

*We express our appreciation for being able to meet on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw People. May we always look for ways to confront past injustices and support Snuneymuxw governance and jurisdiction.*

***Prelude***

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Gathering Hymn: #446 I'm Going On A Journey**

**1 I'm going on a journey, and I'm starting today.**

**My head is wet, and I'm on my way.**

**Christ's mark is on me; it's on you, too;**

**it says he loves me, and he loves you, too!**

**2 I'm becoming this day a saint of God.**

**It really doesn't matter what roads I trod.**

**Wherever I go, God's been there, too.**

**God's love has touched me and will carry me through.**

**3 There are other saints who have said amen.**

**They'll keep me faithful to my journey's end.**

**Along the way I want to be**

**the kind of person that God set free.**

*Text: Kenneth D. Larkin*

*Text © 1994 Amity Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all. **And also with you.**

**This is the Feast** *(Hymnal, Setting 4, pages 149-50)*

*Refrain:*

***This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.***

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,**

**whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**Power and riches and wisdom and strength,**

**and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

*Refrain:*

***This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.***

**Sing with all the people of God**

**and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing and honor and glory and might**

**be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

*Final Refrain:*

***This is the feast of victory for our God,***

***for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.***

***Alleluia. Alleluia.***

**Prayer for the Day**

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Children’s Corner**

**First Reading – Isaiah 43:1-7**

But now thus says the Lord, the One who created you, O Jacob, the One who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, ‘Give them up’, and to the south, ‘Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth — everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.’

*Word of God, word of life.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading – Acts 8:14-17**

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

*Word of God, word of life.*

**Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation*** *(Hymnal Setting Four , page 151)*

***Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?***

***You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia***

**Gospel – Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

*The Gospel according to Luke*

***Glory to you, O Lord.***

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

***Praise to you, O Christ.***

**Sermon Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

*People had been coming down to John the Baptist for a while. At the end of a long day, a man in the crowd, Jesus, stepped forward and was also baptized. People were drying their hair as they walked out of the river. Baptisms were done for the day and they wandered off.*

*Jesus stood with us, joined our lives… and,* s*till wet, he prayed. Thunder rumbled on that cloudy day. Rain threatened. Birds lifted from the trees, and one landed on his shoulder. They looked at each other, and it flew off. Then another rumbling…* ***“Ah! My Son! I love you! You do my heart good!”*** *is what Jesus heard. Travellers on the road wondered at the eerie sound of rolling thunder. Jesus would remember what he heard.*

John had preached a fearful picture of the one coming after him. He would be like a winnower. Whoever was good would be saved, and the rest would be destroyed as useless chaff. However, to John’s great surprise later, Jesus began his ministry and lived a different life forever changing the picture of who God is.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were present in this baptism. Jesus walked off into the wilderness quietly just like we do with the unknowns of our daily lives. But none of us are alone, because baptism drenches with the love of God.

**He was in the crowd**

Jesus joined us for the human journey like getting on a bus with a crowd. Baptism is such a simple event that the words and the water can easily be forgotten. People have been baptized in so many ways: sprinkled, splashed, immersed — men, women and children. There is a moment, and then life goes on.

*It was almost 70 years ago that it happened to me. How could I remember that? My grandparents urged my parents, and they all took me to a United Church in Edmonton, I was baptized, and we never went there again. That happens. It was only when a baptismal certificate surfaced in an old photo album decades later that I heard the story.*

You may have watched baptisms, including your own children. As a pastor I have baptized many people: children and adults in church settings, homes, hospitals; as well as a few men and women in prison. On one occasion, a woman offender asked me if both she and her baby, in the care of her mother, could be baptized in my prison chapel. After much paperwork and warden’s permission, with a security officer present, the grandma and child came in. Mom and child were baptized, there was gladness for God’s promises, and we had coffee. Soon she went back to her cell and her family went home. Two weeks later I did a memorial service for that incarcerated mom who lost her life because of a violent attack at the prison. I often think of her and her child and remember the promise of baptism that *we are beloved* and nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

**Relationship**

Baptism marks a relationship whether we know God is present, trust God, or not. God’s love always begins as a unilateral action. There is nothing we can do to bring God down to us, or schmooze God with our goodness. God comes to love us — like at Christmas, like on the cross, like at the Table. At baptism, God comes: Father, Son, & Holy Spirit. Now what will we do? Our lives are a response.

