

Ministry of Music Gathering Song: A Thanksgiving Prayer – words by Nancy Price and Don Besig;
music by Don Besig

Announcements

Welcome

One: On this day of Thanksgiving and in this Season in the Church known as the Season of Creation, we are thankful for the abundance of God's grace bestowed upon us, and in humbleness, we realize the depth of those blessings. (*Elder lights Christ Candle*) We light the Christ candle to remind us that we are not to hide the light of Christ within the walls of a church building, but to take it out into the world so that everyone will know and experience God's love and justice.

One: We light the Peace candle (*Elder lights Peace Candle*) as a reminder that Jesus taught us to live in peace with all Creation. As the congregation of Knox United, we acknowledge that we live, work, worship and play within the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. As those who follow Jesus' path of peace,

All: we commit ourselves to upholding the Treaties of Peace and Friendship so that we will live in a good way with all peoples, the land, the waters, and all of Creation, for we are all treaty people.

One: We light the Affirmation Candle (*Elder lights Affirmation candle*) as a celebration of all the wonderful diversity in which God creates us and calls us good! In this community of faith, we celebrate that all are welcome in this place.

All: All are welcome by God's grace.

*Call to Worship:

One: Thanksgiving.

All: It's not just a moment.

One: Thanksgiving.

All: It's not just a day.

One: Thanksgiving.

All: It's not just a season.

One: Thanksgiving!

All: Is an action, to be lived always, and to be lived all-ways.

One: Thanksgiving!

All: Is an attitude. Is a promise. Is a life.

One: So, let us enter this time

All: Giving thanks to one another, to creation, and to the Creator of All!

One: Come, let us worship God. Let us pray.

Opening Prayer:

All: God-of-All, we have set aside this day of thanksgiving because we sometimes have difficulty remembering to *live* our thanks-giving. We sometimes have difficulty remembering to *be* thanks-giving. So—thank you, for everything!

Open our hearts to realize where thanks need to be given. Open our spirits to share the words. Open our lives to be your love. As disciples of Jesus, we ask this. May it be so. Amen.

Hymn MV 30 It's a Song of Praise to the Maker

Celebration Church

What are you grateful for today? In this Season of Creation, what is it about God's Creation that are you celebrating? Even if it is something small, take a moment to name that gratitude!

The Sacrament of Baptism

Baptism Team Member: In The United Church of Canada, we believe that each child born into the world is already a beloved child of God. Nothing can take that away from any of us.

Believing this, we celebrate the sacred act of baptism through which we recognize the love of God that is already working in a person's life, and we bless the person with the name and love of God and the sign of the cross on their forehead as a reminder that they are now members of Christ's family and are called to live as Christ teaches us to live—loving our neighbours as ourselves, loving kindness, and working for justice in our world.

As such, a person is transformed through this blessing and receives welcome into the family of Christ.

Representative of SOC:

On behalf of the **Congregation of Knox United Church**, I present Megan and Christopher Hunter who desire baptism for their **child Kevin Terrance Hunter**.

Penny: Megan and Christopher, the act of Baptism proclaims that you are loved by God, and that you desire to live as Christ teaches his followers to live. As parents, you make these vows on behalf of Kevin until he can claim these vows for himself. As such, I ask you these questions as a profession of your faith, and the life in which you hope to raise Kevin as your child.

Do you believe in one God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Christopher and Megan: I do, by the grace of God.

Penny: Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ,
do you seek to resist evil, and to live in love and justice?

Christopher and Megan: I will, God being my helper.

Penny: Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ?

Christopher and Megan: I will, God being my helper.

Penny: Will you join
with your siblings in Christ in this congregation (and in Newfoundland)
to share in the life, work, and ministry of Jesus?

Christopher and Megan: I will, God being my helper.

Penny: Will you share your faith with *Kevin*,
growing with *him* in faith, hope, and love?

Christopher and Megan: I will, God being my helper.

To the **Elders** (*Please stand*), As **Sponsors** to this child and his family, do you covenant to give your time and yourselves, sharing your faith stories and life experiences; encouraging this **whole family** to explore a growing experience of God and self? If so, please answer: **We do, God being our helper.**

And this **faith community** (*Please stand*): Do you covenant to receive **this child** and all children under your care, affording them every opportunity to know Jesus Christ and grow in faithful witness to His Saving power? If so, please answer together: **We will, God being our helper.** (*All may be seated*)

Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.
We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Thanksgiving over the Water:

Minister: Lord, bless this water and all that we do in your name, for it is not the words and rituals we share, but the living presence and power of your blessing in our lives that makes baptism a Sacrament of grace and praise. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Penny: What is the name of this child?

Megan and Christopher: Kevin Terrance Hunter.

Penny: **Kevin Terrance Hunter**, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Marking the Sign of the Cross and Laying on of Hands:

Penny: Kevin Terrance Hunter, child of God, from this day forward, you bear the sign of Jesus Christ. And from this day forward, may the Holy Spirit, Love's power, guide you, inspire you, and work within you, all the days of your life. Amen.

Baptismal Song: MV 161 I Have Called You By Your Name v. 1 & 3

Elder/Baptism Team Member: Megan and Christopher, receive this candle lit from the Christ candle. May it be a reminder of God's light that shines within Kevin, and all creation. May the blessing of a shared life of love and light be alive in you today and always. *(give the parents the baptismal candle lit from the Christ candle and the baptismal certificate)*

Elder/Baptism Team Member: Kevin, receive the gift of scripture as a way to learn of the Love that was born as a child like yourself. May you share the story of this day often, that you may know you are loved and embraced come what may. Amen. *(give the parents a Bible)*

Baptismal Hymn: MV 161 I Have Called You By Your Name v.4

Prayer of Illumination

Reader: Gracious God, Source of our beginnings and endings and beginnings again—as the scriptures are opened to us today, open our lives to the Word that comes through them. Help us not just to hear and tell these stories, but to live our lives from their wisdom and truth. All this we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 8:7-18 read by Gardia Voerman

Words of God that are still speaking.

Thanks be to God!

Reflection

Ministry of Music: Give Thanks to the Lord! – *words and music by Travis Boyd*

Invitation to Offering

Offertory: VU 516 Come, You Thankful People, Come

Offertory Prayer:

All: Gracious God, over these past two years we have become more aware of the blessings and the struggles of life, and the ways in which we are all connected to each other and to you. And so, we offer you our time, our talents

and our treasures today as a way of giving thanks for the blessings of life, and to caring for our neighbours both near and far. Bless these gifts for good use and bless us in the giving Way of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: VU 242 Let All Things Now Living

Blessing:

One: As we leave this time together, may you go into your days with gratitude and generosity. May you trust in the God who loves you with an abundant heart, and may you follow in the footsteps of the Son who guides you into gratitude. May you be blessed to be a blessing this day and evermore. Amen.

Parting Song: Go Now in Peace

+Call to Worship adapted from Richard Bott, Dunbar Heights United Church, Vancouver, BC. *The Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2017*, pg. 43; Opening Prayer adapted from Richard Bott, Vancouver, BC. *The Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2020*, pg. 46. Used with permission; Prayer of Illumination written by Rev. Penny Nelson while in the Tatamagouche Pastoral Charge, 2017. Used with permission; Offertory Prayer written by Rev. Penny Nelson while in the Tatamagouche Pastoral Charge, 2020. Used with permission; Blessing written by Rev. Penny Nelson while in the Tatamagouche Pastoral Charge, 2019. Used with permission.