

Fonthill United Church

January 10, 2021

The Baptism of the Lord



We welcome all who worship with us today.
Whoever you are, whatever your faith journey,
whomever you love, you are welcome here.

Our mission is to be an inclusive community of hope,
offering opportunities for worship, learning and fellowship
which inspire us to follow on the path of Jesus:
loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and
loving our neighbours, as we love ourselves.

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BULLETIN NOTATIONS:

* Indicates to stand in body or spirit, as you are able

VU—Voices United Hymn Book | **MV**—More Voices Hymn Book

Music printed & streamed with permission under CCLI #1293009 & #20808245

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GOOD TO KNOW

MASKS – Face masks must be worn at all times while you are in the church building and sanctuary, including during the entire Sunday worship service. Thank you.

HEARING ASSIST - Personal listening devices are available at the back of the sanctuary for improved sound. Please feel free to ask an usher for a headset.

ACCESSIBILITY - There are reserved handicapped parking spots in the west parking lot, an elevator to access all levels of the church, and a handicapped accessible washroom just past the sanctuary.

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ORDER OF SERVICE

WORSHIP FOCUS: “Chosen”

From each as they choose, to each as they are chosen. - *Robert Nozick*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE (unison)

As we now bring fire to this candlewick, making it glow with Christ’s light, may we also bring the fire of his love to this time of prayer and worship. May this Holy candle send forth dancing rays, like sunrise on the most glorious morning, and may these rays of light, encircle us and those we love. Amen.

HYMN VU 82: "A Light Is Gleaming" (Chorus)

A Light is gleaming, spreading its arms
throughout the night, living in the light.
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love
is burning bright, living in the light.

*** GREETING:**

One: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP: "Choice"

One: We look at the weekly flyers,

All: And carefully choose what we will buy from the items on sale.

One: And yet . . .

All: We come home from shopping with items we never intended to buy.

One: We go to our favourite restaurant,

All: And choose what we want to eat from the menu.

One: And yet . . .

All: We let the waiter convince us to try the special instead.

One: We choose a program at an institution of higher learning,

All: And worry about registering for all the required courses.

One: And yet . . .

All: It is the electives we take that change and challenge us.

One: We plan a career, and apply for jobs in our chosen field,

All: And pick the best from the job offers we receive.

One: And yet . . .

All: The career that ends up rewarding us the most is almost never exactly what we anticipated.

One: We research dog breeders,

All: And make an appointment so that we can choose the pick of the litter.

One: And yet . . .

All: We come home with the runt.

One: We fall in love,

All: And go to the jewellery store to choose a ring.

One: And yet . . .

All: Somehow the ring chooses us.

One: We choose,

All: And we are chosen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

HYMN VU 83: "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"

- 1 Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light,
and usher in the morning;
ye shepherds, shrink not with affright,
but hear the angel's warning.
This child, now born in infancy,
our confidence and joy shall be,
the power of Satan breaking,
our peace eternal making.
- 2 All blessing, thanks and praise to thee,
Lord Jesus Christ, be given:
thou hast our brother deigned to be,
our foes in sunder riven.
O grant us through our day of grace
with constant praise to seek thy face;
grant us ere long in glory
with praises to adore thee.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 1: 1-5 *Reader: Marleene Kretchman*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

SECOND LESSON: Acts 19: 1-7 *Reader: Marleene Kretchman*

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?"

They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?"

They answered, "Into John's baptism."

Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus."

On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And, when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied -- altogether there were about twelve of them.

THIRD LESSON: Mark 1: 4-11 (NRSV) *Reader: Marleene Kretchman*

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

REFLECTION: "The Wind From God"

HYMN VU 74: "What Child Is This"

- 1 What child is this, who laid to rest,
 on Mary's lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
 while shepherds watch are keeping?
 Refrain
 This, this is Christ the King,
 whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 haste, haste to bring him laud,
 the Babe, the Son of Mary!

- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate
 where ox and ass are feeding?
 Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
 the silent Word is pleading. Refrain

- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
 come, one and all, to own him.
 The King of Kings salvation brings;
 let loving hearts enthrone him. Refrain

OUR OFFERING

GREAT PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

We Sing: "Lead Us, God" (VU 662)

Lead us, God, lead us in your righteousness;
Make your way plain before our face.
For it is you, and you, God only,
Who makes us to dwell in safety.

We Pray: *Prayer does not fit us for the greater work: prayer is the greater work. ~Oswald Chambers*

We Sing: "The Lord's Prayer" (VU 959)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen

DISMISSAL

HYMN VU 79: "Arise, Your Light Is Come"

- 1 Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.
- 2 Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.
- 3 Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.
- 4 Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

PARTING HYMN MV 173: "Put Peace into Each Other's Hands" (vs. 5)

Reach out in friendship,
Stay with faith in touch with those around you.
Put peace into each other's hands;
The Peace that sought and found you.

CHORAL AMEN (Danish)

POSTLUDE

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GETTING IN TOUCH WITH FONTHILL UNITED CHURCH

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***Your email and phone messages are welcomed,
and are checked regularly every day.***