

HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, JANUARY 10th, 2021

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REGIONAL COUNCIL PRAYER CYCLE

Erindale

"I Have Called You by Your Name... You are Mine", God."

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our God is a God of power and strength!
God has created each of us with tender care.
Our God is a God of majesty and awe!
God walks with each of us every step of the way.
Our God is a God of glory and wonder!
God loves each of us with tenderness and passion.
Our God calls us each by name.
God's love permeates even the deepest darkness.
The light of God shines on us with new hope.
God calls each of us to unite in worship together!

OPENING HYMN: #381 Spirit of Life

Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion,
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free:
Spirit of life, come to me, come to me.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God of glory and majesty, you have called us by name.
We pray in this moment for the courage and the strength
to answer your call. As we open our ears

to hear the story of your Son's baptism, open our hearts also,
that we may experience again the renewing power of rebirth
in the Holy Spirit. Inspire us in this time of worship,
that we may claim our own identity as your beloved children.
We pray in the name of our brother, Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S HYMN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, source of all that is good, we gather before you seeking your
grace and love.

**Be present in our lives. Fill us with your light. Be generous with
your love. Count us among your children. Be compassionate toward
our mistakes. Forgive our failings. Be gracious with your power.
Strengthen us for your service.**

We ask these things through the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, who
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:4-11
New International Version

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a
baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean
countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing
their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore
clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and
he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: "After me
comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am
not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with^[a] water, but he
will baptize you with^[b] the Holy Spirit."

The Baptism and Testing of Jesus

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by
John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he
saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a

dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

MESSAGE

Here we are in January 2021. Well, you know everyone has been saying they hope once 2020 is over things will get better. That has been my hope and prayer but it's been quite the week for the community of Hagersville and for my congregations.

Which brings us to today, as I was thinking what I was going to reflect on in my message and reflecting on the scripture pertaining to the baptism of Jesus, I was thinking of all of us... you and me. Many of us were baptized as infants, our parents made promises to uphold a foundation of faith, hope and love in our childhood years, help us to understand who Jesus and God are and instill in us values of a Christian life.

Now we come to Jesus, Jesus wasn't baptized as a child he was brought to the temple and he where he was blessed. Luke 2:22 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. 23. As it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord” From that point on Jesus was raised by two parents that instilled the knowledge of the Torah and Jewish values in him. When the time came for him to start on a totally different journey in his life ... not following in the footsteps of his earthy father who had taught him carpentry and which practiced until this time. The time came to follow the call of God his father in heaven and he followed and listened to that call which brought him to the Jordan River and to his Cousin John.

His baptism was stating to all who witnessed Jesus coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” This marked the beginning of a journey of Ministry, of healing, of Miracles that brings us to this place today.

After spending time with the Harnett family and sharing and hearing stories and knowing who Andrew was, where his faith had taken him and leaving this earthly life... God said to him well done my good and faithful servant. And when Joy saw the light of Heaven and entered in, Jesus did the same for her embracing her saying well done my good and faithful servant.

You know whether you're baptized as an infant, whether you're re-baptized as a young adult, or whether you're re-baptized because you want to proclaim your faith in God... and know some adults that were ... God walks with you regardless. It's the people around you, your parents your grandparents, aunts and uncles, teachers, Sunday school teachers' other members of the congregation, neighbours, mentors or colleagues that show us the way to live a life like Jesus Christ. Today I have leave each and everyone of you with the words of baptism. I baptize you in the name of the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit may you walk in the light of Christ all the days of your life. Amen

HYMN: #644 I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry

I was there to hear your boring cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off, to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk 'till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in, and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Your word of light and hope floods into our lives, O God. We have lived in darkness, in despair and fear, doubt and strife. But on this day of celebration, you remind us that we are marked by you to be witnesses to your light of new hope. As the heavens opened at Jesus' baptism, so is your love poured out on us. Today we uplift the Harnett Family and the Johnson Family. Andrew was loved by his family and the communities in which he was a part of. Joy, was an example of faith to all of us. May she watch over us from heaven above. Also, we uplift the names and situations which concern us, people who face illness and grief, whose lives are torn by poverty, war, alienation, addiction, and hopelessness. We ask for your loving mercy on them, O Lord. Heal them and bind up their wounds. Help us to be people who are ready to be involved in ministries of peace and justice, bringing the light of your hope to those who dwell in darkness and despair. We ask this in Jesus' Name, AMEN.

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #506 Take My Life and Let It Be

1 Take my life and let it be consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love,
take my feet, and let them be swift and purposeful for thee.

3 Take my lips, and let them be, filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.

4 Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

5 Take my love: and I will pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

SENDING FORTH

Go forth joyfully. God is with you. Bring peace and hope to all you meet. And may God's eternal love shine through you always.
Amen

CHORAL AMEN

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The Presbyterian Church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrels. After much prayer and consideration, they determined the squirrels were predestined to be there and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

At the Baptist Church, the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistery. The Elders met and decided to put a water slide on the baptistery and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The United Church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist Church. Two weeks later the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water slide

But the Catholic Church came up with a very creative strategy. They baptized all the squirrels and consecrated them as members of the church. Now they only see them on Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard from the Jewish Synagogue, but it's rumored that they took one squirrel and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel on their property since.