

This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of  
**Bethany Danielle Pike**  
"Remembering Bethany's birthday, January 8"  
with love from Stephen, Susan, and Rebecca.

## St. James United Church

January 10, 2021/Baptism of Jesus

Minister: Rev. Jim Von Riesen  
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM  
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown  
Music Director: Amy Dalziel  
Assoc. Music Director: Branden Olsen

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St. James United Church is a safe place for all people to worship, regardless of race, creed, age, ability, cultural background or sexual orientation.

### We Gather as God's People

#### PRELUDE

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY / FIRST PEOPLES

#### WELCOME

#### CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND WORK

#### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE: (VU 96; v. 4)

Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?  
In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,  
And the darkness all about is too dim to put it out;  
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

#### CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: On that first day, when time began:

**All: you gave birth to creation; light danced through the darkness; the waters of hope flowed free and clear.**

One: On that first day at the Jordan, when redemption began:

**All: You spoke of life for all your children, as your Child stepped into the waters of forgiveness, dancing in hope with his cousin, John.**

One: On this first day of the week, when we begin anew:

**All: you call us to faithfulness, as we open our hearts to you, your voice claiming us as your own.**

#### OPENING PRAYER: (in unison)

**God our beloved Parent: grace is the gift which flows to us from your heart; joy is the seed planted deep within our souls; that it might blossom into lives of service to all.**

**Servant of all: you emerge from baptism's water, to embrace us in your hopes; you take our fears from us and toss them aside as you lead us into your kingdom; you shine the Light which brings us out of despair's shadows. Wind upon the water: you move among us sweeping aside our petty pride, and offering us the gifts of humility and servanthood. You whisper of your yearning for peace and reconciliation, until it silences our angry voices and unclenches our fisted hearts. May it be so. Amen**

**HYMN:** Of the Father's Love Begotten

VU 61

## We Respond to God's Love

### OFFERING INVITATION:

#### OFFERTORY PRAYER: (in unison)

Bathed in the waters of baptism, we are a beloved people, who recognize the gifts which have been poured out upon us. Recognizing these gifts, we take them and give them back to you, God of the waters, so that others might be bathed in hope, graced with joy, gifted with your peace and love. Amen.

### ANTHEM/SOLO/SPECIAL MUSIC:

#### We Listen for God's Word

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING:** Genesis 1:1-5

**RESPONSIVE PSALM:** Psalm 29

Ascribe to God, you powers of the heaven,  
Ascribe to God all glory and strength!  
**Ascribe due honour to God's holy name,  
And worship in the beauty of holiness. R**

God's voice is over the waters –  
God's glory thundering across the great waters.  
**God's voice is power, God's voice is full of majesty.**  
God's voice shatters the cedars,  
Splinters the cedars of Lebanon.  
**God's voice makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
Mount Hermon stampede like a wild young bull.**  
God's voice forks into tongues of fire,  
God's voice shaded the wilderness,  
Sets trembling the wilderness of Kadesh.  
**God's voice causes the oaks to whirl,  
Stripping the forest bare;  
And in the temple all cry: Glory! R**

God sits enthroned above the waters,  
**God is enthroned as sovereign forever.**  
You give strength to your people, O God.  
**Now give to your people the blessing of peace. R**

**HYMN:** When Jesus Came to Be Baptized VU 100

**GOSPEL READING:** Mark 1:4-11

**MEDITATION:** Loved by God

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE:**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**We Are Sent Forth to Live our Faith**

**HYMN:** I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry  
**(masks on please)**

I was there to hear your borne cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,  
with a faith to suit you well;  
In a blaze of light you wandered off  
to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the Word  
I was there to cheer you on;  
You were raised to praise the living Lord,  
to whom you now belong.  
If you find someone to share your time  
and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
from dusk 'till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,  
not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night,  
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in,  
and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been  
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borne cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.

**COMMISSIONING:**

One: Go into the world as God's beloved children.

**All: We will go to share the gift of grace which flows from God's heart.**

One: Go into the world as sisters and brothers of Jesus.

**All: We will go to bring the light of hope to all in despair.**

One: Go into the world as those filled with the Holy Spirit.

**All: We will go to share the Spirit of Life and Love.**

**BENEDICTION:**

**SUNG BENEDICTION:** *May God's Sheltering Wings (MV 214)*

***May God's sheltering wings,  
God's gathering wings protect you.  
May God's nurturing arms,  
God's cradling arms sustain you,  
And hold you in God's love,  
and hold you in God's love.***

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

## Life and Work – January 10, 2021

**We offer our condolences** to Ross Cook, his children and grandchildren, on the passing of his wife, Nancy Cook, on January 2.

**We also offer our condolences** to Karen & Ted Giannou and family on the passing of their nephew, Timothy. Visitation will be held at Barrett's Funeral Home, 73 Commonwealth Ave. on Sunday, January 10 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Funeral service will be held on Monday, January 11 at 2:00 p.m. from George Street United Church.

**We gratefully acknowledge the following donations** to the Bethany Danielle Pike Memorial Camp Fund in loving memory of Bethany from:

- \* Stephen, Susan, and Rebecca Pike
- \* Dave and Dot Hapgood
- \* Andrea, Rick, Brianna, and Braydon

**We gratefully acknowledge a donation** to the General Fund in loving memory of Jean and Gilbert Inkpen from Gillian Brown.