

This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of

Bethany Danielle Pike,

(January 8, 1988 – May 27, 2008)

as we remember her birthday today
with love from Stephen, Susan and Rebecca Pike.

St. James United Church

January 8, 2017/Baptism/Communion

Minister: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Acting Minister of Visitation: Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray
Organist: Ashley Ruby
Choir: Senior
Choir Director: Emma Clark

Please remain seated comfortably until invited to stand.

Please turn off your cell phone during the Service.

Gathering Music

Acknowledgement of Country and First Peoples

Welcome and Announcements

Entry into the Celebration

Lighting of the Community Candle

Sharing the Peace:

One: May a heart of peace rest with you.

All: And also with you.

(You are invited to share the peace with your neighbours.)

Opening Sentences: (responsive)

One: A new year has dawned; the old is past and gone. This is a time for beginnings, a time to encounter Creativity God anew.

All: You are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

One: Look around you at the amazing variety of the universe.

All: God has lured everything suitable for its time.

One: Consider again what Creativity God has nudged us to do and to be...

All: to show compassion to the least of God's children.

Opening prayer: (together) O Hidden Mystery, we gather grateful for the companionship of hearts and minds seeking to speak the truth in love. We gather grateful for our heritage, for the women and men before us whose prophetic words and deeds make possible our dreams and our insight. And we gather

grateful for the gift of life itself, mindful that to respect life means both to celebrate what life is and to insist on what it can become. In everything we touch, in everyone we meet, Your presence is around us, and we give thanks. Amen.

Hymn: *I Was There to Hear Your Borneing Cry*

644

Children's Time

Celebrating belonging: the Sacrament of Baptism

The narrative

Presentation

Promises and Congregational Promise: (together, standing as you are able)

One: Each of us knows the need for support and care as we share in a journey of faith. As this family gathers around this font and this water, symbols of belonging and community, let us pledge our care for them.

All: We stand as witnesses to the commitment this family has made this day. And we pledge ourselves to their support and care as they discover the ways that the Spirit unfolds for them.

A New Creed

918

Pouring the Water

Prayer of Thanksgiving: (together) We acknowledge our responsibility to ensure we use the resources of water well, and make available future resources for our children and their children. We give thanks for the gift of this water. May it be the birthing waters of a new and holy life. Amen.

The request

The baptism

Blessing

Baptismal prayer: (together) Bless this newly baptised child. May she always know that the Source of all Love lives and comes to unique expression in her. Bless *Andrea & Dylan*, may they always show their gratitude for the new life given them by loving and caring for *Maisie Catherine Joyce Matthews*. Bless this faithful people. May we all live in love. And may we continue to draw encouragement from the faith which connects our loving with the mystery we call 'God'. Amen.

Baptismal candle

Baptismal hymn: *I Am a Child of God*

MV157

Invitation to the Offering

Offering

Offering Hymn: *What Child Is This?*

74



Offering Dedication: (together) Though we do not bear gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we offer ourselves and what we have. We remember our baptismal vows to worship and serve the living Christ and become Your voice of love in the world.

Silence

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Anthem: Choir

Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17

Meditation

Hymn: *Like a Healing Stream* MV144

The Invitation

Thanksgiving: (responsive)

One: We give thanks for the wonderful gift of reflective awareness that allows us to recognise and name the presence of a Creative Spirit beyond all imagining in our universe.

All: We give thanks.

One: Everything we have... .. Especially we give thanks for Jesus of Nazareth.

All: In Him we see the presentness of God urging all of us to make its creativity on earth more visible.

One: We also remember the meal tradition of Jesus and the early Jesus movements... ..in the ordinary, in the everyday,

All: and in our desire to love as generously as Jesus loved.

One: We pray together. Our Father...

**Breaking of the Bread & Pouring of the Cup
Communion by Intinction**



Prayer after Communion: (together) May the momentum of the Jesus movement strengthen and enable us to capture the spirit of His words, living out the implications of those words in our own time with our own creativity. Amen.

Hymn *I Am the Light of the World* 87

Parting Words: (responsive)

One: After the words, a quiet. After the songs, a silence. After the crowd only the memory recalls the gathering.

All: Peace and justice have need of us after the words, the music, and the gathering.

One: God grant you the depth for dedication to justice.

All: God grant us the will to be apostles of peace.

Words of Blessing followed by Musical Postlude