The baptism of an infant is the perfect expression of unconditional love. What can a baby do for God? She can’t think profound thoughts and he can’t do good deeds. All the little one does is sleep, make shrieky noises with a full diaper and be needy. This one received into the arms of God. Baptism is a means of grace. We grow into it all our lives. We can resist, deny, forget or run away from it. But we cannot be separated from this relentless love at the water.

*It took 20 years,* but *God’s grace got through to me. “You are loved” it announced. This whisper started when I was a baby and accompanied me silently over the years. I was held without knowing it, encouraged without hearing it, and finally, the Spirit reached through a group people who would not give up on me. When the time was right, their welcome entered my life. “God loves you!” they announced. I had wandered far from that water, but through them God found me.*

**There was a promise**

*“You” are God’s beloved* is what Jesus heard. That’s what he also spoke and showed in so many ways. It can seem odd if we haven’t felt loved. It can seem unbelievable when we don’t think we are worth much. For us the message doesn’t come from a rumble in the sky, but in the form of another person. God binds us to one another. We don’t see God, but somehow God is present. We may wonder at God’s fingerprints in life, or sense something spiritual in the faces of those who love us most. A parent, a friend, a compassionate community can embody the message: *You are God’s beloved.*

Baptism marks and drenches us in the love of God. The promise: *You are God’s beloved* echoes to us, and helps us each time we remember it. That’s how Jesus walked the road of life. We are never alone. We are beloved.

**Amen.**

**Hymn of the Day #459 Wade In The Water**

***Refrain***

***Wade in the water, wade in the water, children,***

***wade in the water, God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.***

**1 (See that host all dressed in white,)**

**God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.**

**(the leader looks like the Israelite.)**

**God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain***

**2 (See that band all dressed in red,)**

**God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.**

**(looks like the band that Moses led.)**

**God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain***

**3 (Look over yonder, what do I see?)**

**God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.**

**(the Holy Ghost a-coming on me.)**

**God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain***

**4 (If you don't believe I've been redeemed,)**

**God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.**

**(just follow me down to Jordan's stream.)**

**God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain***

*Text: African American spiritual*

**Affirmation of Baptism** *(ELW Hymnal: pages 234-5, 237)*

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you have made your own by water and Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all forces that defy God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**He is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting.**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God’s faithful people,

to hear the world of God and share in the Lord’s supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**I do, and ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through Water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might , the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and evermore. **Amen.**

*(A reminder of baptism)*

**Prayers of Intercession**

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*(A brief silence)*

You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news. We pray for We pray for **Bishop Kathy Martin;** for the *Evangelical Lutheran Church of Peru* & **President Ofelia Davila;** for the *Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod* & **Bishop Mike Reinhardt**; and *LaCrosse Area Synod, Wisconsin* & **Bishop Felix Malpica** God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. Protect the fire fighters and first responders who battle fire and its terrible effects in California. Be with those suffering the loss of homes and all they had. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and provincial legislators, city and town council officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery, especially…

*Cindy & Elroy; Cynthia C; Judy F; Gary G; Ahmad H & family; Dennis K;*

*Donna K; Don & Vicki; Kari K; Colleen M; Marjorie M; Katja R; Colette S;*

*Pastor Kristen Steele; Colin F; June V-C; Gloria; Susana; Annie; Zack; Sonja; Pastor Diana Edis; the family of Iris Johnsen; family of Alice Heiman;*

*family of Anne Hughes*

Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

**The Peace** [*unmute]*

The peace of Christ is with you always!

**And also with you!**

*(We greet each other gently with a wave, a smile,*

*or some other gesture of peace)*

**The Offering & Offertory**

*(Peace Like a River)*

**Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord is with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise…** *(pastor continues)*

***Holy, holy, holy*** *(Hymnal, Setting 4, page 153)*

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.***

We give you thanks, O God, that you sowed your Word in Jesus, to grow your kingdom here on earth and draw us ever near. Jesus planted mercy wherever he went to reap a greater righteousness. He shared bread with outcasts and sinners and healed the brokenhearted. Glory to you forever.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying: ***Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.***

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: ***This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me***.

