better. We will mess up less than if we are only concerned about ourselves.

Let's go back and look at John the Baptist and his baptism of Jesus. John was a humble Jewish prophet; sort of a modern day Elijah in his

time. He preached for people to repent and also proclaimed the arrival of the Messiah, the kingdom of God. He taught that Jesus was greater than he was. Using a wedding analogy, it was like he was the best man and Jesus was the bridegroom.

Baptism was not something that started with John. It was a familiar ritual used when Gentiles converted to Judaism. It was, however, unusual for a Jew to be baptized. In the book of Acts, we hear an explanation that John's baptism looks ahead to the coming of the Messiah and Christian baptism looks back to the finished work of Christ.

You might wonder why Jesus insisted upon John baptizing him. After all, he is believed to be sin-free. Baptism was one way that he could identify with the sinners that he came to save. It was also the official start of his ministry.

Finally, John said that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit. That happened at Pentecost. According to one of my commentaries, today, the minute a sinner trusts Christ, he or she is baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ. Of all the teachings about baptism, I think that I like that one best. With our religious ritual at baptism or confirmation, we ask a series of questions of the candidate's beliefs and intents. They, of course, give all the "right" answers. I can't see into their hearts so I have to trust that they understand and mean what they say. But Christ does look into our hearts and knows if we are sincere and are willing to take the step of trusting him. He knows if we are just fair-weather friends or if we're in it for the long haul. How about you?

Do you trust Christ?

What do you trust him to do?

I hope that you ponder those questions this week. Amen.

### Hymn VU #238 **How Great Thou Art**

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,



How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
he bled and died to take away my sin.

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
and there proclaim, 'My God, how great thou art!'

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!

### **We Respond to God's Word**

#### **Offering**

Chorus – VU# 549 **For All Your Goodness God**

For all your goodness, God, we give you thanks.

Thanks for the food we eat, and for the friends we meet;  
for each new day we greet, we give you thanks.

## **Prayer of Dedication**

We bring our gifts to you, O God, in love and expectation:  
in love because you first loved us;  
in expectation because your blessing will increase these gifts  
manyfold. Amen.

*Fern Gibbard, for Naramata Community Church, Naramata, B.C.*

## **Minute for Mission**

### **A Better World: One Water Project at a Time**

According to UNICEF, more than half of the global population does not have access to safe sanitation and 2.2 billion people still lack access to safe drinking water.

Today—Baptism of Jesus Sunday—is a good day to consider our relationship with water.

How many Bible stories do you know have to do with water? Many of us have heard the story of Moses making water flow from rock and parting the Red Sea. We may remember stories about Jesus turning water into wine, walking on water, and calming it, too. So often, water is the focal point of God's miracles and grace. It figures prominently because it's necessary.

Clean water is essential to life, and yet around the world people suffer for lack of it.

The issues are complex. Climate change is altering weather and water patterns, causing shortages and droughts in some areas and floods in others. In some parts of the world, a growing population means rising demand and there isn't enough water to go around. Water infrastructure problems sometimes mean people can't access water even when it is available. There are racial and gender implications to accessing water, too. Did you know that, on average, women and children in the Global South walk nearly 6 kilometres to access water and carry nearly 19 liters of water every day?

Through Mission & Service you help provide solutions to water issues worldwide.

Your generosity supports irrigation projects and provides accessibility to water. Your gifts help construct bore holes, wells, and rain catchment tanks, which in turn address food security and sanitation issues in communities. During crises, your gifts help deliver drinking

water where it's needed most. In the midst of the global pandemic, your support is helping to construct sanitation stations and share life-saving hygiene communications through flyers and radio programs.

Thank you for your generosity! Together, we *can* build a better world. One water project at a time.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Concern**

### **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 those who  
trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

### **We Take Christ's Message Into the World**

#### **Hymn - VU #644 I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry**

I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,  
with a faith to suit you well;  
in a blaze of light you wandered off  
to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word,  
I was there to cheer you on;  
you were raised to praise the living Lord,  
to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time  
and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,  
not too old, no longer young.  
I'll be there to guide you through the night,  
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in  
and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been  
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.

### **Blessing and Sending Forth**

As the water washed over Jesus, so may the words of our  
worship continue to wash over you as you go from this place.  
As Jesus emerged from the river refreshed in his ministry, may  
you emerge from this place refreshed in yours and ready to  
serve. Amen.

*Hilary Squires, Southminster U.C., Lethbridge, Alta.*

### **Closing of Bible and Extinguishing of Candle**

#### **Go Now In Peace**

Go now in peace, never be afraid. God will go with you each  
hour of ev'ry 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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **OFFICE IS OPERATING REMOTELY**

Office Hours Monday-Thursday

9:00 am-11:30 am

Feel free to call and leave a message or send an email at any time and we will respond during office hours.

519-583-0342

graceunitedportdover@gmail.com

**For Pastoral Care, please contact**

**Rev. Kathryn Vance**

**519-717-7426**

**kathrynvance55@yahoo.ca**

### **Announcement reminder**

Please submit announcements by end of day Tuesday for inclusion in the weekly bulletin. Thank you!

### ***Stewardship Seconds***

**January 9, First Sunday after Epiphany**

You are God's beloved people, gifted to be a blessing.