

Welcome to worship!
Sunday January 10th 2021
Epiphany 2
Baptism of Jesus

*A joint online Zoom worship Service with
Claremont, Fairbank & Goodwood United
Churches & friends.*

Worship Leaders: *Pastor Steven Loweth, DLM & Rev. Lionel Ketola, M Div*

Onelicense # A-723979 CCLI # 11550809

Musicians: From Claremont United Church: Gabrielle Untermann, Jane Plewman, Julia Shatford, Barb Gilbert, Steve May, otherwise known as “The Masked Bandits”.

From Fairbank United Church: Alex Hyunh Do

We Joyfully Gather in God’s Presence

Words of Welcome

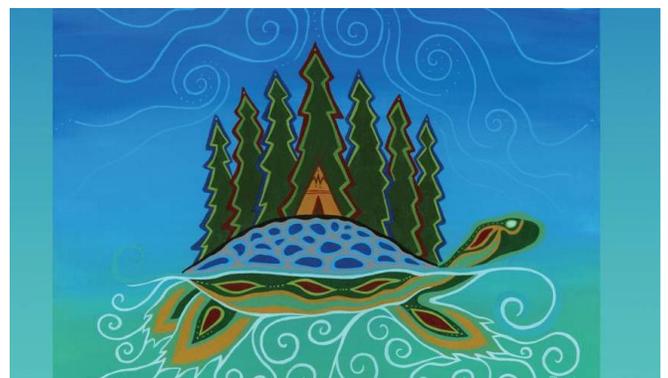
Lighting the Christ Candle

There was a man named Jesus, who brought hope and healing to all he met.
And he said **“I am the light of the World”**.

Acknowledgement of the Land

As we begin our worship, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where each of us are gathered today. We pay my respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island.

God of justice, help us to embody your call to reconciliation with our First Nations in tangible, loving ways. Amen.



Call to Worship

Every day we journey on this earth is a day in which we make choices:

left or right, up or down, in or out, yes or no?

Some choices are simple, and some are very complex,
but one choice informs all the others:

Who are we?

Who will be our God?

Who will we trust to see us through this journey?

As we gather this day around the waters
to remember Jesus' baptism in the Jordan,

may we be remember who we are;

may we know that we are unconditionally held by God's embrace

as we re-affirm the covenant God made with us at our baptism.

Carol: Shall We Gather at the River VU 710

Music: The Masked Bandits

1 Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod;
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain:

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

2 Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown. [Refrain]

3 Soon we'll reach the shining river,
soon our pilgrimage will cease,
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace. [Refrain]

Prayer of the Day

**God of freedom,
your beloved meets us where we are,
immersed in the flow of life.
By Jesus' humility and solidarity
raise us from fear and guilt;
may the arc of the Spirit's flight
make us a people of peace;
through Jesus Christ, the Son of Righteousness. Amen.**

We Open our Hearts to the Spirit's Voice

One: Whether you take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth or story, listen now to these words for the meaning they hold in your lives today.

All: May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder, as we ponder the meaning of these words in our lives.

Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the 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.

³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Acts 19:1-7

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He 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." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul 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." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— ⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection: Rev. Lionel

Scripture Hymn: Like a Healing Stream MV 144

The Holy Gospel According to Mark 1:4-11

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word **Thanks be to God**

Reflection: Pastor Steven

Hymn of the Day: When Jesus Comes to Be Baptized VU 100

**When Jesus comes to be baptized,
he leaves the hidden years behind,
the years of safety and of peace,
to bear the sins of humankind.**

**The Spirit of the Lord comes down,
anoints the Christ to suffering,
to preach the word, to free the bound,
and to the mourner comfort bring.**

**He will not quench the dying flame,
and what is bruised he will not break,
but heal the wound in justice dealt,
and out of death his triumph make.**

**O Spirit help us be like Christ,
to live in love and charity,
to walk in truth and justice now,
and grow in Christian dignity.**

**We praise you, God, source of all life,
we praise you, Christ, eternal Word,
we praise you, Spirit, gracious gift,
your triune presence fills our world.**

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Dear friends in Christ, on this Sunday of the Baptism of Jesus, we remember and renew the promises once spoken at our own baptism -- that time when we were welcomed into the body of Christ and anointed with the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. Let us joyfully affirm our faith before God, renouncing the broken ways of our world and seeking to embrace renewed life in Christ.



Profession of Faith and Promises

Do you believe in God, the Source of Love, in Jesus Christ, God's love made flesh, and in the Holy Spirit, love's power?

I do, by the grace of God

Will you respond with generosity to the love of God, resisting oppression and evil, seeking justice, and witnessing to God's radical love for all of creation?

I will, God being my helper

Will you faithfully follow in the risky and courageous way of Jesus Christ, showing by word and deed that you are a disciple of Jesus?

I will, God being my helper

Will you join together, as a community of faith, to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

I will, God being my helper

Living together in faith and hope, let us affirm our faith together in the words of A New Creed:

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 at the Waters

Loving God, we give you thanks
for the wonder and gift of life.

In the beginning your Spirit brooded over the waters, calling forth diverse new life.
Through the waters of our birth, you called us to be part of an intricate web of creation,
filled with beauty and mystery.

By rivers, lakes, and oceans, you nourish all living things.

You led your people Israel through the waters
to find new freedom from slavery.

