

St. James United Church

January 1, 2012

Sacrament of Infant Baptism

Minister: Rev. Bill Bartlett
Minister of Visitation/MUN Chaplain Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
C.E. Lay Minister: Susan Sheppard
Organist/Choir Director: Philip Roberts
Assistant Organist: Allan Morgan
Scripture Reader: Barbara Adams

Organ Prelude:

Welcome:

Introit:

Call To Worship: (responsive)

L: We gather...
P: **all our moments coming together in this moment.**
L: We gather...
P: **all our days coming together in this day.**
L: We gather...
P: **all our breaths coming together in this breath.**
L: And in all our moments, all of our days, all of our breaths..
P: **We find God... and God finds us!**
L: And in that finding...
P: **The Covenant is renewed. The Covenant is lived.
The Covenant is alive!**
L: Alleluia.
P: **Alleluia! Amen!**



Worship

Prayer Of Approach: (unison)

Holy God, the power of your breath breathes new life into the waters and bring forth life. Breathe on us now as we come before you. Breathe your Spirit into us as we worship you, and fill us with new life for our living this day and into this New Year. As we praise you this day, we know that you name us as your beloved children, and yet we also know that like any child we sometimes rebel. We turn away from your love and turn away from the best that we can be in your love. Forgive our rebellious ways, turn us around, and open our hearts to receive and accept your love into our lives and our beings. Amen.

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Hymn: "God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness" 260

Time with the children:

Hymn: "Once in Royal David's City" 62

Life And Work Of St. James:

Offertory Invitation: (responsive)

L: The New Year will bring challenges;
P: **These gifts will enable us to meet the challenges.**
L: The New Year will bring suffering,
P: **These gifts will enable us to stand beside those who are suffering.**
L: The New Year will bring the prospect of adventure;
P: **These gifts will enable us to venture out.**
L: The New Year will bring rejoicing;
P: **These gifts will put a song on our lips, and bring friendship on the journey.**
L: God will bless our gifts.
P: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Offertory:

Offertory Hymn: "In The Bleak Midwinter" - verse 4 55

Offertory Prayer:

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Presentation

Parent's Declaration

Parent's Baptismal Vows



Congregational Commitment: (all stand)

We have heard the will of the parents. We have received Amy in Christ's name as we ourselves have been received. We all belong to the one household of Christ. We will support Keith and Susan by providing an environment where love is shown and faith is nurtured. Amen

Statement of Faith: (unison)

God is Holy Mystery, beyond complete knowledge,
 above perfect description. Yet, in love,
 the one eternal God seeks relationship...
 We find God made known in Jesus of Nazareth,
 and so we sing of God the Christ,
 the Holy One embodied.
 We sing of Jesus, a Jew,
 born to a woman in poverty
 in a time of social upheaval
 and political oppression.
 He knew human joy and sorrow.
 So filled with the Holy Spirit was he that in him people
 experienced the presence of God among them.
 We sing praise to God incarnate.
 Jesus announced the coming of God's reign –
 a commonwealth not of domination
 but of peace, justice, and reconciliation.
 He healed the sick and fed the hungry.
 He forgave sins and freed those held captive
 by all manner of demonic powers.
 He crossed barriers of race, class, culture, and gender.
 He preached and practised unconditional love –
 love of God, love of neighbour,
 love of friend, love of enemy –
 and he commanded his followers to love one another
 as he had loved them.

(From Song of Hope, a United Church of Canada statement of faith.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Pouring of the Water:

Action of Baptism

Amy Elizabeth Murphy, daughter of Keith and Susan (Kingsley) Murphy.

Blessing:

May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace.

Baptismal Hymn: "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry" 644
(verses 1,2,3 & 7)

Hebrew Scripture: Ecclesiastes3: 1-13

Anthem:

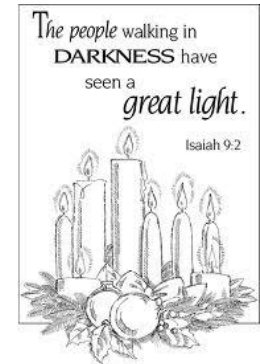
Gospel: Luke 2: 22-35, 39

Hymn: "In the Bleak Mid Winter" - verses 1,2 ,3 55

Sermon:

Pastoral Prayer:
The Lord's Prayer:

Hymn: "I Am the Light of the World" 87



Commissioning:

- L: Go into the world: dance, laugh, sing, and create.
- C: **We go with the assurance of your blessing, O God.**
- L: Go into the world: risk, explore, discover, and love.
- C: **We go with the assurance of your grace, O God.**
- L: Go into the world: believe, hope, struggle, and remember.
- C: **We go with the assurance of your love, O God**
- All: **Thanks be to God!**

Benediction:

Organ Postlude:

Usher in Charge: Dave Hapgood

Greeters: Michelle and Maggie Skinner

Ushers: Wayne and Sophie Skinner
Laun and Sophie Shoemaker
Caroline Schiller and Jan Winsor

Memorial Fund

We acknowledge a donation in loving memory of **Thomas Vincent** from wife Bonnie Vincent and daughter Roberta Gill and family.

Also

In memory of **Susanna Andrews** from Joe and Evelyn Murphy

Life and Work

We acknowledge a donation in loving memory of a dear husband and father, **Neil Anthony** from wife Pauline and son Conrad.

Congregational Meeting: There will be a Congregational Meeting next Sunday, January 8 following the morning service to review/approve the report from the Joint Needs Assessment Committee

*Everytime you smile at someone, it is an action of love,
a gift to that person, a beautiful thing.*

Mother Teresa

