

St. James United Church

February 5, 2017/ Fifth after Epiphany/Baptism

Minister: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Acting Minister of Visitation: Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray
Organist: Bob Rose
Choir: AOTS
Choir Director: Doreen Brown

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



Introit: *Open Our Eyes*

Choir

Entry into the Celebration

Lighting of the Community Candle

Sharing the Peace:

One: The peace of God is here.....to stay.

All: Thanks be to God.

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

Call to Worship: (responsive)

One: To a society that lives in the shadowed recesses of doubt and fear,

All: God calls us to be light.

One: To a world where every greed is fed until there is no taste to life,

All: God calls us to be salt.

One: To a time when loyalties are discarded as easily as the clothes we wear,

All: God calls us to be faithful.

Opening Prayer: (together) Creator of the day, You rise before dawn calling for the poor to be fed, parched hearts watered with joy and grace, and to patch the potholes poverty has made in the streets of Your realm. Voice of fulfillment, You proclaim the mysteries of grace, in weakness, which gives strength to the weary; in compassion, which offers the guest room of Your heart to the homeless; in love, as You take off your coat, and place it around the shoulders of a shivering child. You speak softly, Revealer of wonders, using the alphabet blocks of grace and hope, so all can know the hidden heart of God; so all may know the words to proclaim the Light who has come into the world. Holy One, be with us as we gather in this sacred space. Amen.

Hymn: *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

575

Children's Time

Hymn: *This Little Light of Mine*

Verses 1 and 5: *This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine!*

Verse 2: *Hide it under a bushel; NO! I'm gonna let it shine!*

Verse 3: *Don't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine!*

Verse 4: *Take my little light round the world, I'm gonna let it shine!*

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 are those who live in the shadows of life, Loving God, and so we pray these gifts might illuminate a way to hope. There are those whose lives have lost all flavour, because of poverty, or illness, or despair, so we pray that what we offer may bring life back to them. Use our gifts, as well as us in Your realm, which is all around us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Centering Silence

Scripture Readings

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 58: 1-12

Anthem: *The Lighthouse* Choir

Gospel: Matthew 5: 13-20

Hymn: *For the Healing of the Nations* 678

Meditation

Pastoral Prayer

Closing Hymn: *Now Thank We All Our God* 236

Parting Words:

One: Jesus declares that we are salt to the world,

All: so let us go to bring justice, hope, and grace to all.

One: Jesus declares that we are light to those around us,

All: so may we go to shine on the brokenness around.

One: We are called to be a community for all,

All: so let us go to embrace our sisters and brothers.

Blessing followed by Musical Postlude