In the waters of the Jordan your Child Jesus
was baptized and empowered by the Spirit for his ministry.

Send your Spirit upon us and all that we do,
that we may be strengthened in our discipleship by remembering our baptism.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

*You are invited to remember your baptism by dipping you finger
into a bowl of water and making the sign of the cross on your forehead*

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts:

Loving God,
as Jesus rose from the waters of his baptism
assured of his calling,
may the gifts we offer today
help us live out our calling
to be a people of love and grace for our world. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Called together through water and the word,
We boldly pray for the Church, the World,
and all who long to hear God's voice. **Silence**

Let us pray for those who suffer from illness, loneliness, and pain. **Silence**

Let us pray for the victims of oppression, disaster and violence. **Silence**

Let us pray for the coming of your Reign of justice and peace in the world. **Silence**

Let us give thanks for moments of hope and healing during this time of pandemic. **Silence**

Let us pray for our earth home and all God's beloved creation. **Silence**

Let us pray for those people and places in our world whose needs are close to our hearts at this time ... *prayers of intercession are offered*

Thankful that we can turn to you as to a parent who watches over us, we gather all these prayers and offer them to you as we pray together: **"God, our Mother and Father in heaven....."**

We Go Forth to Love and Serve our Neighbours

Closing Hymn: I Was There to Hear your Borning Cry VU 644

Blessing & Commissioning

Go out into the world in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Pursue justice, grow in faith, and share God's love,
as we live out our baptismal calling.

May the Grace of Christ attend you,
the love of God surround you,
the Holy Spirit keep you, now and always. Amen.

Sung Dismissal: Go Now in Peace

VIDEO

Church Announcements

Weekly Church Programs

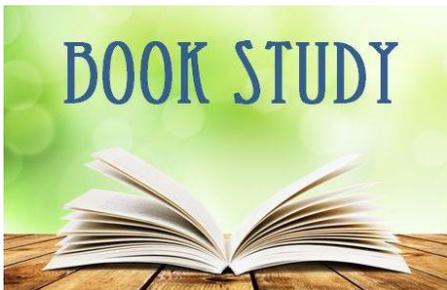
Goodwood United Church & Claremont United Church:

Online Community Check-in: Tuesdays at 10:00 AM, on Zoom. Join us for an opportunity to connect and find supportive community through our regular weekly check-in meetings. At the conclusion of our check-in time, we move into our weekly Bible Study / “Conversations about Life” group. Feel free to join us!

The Knit-Wits: This is **Goodwood United Church’s weekly ZOOM group** for Knitting, crochet and other needle craft. This group leads our congregation’s **Prayer Shawl Ministry**. To find out how to connect with this group on Zoom, contact Shirley Baster.

Claremont United Church:

Wednesdays @ 12:00 noon - Join us for a Zoom “drop-in” meeting. Resumes Wed January 6th. Everyone is invited to join us for these “Virtual Brock Café” Zoom gatherings to connect with our congregational community.



Joint BOOK STUDY GROUP for all 3 Churches & friends: Friday Mornings at 10 AM

Beginning Friday January 8th to Friday Feb 12 we will read:

Unsettling the WORD: Biblical Experiments in Decolonization, Steve Heinrichs Editor.

(Available online through a variety of bookstores).

Lent Book Study (5 weeks)

Beginning the first week in Lent (Friday Feb 19th) we will read:

The Death of Christ for Progressive Christians, by Donald Schmidt.

You can order your copy through: www.woodlakebooks.com

YOUTUBE – Watch worship LIVE, Sunday Mornings at 10:30 am on YOUTUBE, or watch recordings of our Sunday service anytime during the week. See this Link (Fairbank United’s Youtube channel):

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1HPD2ai10bo-qbNaXvNVtw>

Continued Financial Support for our Congregations

Please prayerfully consider how you can continue to support your congregation’s ongoing ministries during this time.

- Offerings can be **mailed to the church address** itself
- **PAR forms** (for pre-authorized debit) are available from your church treasurer
- You can send your offering by **E-TRANSFER** through your online banking. Here is where to send them:

For **Claremont United** send to: treasureruc@outlook.com

For **Goodwood United** send to: goodwoodctreasurer@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued support of our congregation’s ministry.

Find us online!

Check out our websites!

Check out our church websites for **new updates** during this time, including Sunday devotions, and information about coping with stress during COVID-19.

www.claremontunitedchurch.com

www.goodwoodunitedchurch.com



Find us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/goodwoodunited>

<https://www.facebook.com/claremontunited>



PLEASE SHARE THE POSTER BELOW!



**Computer Savvy?
Looking for a
Volunteer opportunity?
Need Co-op / Volunteer
Hours for School?**

**Claremont, Fairbank and Goodwood United Churches
are seeking a**

Geek Squad / Tech Volunteer

to help out with the technical aspects
of our Joint Sunday morning Zoom Worship Services at 11:00 am.

Your time, efforts and skills will help ensure that the
technical aspects of our Zoom Worship Service run smoothly.
Your role could be carried out remotely, from home, if needed.

In return, you would get volunteer hours
& the satisfaction of knowing you made a difference!
Knowledge of MS Word, PPT, and Zoom would be helpful.

Interested? Get in touch!

Contact Rev. Lionel Ketola at: lionelketola@gmail.com

Church phone: 905 649 1363