

Gathering Song: MV 156 Dance with the Spirit

Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle and Peace Candle

Welcome to the season of Easter, to the season of resurrection promises and glimpses! We gather this morning in the presence of the risen Christ, whose love and peace gives light to our paths and hope to our days! In the light of our Christ candle, the joy of our hearts is rekindled this day.

And we gather this day in the light of our Peace Candle for, through his life, Christ taught us to live in peace with all Creation.

As the congregation of Knox United, we acknowledge that the land on which we live, work, and play continues to be the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw people.

As we celebrate renewal and resurrection this day, may we strive for reconciliation and renewal in our lives, for we are all Treaty People.

Lighting of the Affirmation Candle

One: In Christ's presence, we have also lit the Affirmation Candle, and we give thanks for all the diversity in which God creates us and calls us good! In this community of faith, we celebrate that:

Welcome

All are welcome in this place.

All are welcome by God's grace.

Call to Worship

One: Living and moving and being between two worlds

All: in a space where the old is no longer and the new is not yet,

One: hearing the Deep sigh in awe of its own sacred possibility,

All: we exhale.

One: And we wait. Listening

All: In faith.

One: And just as dusk hushes the sounds of day and ushers in the soft stillness of night,

All: so Dawn sings light through the dark, filling the sigh with the promise of life.

One: And somewhere between the Deep sighing and the Dawn singing,

All: we draw in a fresh clean breath and take our next first step in the Rising of new life.

One: Come, all who are gathered here. Let us draw in a breath, exhale, and worship God. Let us pray.

Opening Prayer

All: Gracious God, you know how often we spend staring at our shoes, pretending to ignore the world around us. And you know how often we stare at the sky, wondering where you are. Help us this morning to trust that you are with us in every moment of every day, come what may. Send your Spirit upon us now to ignite our hearts with a passion for you, for our neighbours, and your world. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who is with us now and always. Amen.

Hymn: VU 189 Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise vv.1-4

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 Jade Baird and Sara Worthen who desire baptism for their **child Brielle Marie Worthen**.

Penny: the act of Baptism proclaims that you believe you are called to live as Christ teaches us to live. And so, I now ask you these questions as a profession of your faith: Do you believe in God, Source of love; in Jesus Christ, love incarnate; and in the Holy Spirit, love's power.

Sara and Jade: I do, by the grace of God.

Penny: Will you encourage your child to learn from the wisdom of the prophets; doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with their God?

Sara and Jade: I will, God being my helper.

Penny: Will you foster for your child an appreciation for the life and teachings of Jesus?

Sara and Jade: I will, God being my helper.

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

Sara and Jade: I will, God being my helper.

Penny: In baptism, Brielle takes an important step on her own faith journey. Will you share your faith with Brielle, growing with her in faith, hope, and love?

Sara, Jade, and Godparent: I will, God being my helper.

To the Elders (*Please stand*), As **Sponsors** to this child and her 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

Minister: What is the name of this child?

Sara and Jade: Brielle Marie Worthen

Minister: **Brielle Marie Worthen**, 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:

Minister: Brielle Marie Worthen, 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

Elder/Baptism Team Member: Jade and Sara, receive this candle lit from the Christ candle. May it be a reminder of God's light that shines within Brielle, 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: Brielle, 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)*

Prayer of Illumination

Reader: God of our living, our dying, and our rising again—be present to us as we tell and hear the stories of Easter. As we receive this story, may it so work in our hearts and minds that our lives will reflect resurrection wherever we go. All this we pray in the name of your Son, the Risen Christ. Amen.

Scriptures:

Acts 1:1-11

-read by Lynne Stewart

Words of God that are still speaking.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection:

- Rev. Penny Nelson

Offering Invitation

Ministry of Music: Our Song Shall Rise

****Offertory Response-** VU 315 v.4 Holy, Holy, Holy

**** Offering Dedication:**

All: Loving God, this morning, we give you the gifts of our life: our time and our talents, our wounds and our waiting. Take them and transform them, we pray, so that your healing work may be done here in Sackville, and around the world. This we pray, in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Prayers of the People

One: In our prayers, let us give thanks for the gifts of God, and pray for those who live and work in God's world, saying:

All: we give you thanks, blessed Spirit.

One: For the beauty of the Earth and cosmos,
for the goodness within the human heart,
for all that is keeping us grounded in this time of isolation,
let us give thanks:

All: we give you thanks, blessed Spirit.

One: For all those who work for healing,
for ecologists and researchers,
for doctors and nurses,
for family and friends,
let us give thanks:

All: we give you thanks, blessed Spirit.

One: For all those who learn and teach,
for parents and children,
for wisdom and knowledge and guidance,
let us give thanks:

All: We give you thanks, blessed Spirit.

One: For those who struggle for liberation and justice,
for those who risk their lives for others,
for all who bear witness to the way of Christ,
let us give thanks:

All: we give you thanks, blessed Spirit.

One: Loving God, we offer you all these prayers, and the all prayers that have been on our hearts this week, through the words that Jesus has taught us to pray, for you are like Our Mother and Our Father...

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: VU 352 The Lord of the Dance (I Danced in the Morning)

****Blessing:**

One: As you go into your days, may you know that you are not alone. May you feel the strong presence of God with you; the presence of promises still waiting to be fulfilled; and the presence and love of this community, watching over you, holding you up, breathing with you and blessing you. Thanks be to God for this promise! Amen.

****Parting Song:** VU 422 God Be With You 'til We Meet Again vv.1-2

OUR MISSION

TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

BY LIVING THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS:

showing mercy,
promoting justice,
offering forgiveness,
acceptance, and hope.

Our Vision...

We, the congregation of Knox United Church, publicly proclaim our commitment to become an open and welcoming community of faith. We declare that we welcome everyone regardless of age, race, ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Everyone is welcome here.

Through the process of honouring diversity and challenging injustice with those who bear the weight of discrimination, we commit ourselves to openness, growth, education, love, and acceptance.

Christ's Disciples in Ministry: Everyone
Minister of Worship, Outreach and Faith Formation: Rev. Penny Nelson
Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. Kym Burke
Minister of Music & Dramatic Arts: John Lindsay-Botten
Church School Superintendent: Lynne Stewart
Youth Group: James O'Connell
Pastoral Care: Olive McIlldoon & Judy Hayes

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