

**October 25, 2020 LIVE WORSHIP
ST. PAUL'S United Church**

CONFIRMATION/ ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome/ Land Acknowledgement

Celebrations

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship:

Hymn: Will You Come and follow Me VU567

1. Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?
2. Will you leave your self behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare,
will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?
3. Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?

Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

4. Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?
5. Christ, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

Opening Prayer/ Lord's Prayer

Scripture: Matthew 5:14-16 (The Message)

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, who is generous.

For the Word of God in Scripture, among us and within us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Music/Solo: Doug and Derek

Reflection: "Now what?"

Hymn: "We Have This Ministry" **VU510**

1. We have this ministry and we are not discouraged;
it is by God's own power that we may live and serve.
Openly we share God's word, speaking truth as we believe,
praying that the shadowed world may healing light receive.
We have this ministry, O God, receive our living.
2. O Christ, the tree of life, our end and our beginning,
we grow to fullest flower when rooted in your love.
Brothers, sisters, clergy, lay, called to service by your grace,
different cultures, different gifts, the young and old a place.
We have this ministry, O God receive our giving.
3. The yoke of Christ is ours, the whole world is our parish,
we daily take the cross, the burden and the joy.
Bearing hurts of those we serve, wounded, bruised and bowed
with pain,
Holy Spirit, bread and wine, we die and rise again.
We have this ministry, O God receive our loving.

Gratitude for the Offering

Offering Prayer

Confirmation:

"Every morning in your life the same prayer will be necessary. 'I believe, dear Lord, help my unbelief.' Today, when the Christian congregation acknowledges you as members of the church, it expects that you begin to understand that your faith must be your very own individual decision. The 'we believe' must now grow more and more into an 'I believe.' Faith is a decision. We cannot avoid that." ~Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Confirmation Sermon, 1938

Presentation of Candidates *(Isabel)*

On behalf of the congregation of St. Paul's United Church Bowmanville, I present the following individuals who seek to renew the faith proclaimed in their baptism:

Bethany Ann Tomkins

Jessica Elizabeth Robinson

Rebecca Fry

Today we are here to reaffirm the power of the Holy Spirit and to celebrate the place of Bethany, Jessica and Rebecca in the people of God. Before we do that, I want to take a moment to share a little about each of them. I asked them to answer a few questions.

Hymn: "I Have Called You by Your Name" MV161

1. I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you;
all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

Bethany is the daughter of Cameron and Erinne and the older sister of Nathaniel. In her spare time Bethany likes to read or watch a show. She appreciates that St. Paul's is very inclusive church and allows everyone to come and be themselves. In 10 years, Bethany would love to see St. Paul's have a bigger crowd in the sanctuary.

And a crazy fact that no one else knows about Bethany is that she has an ability to recall the majority of information from books months after she has read the book!!!!

Hymn: "I Have Called You by Your Name" MV161

2. I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name,
speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body, given long ago.

Jessica is the daughter of Adam and Erin. She is the older sister to Sydney and Mac. Jessica loves to sing and act.

St. Paul's is like a second family for Jessica. The people are very welcoming and there have been so many cool experiences that she has been able to participate in over the years. In 10 years, Jessica hopes that St. Paul's will continue to do youth friendly services and offer opportunities for young people to get involved.

And a crazy fact that no one knows about Jessica is that she can sing in 4 different languages and she talks to herself when SHE THINKS she's alone.

Hymn: "I Have Called You by Your Name" MV161

3. I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out,
choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

Rebecca is the only daughter of Neil and Rayna Fry but is blessed to have special cousins, especially Julia and Anthony.

In Rebecca's spare time she and her mom love to sing Queen songs in the car while going out and playing soccer whether with Rebecca's team or with her friends.

Rebecca also loves to bake and is starting to take an interest in cooking. Her mom has added that Rebecca loves all things iPhone - Snapchat, Instagram, FaceTime, YouTube and Netflix!

Rebecca's favourite thing about St Paul's is that no matter who you are or where you come from you will always be welcomed with a smile.

In ten years, Rebecca see our church still having the option to stream services so that if people cannot come due to injuries, disabilities or even if you might not feel like going out one day, you still have access to services in our church. She also sees the youth in the church continuing to be there to support the church by participating in Sunday school and VBS.

And something that nobody knows about Rebecca, is that her favourite type of music is country because every time her friends ask or speak about how out dated country is she simply geso along with it so she don't sound old!!!

Hymn: "I Have Called You by Your Name" MV161

4. I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul,
make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

Bethany, Jessica and Rebecca, do you believe in God who has created and is creating, who has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new, who works in us and others by the Spirit?

I do, by the grace of God.

Will you follow in the way of Jesus the Christ, resisting oppression and evil, seeking justice, and witnessing to God's love for all creation?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you follow the way of Jesus?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you promise to support this congregation with your time, talent, and prayers, participating regularly in the worship, community and fellowship, as well as sharing in the work of this community of faith and contributing to its life in this city and beyond?

I will, by the grace of God.

With your love, God will love.

With your hands, God will touch the city.

With your lives, God will bring justice and compassion to the world.

To the congregation,

Will you continue to support, walk with, and grow with Bethany, Jessica and Rebecca? Will you live out your baptism as a loving community in Jesus Christ, nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer, encouraging one another in God's work?

We will, God being our helper.

In the United Church of Canada, we have statements that capture the essence of what it is we believe. We have the words of the 20 Articles of doctrine that were established in 1925, as the Basis of the Union of the Methodist Church, a segment of the Presbyterian Church of Canada and the Congregationalist Church. In 1940 this statement was amplified and in 1968, A New Creed was adopted and in 2006, The Song of Faith, a verbal picture of what the United Church understands its faith to be in our early 21st-century context was created.

Today we say together the words of A New Creed that we might reaffirm as a Community of Faith our baptismal faith.

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.

The Act of the Renewal of Baptismal Faith

Bethany, the power of the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may continue to be a faithful witness of Jesus the Christ.
Amen.

Jessica, the power of the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may continue to be a faithful witness of Jesus the Christ.
Amen.

Rebecca, the power of the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may continue to be a faithful witness of Jesus the Christ.
Amen.

As our Scripture passage reminds us today, Jesus is the light of the world, the light that the deepest night has never overcome. Bethany, Jessica and Rebecca, you have chosen to hold the light of faith. Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to God.

Bethany, Jessica and Rebecca, receive this Bible and with each one of us in Christ, continue to grow in faith, trusting in God's promises.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, giver of life, you have called us by name, and pledge to each of us your faithful love. We pray today for your blessing on Bethany, Jessica and Rebecca, fill them with your Spirit, guide them and cradle them in the palm of your hand as they continue to grow in faith. Remind us of the promises of our own baptism and renew our trust in you. Strengthen us to do your will, and to serve you with joy, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Go into the world in the power of the Spirit. Pursue justice, faith, love, patience and humility, for to this you were called.
Amen.

Hymn: "I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry" VU644

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.

Prayers of the People

Benediction

Shalom

Shalom to you my friend

Shalom until we meet again

The word “shalom” means peace, hello and good-bye

so sing shalom, shalom

Shalom to you my friend

Shalom until we meet again

The word “shalom” means peace, hello and good-bye

so sing shalom, shalom

When we join our hands across the lands

we'll hear neighbours and brothers, old friends and other

singing shalom to you my friend,

shalom until we meet again.

Shalom to you my friend

Shalom until we meet again

The word “shalom” means peace, hello and good-bye

so sing shalom, shalom

so sing shalom, shalom