

St. James United Church

February 26, 2017/Transfiguration Sunday/Baptism

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

Please remain seated comfortably until invited to stand.

Please turn off your cell phone during the Service.

Musical Prelude

Acknowledgement of Country/First Peoples

Welcome & Life & Work of St. James



Entry into the Celebration

Lighting of the Community Candle

Sharing the Peace:

One: As we share the peace of Christ with one another, may the light of Christ shine in you always.

All: And also in you. (*You are invited to share the peace with your neighbours.*)

Call to Worship: (responsive)

One: We gather as the faithful of God. We come to listen to what God has to say to us.

All: God has invited us to this place; may our faces reflect our hopes and our hearts.

One: We gather as the faithful of God, people of the new covenant of hope and promise.

All: We boldly enter into the presence of God, hoping to be transformed into new people.

One: We gather as the faithful of God, our fears melting away in the heart of God.

All: We come to share in the freedom of the Spirit. We come to praise God's holy name.

Opening Prayer: (together) Loving God, on mountaintops crowned with mist and in museums filled with wonder; in tents pitched alongside singing brooks, and in theatres filled with laughing children; in this sacred space and in all the ordinary neighbourhoods where we live, You are with us, hearing us, answering us.

And, so, we do not lose heart. Jesus, Beloved of God, we glance at You from the corners of our souls, and see grace surrounding us; we look at You conversing

with the poor and rejected, and see our family; we watch You as You come to us, to touch us, to heal us, and to reconcile us to God. And, so, we do not lose heart. Holy Spirit, listening God when our lips cannot shape words, You speak them for us; when we can only sigh our needs, You gather them up and speak them for us. When our hopes are dashed to the ground, You pick them up and give them back to us. And, so, we do not lose heart. We do not lose heart as we gather in worship this day. Amen.

Hymn: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* 264

Children's Time

Hymn: *Open My Eyes, That I May See* 371

Celebrating belonging: the Sacrament of Baptism

The narrative

Presentation

Promises



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: *Henry Perry Hogarth, son of Alisha Rose Smith & Tyler Carl Hogarth*

Blessing

Baptismal prayer: (together) Bless this newly baptised child. May he always know that the Source of all Love lives and comes to unique expression in him. Bless *Alisha & Tyler*, may they always show their gratitude for the new life given them by loving and caring for *Henry*. 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 Have Called You by Your Name* MV161

Offertory Invitation**Offering**

Offertory Hymn: *Spirit, Open My Heart, chorus* MV79

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.

As You love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.

Prayer of dedication: (together) There is so much we could do with our abundance, Mountaintop God – building grand cathedrals, installing mighty pipe organs, creating great endowments (and we do). So remind us, as we offer our gifts this morning, of those who need a simple home, who long to hear the songs of hope, who need help with paying for food or medicine or clothes. Transfigure not only our gifts, but our hearts as well, we pray. Amen.

Silence**Scripture Readings**

Hebrew Scripture: Exodus 24: 12-18

Anthem: *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* Choir
Eric H. Thiman, composer

Gospel: Matthew 17: 1-9

Hymn: *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding* 104

Meditation**Prayer**

Closing Hymn: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* 651

Parting Words:

One: Tempted to stay here, let us go

All: to carry God's peace to a broken world.

One: Having heard the call to follow,

All: we will journey into life's valleys, carrying the hope of Jesus.

One: We will walk with the Spirit who leads us on a journey of humility.

All: We will walk through fears that threaten to burn us, as well as the mist of uncertain days and nights.

Blessing followed by Musical Postlude