***Welcome* *to worship!***

**Sunday January 9th, 2022**

**The Baptism of Jesus**

***A joint online Zoom worship Service with Claremont, Fairbank & Goodwood United Churches & friends.***

***Worship Leaders:*** *Pastor Steven Loweth, DLM*

*& Rev. Lionel Ketola, BA, M Div.*

Onelicense # A-723979 CCLI # 11550809

**Musicians:** **From Claremont United Church:** Gabrielle Untermann, Jane Plewman, Julia Shatford, Barb Gilbert, Steve May, otherwise known as “The Masked Bandits”.

**We Joyfully Gather in God’s Presence**

**Words of Welcome**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

There was a man named Jesus, who brough hope and healing to all he met. And he said **“I am the light of the World”.**

**Acknowledgement of the Land**

As we begin our worship, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where each of us are gathered today. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island.

**God of justice, help us to embody your call to reconciliation with our First Nations in tangible, loving ways. Amen.**

**Call to Worship**

Every day we journey on this earth is a day in which we make choices:

**left or right, up or down, yes or no?**

Some choices are simple, and some are very complex,

but one choice informs all the others:

**Who are we?**

**Who will be our God?**

**Who will we trust to see us through this journey?**

As we gather this day around the waters

to remember Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan,

**may we be remember who we are;**

**may we know that we are unconditionally held by God’s embrace**

**as we re-affirm the covenant God made with us at our baptism.**

**Hymn: Shall We Gather at the River VU 710 The Masked Bandits**

1 Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod;
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain:
Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

2 Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown.

[Refrain]

3 Soon we'll reach the shining river,
soon our pilgrimage will cease,
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace. [Refrain]

**Prayer of the Day** *From: Prayers For An Inclusive Church, by Steven Shakespeare, pg. 82*

**Lord of the desert river,**

**you search our depths**

**and call us by name.**

**May your flame-born Spirit**

**open the heavens**

**that we might recognize you**

**In the one born of the earth,**

**Jesus Christ, the Gift of Peace. Amen**

**We Open our Hearts to the Spirit’s Voice**

One: Whether you take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth or story, listen now to these words for the meaning they hold in your lives today.

**All: May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder, as we ponder the meaning of these words in our lives.**

**A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah 43:1-7**

**﻿**But now, Leah and Rachel and Jacob, hear the word of YHWH—

the One who created you, the One who fashioned you, Israel:

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the seas, I will be with you;

when you pass over the rivers, you will not drown.

Walk through fire, and you will not be singed;

walk through flames and you will not be burned.

I am YHWH, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your deliverer.

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

You are more precious to me than Assyria;

you are honored, and I love you.

I will give people in exchange for you,

whole nations in exchange for your life.

Have no fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your descendants from the east

and gather them from the west.

To the north I will say, ‘Give them up!’

and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back!

Bring my daughters and sons from afar,

return them from the ends of the earth—

everyone who is called by my Name,

whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made!

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 29 Chris Brunelle**

**Reflection: Rev. Lionel**

**Scripture Hymn: Like a Healing Stream MV 144** <https://youtu.be/dHa37pgjwRk>

*Youtube music video with thanks to St Paul’s United Church Edmonton*

**The Holy Gospel According to Luke 3:15–17, 21–22**

## ﻿The people were full of anticipation, wondering in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah. 16 John answered them all by saying, “I am baptizing you in water, but someone is coming who is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not fit to untie! This One will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire. 17 A winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear the threshing floor and gather the wheat into the granary, but the chaff will be burnt in unquenchable fire.”

## ﻿21 When all the people were baptized, Jesus also came to be baptized. And while Jesus was praying, the skies opened 22 and the Holy Spirit descended on the Anointed One in visible form, like a dove. A voice from heaven said, “You are my Own, my Beloved. On you my favor rests.”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word **Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: Pastor Steven**

**Hymn of the Day: When Jesus Came to Be Baptized VU 100 The Masked Bandits**

**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 in justice 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.**

**Renewal of Baptismal Promises**



Dear friends in Christ, on this Sunday of the Baptism of Jesus, we remember and renew the promises once spoken at our own baptism -- that time when we were welcomed into the body of Christ and anointed with the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. Let us joyfully affirm our faith before God, renouncing the broken ways of our world and seeking to embrace renewed life in Christ.

**Profession of Faith and Promises**

Do you believe in God, the Source of Love, in Jesus Christ, God’s love made flesh, and in the Holy Spirit, love’s power?

**I do, by the grace of God**

Will you respond with generosity to the love of God, resisting oppression and evil, seeking justice, and witnessing to God’s radical love for all of creation?

**I will, God being my helper**

Will you faithfully follow in the risky and courageous way of Jesus Christ, showing by word and deed that you are a disciple of Jesus?

**I will, God being my helper**

Will you join together, as a community of faith, to celebrate God’s presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

**I will, God being my helper**

**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.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving at the Waters**

Loving God, we give you thanks

for the wonder and gift of life.

In the beginning your Spirit brooded over the waters, calling forth diverse new life.

Through the waters of our birth, you called us to be part of an intricate web of creation,

filled with beauty and mystery.

By rivers, lakes, and oceans, you nourish all living things.

You led your people Israel through the waters

to find new freedom from slavery.

In the waters of the Jordan your Child Jesus

was baptized and empowered by the Spirit

for his ministry.

Send your Spirit upon us and all that we do,

that we may be strengthened in our discipleship by remembering our baptism. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

***Remembrance of Baptism:***

*You are invited to dip your finger into a bowl of water,*

*and make the sign of the cross on your forehead*

**Sung Response: VU 454 May God Who Creates You The Masked Bandits**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts:**

**Loving God,**

**as Jesus rose from the waters of his baptism**

**assured of his calling,**

**may the gifts we offer today**

**help us live out our calling**

**to be a people of love and grace for our world. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

Called together through water and the word,

we boldly pray for the Church, the World, and all who long to hear God’s voice. ***Silence***

Let us pray for those who suffer from illness, loneliness, and pain. ***Silence***

Let us pray for the victims of oppression, disaster and violence. ***Silence***

Let us pray for the coming of your Reign of justice and peace in the world. ***Silence***

Let us pray for all who are struggling during this continued pandemic: for individuals, families, seniors in long term care; front line staff in healthcare; congregations and their members; nations struggling for access to vaccines. ***Silence***

Let us give thanks for moments of hope and healing during this time of pandemic. ***Silence***

Let us pray for our earth home and all God’s beloved creation. ***Silence***

Let us pray for those people and places in our world whose needs are close to our hearts at this time … *prayers of intercession are offered*

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, Jesus Christ our saviour, who taught us to pray: **“God, our Mother and Father in heaven……”**

**Going Forth**

**Closing Hymn:** I Was There to Hear your Borning Cry VU 644

<https://youtu.be/__I5suWOjOA> *YouTube video with thanks to Forest Grove United Church*

**Blessing & Commissioning**

Go out into the world in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pursue justice, grow in faith, and share God’s love,

as we live out our baptismal calling.

May the Grace of Christ attend you,

the love of God surround you,

and the Holy Spirit keep you, now and always. Amen.

**Sung Dismissal: Go Now in Peace VIDEO** [**https://youtu.be/5T\_KSLqIAcM**](https://youtu.be/5T_KSLqIAcM)