



Westminster United Church

Worship Service for January 13, 2019

Baptism of Christ

Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Helen Reid

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Gathering A/C/E 2018/19 Year C Prayers for Worship*)

One: John turned to the world
of the people of his time upside down;
he called for dramatic change and the people responded.
Is his call coming to us and to our time?

**All: To seek calm within the rush and struggle,
to seek the spirit-life
amongst the getting and spending,
to seek the downtrodden and support them,
to seek compassion where there is hurting.**

One: Are we ready to go down
into the waters of renewal?

John is beckoning. Let us worship God.

(*David Sparks, Summerland, B.C.*)

✠PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE:” **Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven” (VU vs 1)**

OPENING PRAYER: (*Gathering A/C/E 2018/19 Year C Prayers for Worship*)

**All: God, where do we find ourselves
when the Christmas angels disappear
and no longer sing of peace and good will?
When the shepherds go back to their flocks
and the magi return to the east?
Where do we find ourselves now when the Christ Child
has outgrown his manger bed and became a man?
Jesus calls us to join him at the River Jordan,
to be baptized with him
and receive the Holy Spirit.
May we find ourselves at the river, beside Jesus, today to receive all
you have for us. Amen.**

(*Fern Gibbard, for Naramata Community Church, Naramata, B.C.*)

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also you.

One: Let us share a sign of peace with one another

✠OPENING HYMN: **"How Firm a Foundation" (VU 660)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(Gathering A/C/E 2018/19 Year C Prayers for Worship)*

One: Gracious and merciful God, you challenge us to come to you both boldly and humbly. We confess that we sometimes get mixed up about when to be bold and when to be humble. We are your children: the sovereign's kids! We often translate that into an attitude of "Don't mess with us!"

All: When you call us to work for you: when you give us a task in your church: when you place leadership in our hands: we puff up with pride. When we are blessed with wealth, or worldly power, or position, we become arrogant.

One: Forgive us these sins, we pray. Let us learn humility, like John the Baptizer, knowing that we are not worthy even to untie Jesus' shoelaces.

All: Then let us boldly answer your call to repentance and service. As John baptized with water, and Jesus offered the Holy Spirit, let our abundant lives "baptize" your world in love and grace. Amen.

(Carol E. Bayma, Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church, Norfolk, Virginia)

INVITATION TO PRAYER: **"O Great Spirit" (VU 239 vs 1)**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

HYMN: **"The Lord's Prayer" (vu 959)**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 8-14-17

ANTHEM: **"Be Not Afraid"**

GOSPEL OF LUKE 3:15-17,21-22

MEDITATION:

✠HYMN: **"When Jesus Comes to Be Baptized" (VU 100)**

MINUTES FOR MISSION: Multi- Faith Spaces For Students

LIFE AND WORK:

OFFERTORY:

✠DOXOLOGY: **"Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven" (VU 240 vs 1)**

✠DEDICATION: *(Gathering A/C/E 2018/19 Year C Prayers for Worship)*

All: Loving God, when Jesus was baptized, the Spirit came upon him as a dove. We know that the spirit is not a bird and that our offering is not just parchment paper or even money. The dove is a metaphor for so much more than a bird, and our gifts are so much more than just cash. They have the power to enable compassion, inspire justice beyond us, and even enlarge our living, as giving always does. May our offering give wings for flight to any who feel stuck, spirit to any who feel despondent, and hope to any who are despairing.

In the name of Jesus. Amen.

David Lander, Castleton-Grafton P.C., Grafton, Ont.

A NEW CREED: **Spoken (VU 918)**

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table: (*John 6:33-35, 37*)

One: Jesus said: "The bread of God is that which comes down from heaven, and gives life to the world."

All: They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always"

One: He said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,

All: and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

One: And no one who comes to me will I ever drive away."

HYMN: "All Who Hunger" (VU 460)

One: God be with you

All: and also be with you

One: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift our hearts in prayer

One: Let us give thanks to God

All: It is good and right to give God thanks and praise.

One: It is right, and a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to you Mighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

Before the mountains were brought forth or you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting you alone are God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity and made covenant to be our sovereign God. You spoke to us through your prophets, and so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join in saying.

All: Holy, Holy Holy God, power of life and love

Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna through the ages.

Blest is the One who comes to bring your justice to earth.

One: Holy are you and blessed is your firstborn, Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. You sent a star to guide the Magi to where Christ was born, and your signs and witnesses in every age and through all the world have led your people from far places to his light.

All: In his baptism and in his table fellowship he took his place with sinners. Your spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind. To set at liberty those who are oppressed and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people.

By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection you gave birth to your church, you delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

One: On the night before he died, it was Jesus who took a loaf of bread, gave you thanks, broke it and said, Take and eat. Whenever you do this, remember me. Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying drink from this, all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

ALL: We proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

One: Pour out your Spirit on us, gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine, make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honour and glory is yours, One God forever and ever, Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD AND SHARING THE CUP

ONE: The gifts of God for the people of God

RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Merciful God, you have come to us in human form in Jesus our Lord. We have received your goodness through your Spirit in this sacrament. Remind us of what has happened here so that we may be faithful and joyful witnesses of your truth and your mercy. Empower us to live as we have prayed, in your protection and wisdom, through Jesus, the Christ, Amen.

✠CLOSING HYMN: " **I Have Called You By Your Name**" (MV 161 vss 1,2,&4)

✠COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION: (*Gathering A/C/E 2018/19 Year C Prayers for Worship*)

One: Go out as seekers after the truth.

Go out as bearers of light.

Go out as tellers of good news:

you are loved, you are blessed, you are free.

(*Carol E. Bayma, Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church, Norfolk, Virginia*)

✠CHORAL "Amen": (VU 969)

✠SENDING FORTH HYMN: "Break forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" (VU 83 vs 2)

POSTLUDE

Announcements

Help us keep the air we share healthy and fragrance-free. The chemicals used in scented products can make some people sick, especially those with asthma, allergies and other medical conditions. Please do not wear perfume, cologne, aftershave and other fragrances.

The Peace Candle is lit as a reminder to Christians to pray for and work for world peace.

The Annual U.C.W Meeting will be held on January 25th at 1:30 pm at Chinook Village.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on February 24, 2019. A reminder that reports need to be submitted to the church office for inclusion in the 2018 Annual Report.

The 2019 donation envelopes are ready for pick up in the Narthex. Please DO NOT use them for this year 2018. Some numbers had to be changed, so you may have a new number. You can still sign up for PAR (Pre Authorized Remittance) or ask for envelopes. With both these methods, you receive a Charitable Donation Receipt. Thanks. Contact Donna Scharf by e-mail rdscharf@shaw.ca or phone 403-526-1555.

Donations at Coffee Time for January are allocated to the Champion Centre.

Please join us in Memorial Hall for refreshments and fellowship!

Assisting with the Service This Morning

Elder-in-Charge:
Scripture Reader:
Greeters:
Coffee Hosts
Minutes For Mission
Sound
PowerPoint Operator

Jennifer Oster
Allan Olson
John & Elizabeth Sidlick
Wayne and Arlea Harper, Grace Lemon
Melanie Rattai
Hayley McKim
Kathy Nielsen