Remembering his dying and rising, we bring this bread and wine, and ourselves in grateful service. Pour out your Spirit upon us today. Breathe your Spirit over all creation that together we may cultivate peace in this world. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, by the inspiration of your Life-giving Spirit, we worship you, Creating God, in songs of endless praise now and forever. **Amen.**

**Lord’s Prayer Song**

<https://mixcord.co/acapella/p/CKt_sqf1Cs0VGqvSrwZi-A/>

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

**Hallowed be your name, Hallelujah.**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done,**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth**

**As in heaven, Hallelujah.**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.**

**Give us today our daily bread, give us today our bread,**

**Give us our bread today, Hallelujah.**

**Forgive our sins as we forgive**

**Forgive our sins as we forgive those**

**Who sin against us, Hallelujah.**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.**

**Save us from the time of trial, save us from the trial.**

**Deliver us from evil, Hallelujah.**

**For the kingdom and the power are yours,**

**The kingdom and the power are yours,**

**The glory now and ever, Hallelujah.**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah. Amen.**

**Communion***(those on Zoom will be communed first, and then those in the sanctuary)*

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Happy are those who trust in the Lord.**

**Lamb of God** *(Hymnal, Setting 4, page 154)*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

**Communion Hymns:**

**Hymn #455 Crashing Waters At Creation**

**1 Crashing waters at creation, ordered by the Spirit's breath,**

**first to witness day's beginning from the brightness of night's death:**

**2 Parting water stood and trembled as the captives passed on through,**

**washing off the chains of bondage—channel to a life made new.**

**3 Cleansing water once at Jordan closed around the one foretold,**

**opened to reveal the glory ever new and ever old.**

**4 Living water, never ending, quench the thirst and flood the soul.**

**Wellspring, source of life eternal, drench our dryness, make us whole.**

*Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993*

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**Hymn: Peace Like a River**

*(lyrics: ..****peace like a river; love like an ocean; joy like a fountain..****)*

**Blessing**

The Spirit of the triune God

* bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion,

and send you in love. **Amen.**

**Sending Song**: **Every Time I Feel the Spirit** *(All Creation Sings: #942)*

***Refrain***

***Ev'ry time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.***

***Ev'ry time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.***

**1 Upon the mountain my Lord spoke,**

**out of his mouth came fire and smoke. *Refrain***

**2 All around me looked so fine,**

**asked my Lord if all was mine. *Refrain***

**3 Jordan river, chilly and cold,**

**chills the body but not the soul. *Refrain***

*Text: African American spiritual*

*Go in peace. Remember your baptism.*

***Thanks be to God.***

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Worship Assistants Today

Hymnologist: *John Collett* (musician selecting hymns):

Reader: *Dorothy Pagan*

Intercessions: *Martin Madelung*

Communion Assistants: *Flo Bender, Marilyn Gross, Carolyn Iles*

Zoom Hosts: *Gail, Glenn*

Zoom Greeters: *Dorothy Pagan, Linda Harvey*

Usher: Frieda Kalack

Piano: *John Collett*

Presiding: *Pastor Terry Richardson*

*Readings for Sunday, January 19 — 2nd Sunday after Epiphany*

*Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11*

Announcements:

Jan 14 @ 1:30 pm Tuesday afternoon *Bible Study*

Jan 15 @ 11:45 am *Ministry of Reconciliation Committee*

Jan 15 @ 1:00 pm *Mission and Witness Committee*

Jan 16 @ 9:30 am *Worship & Music Committee*

Jan 16 @ 10:00 am *Hymn Sing* on Zoom

Jan 17 @ 10:30 am *Council Executive* meeting

Jan 18 @ 10:00 am - Noon. *The Leader We Seek* meeting

Jan 18 @ 1:30 pm *Memorial Service* for **Iris Johnsen** at Hope