



St. Thomas United Church
Open Hands – Open Hearts – Open Minds

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Sunday, May 7, 2017, 10:00am
Theme: Glad and Generous Hearts

✠ indicates stand as you are able
Bold indicates participation by the people

MV = More Voices
VU = Voices United

We Gather With

PRELUDE: *Kari Orosz – Crazy World – by Henry Mancini*

WELCOME to our Livestream Worship Service

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREATY 7 LAND

GREETING ONE ANOTHER & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A wicker prayer basket will be sent around. If you have a prayer, please print clearly on a prayer slip, place your prayer in the wicker basket, and pass the basket along.

INTROIT: *This Is the Day*

MV#122

CHRIST CANDLE & SILENCE

Candle Lighter: Rhoen Berko

CALL TO WORSHIP: **(Responsive)** *Barb Cousens*

We gather in the love of God to worship, hoping to find some new way of knowing our God.

We come seeking you, O God

We gather in the love and fellowship of one another, offering our friendship, care, and support, ready to serve.

We come seeking you, O Jesus

We gather in awe of a holy, loving presence, yearning for an experience beyond ourselves.

We come seeking you, Holy Spirit

We come now, worship and experience the Holy alive in the presence of God, working in Christ Jesus and living in the mystery of the Holy Spirit.

Heather McClure, Wesley UC, Montreal, Quebec

OPENING PRAYER: **(Unison)** *Keith Campbell*

Loving God, your desire for us calls us and equips us. Your love for us gifts us and encourages us. Far deeper than any regret of ours is the pervasive love with which you hold us. Anoint us in the vocation of healing and hospitality and bless us with fervour that our life's journey would stand as witness to your boundless gift in us. Amen

Daryl Webber, Lowville Nelson United Ministries, Burlington, ON

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Children's Choir – Umbrella – by Shawn Carter, Thaddis Harrell, Christopher Stewart, & Terius Nash*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM: *Theodore Justin Quennell, son of Tannis and Justin Quennell*

✠HYMN: *Come In, Come In and Sit Down*

VU#395

SCRIPTURE: *Romans 12:6-20 Good News Version*
Scripture Reader: Bill Cousens

Affirmation:

One: This is the witness of The Church,

Many: thanks be to God!

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Adult Choir – Sisi Ni Moja – by Jacob Narverud; Dick Worton on drum*

(Children and Youth are invited to join their leaders at one of the entrances to the Sanctuary)

THE MESSAGE: "One Anothering"

✠HYMN: *When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides*

MV#169

MINUTE FOR ST. THOMAS: *Ask Me Ministry – Sherrill Knight*

INVITATION TO OPEN HANDS

OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN HANDS

with our Offerings & Prayers.

†OFFERTORY: *Grateful (chorus only)*

MV#182

†OFFERTORY PRAYER: (*Unison*)

We bring what we have, O God. We know there are many around us who are in need, and while we cannot do everything, we know that you can take what we offer and use it to make a difference. So take these gifts, brought with glad and generous hearts, and use them for your work. Amen

CALL TO PRAYER: *Now the Green Blade Rises (v1)*

VU#186

PASTORAL PRAYERS (Leader)

PRAYER OF JESUS (*David Gray*)

†COMMISSIONING and BENEDECTION: (*Responsive*)

Go from here as sisters and brothers; siblings in Christ;

we will go to support and comfort one another;

go, challenge and encourage one another;

we will surprise one another with our concern;

go, and respond to one another's need with compassion;

we go, working together to build up those who have been torn down.

HYMN: *Draw the Circle Wide*

MV#145

POSTLUDE

Participating in worship leadership today: Rev. Tracy Robertson, Kari Orosz, The Adult Choir, The Children's Choir, Jeff McLean, Lynn & John McCrea, Roger Anderson, Barb & Bill Cousens, Rhoen Berko, Jan & Keith Campbell, Nancy Rehder, Kirsten Carr, Ryan Sanderson, Sherrill Knight, David Gray, Mark Wagner, Dick Worton, Maxine Mendritzki, Cathy Rivard, Erin MacLean-Berko.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Introduction (*Worship Committee Representative*)

Following the tradition of Jesus who welcomed children into his community, we celebrate the presence of children within this community of faith and offer to children the sacrament of baptism.

As we invite Theodore Justin Quennell and his parents, Tannis and Justin, to come forward to celebrate the sacrament of baptism, we acknowledge the religious traditions they bring with them. Finding a path between the traditions of infant baptism and the personal professions of faith belonging to all those who touch and influence Theodore's life, affords a unique opportunity to understand one another and God.

Questions of the Parents/Family

Do you desire to have your child baptized into this Christian community of St. Thomas United Church?

Will you encourage your child to learn from the wisdom of those who came before him and us all; doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with his God?

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

Will you teach your child to honour the diverse faith questions that belong to him throughout his life?

Will you journey with your child to discover the wonder of God's love made manifest here this day and to be part of a faith community?

Congregational Assent

Jesus calls us to welcome everyone into the full life of our community, living out the belief we are all accepted by God. We only need to accept that we are accepted.

All: So, we, the members of God's beloved community, proclaim that same witness. Theodore, the same God who has claimed every person as a beloved child, also proclaims that you are a beloved child.

As a community, do you vow to support them in their promises?

All: We do, with the help of God. We also promise to walk with Theodore on his spiritual journey. On this holy adventure with God, we will celebrate our beloved kinship, live out God's vision for the world, and embody God's Kin-dom.

Affirmation of Faith

A New Creed (United Church of Canada, 1968)

**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 and the Pouring of Water

All: Gracious and Holy God,
we thank you for the gift of life, and, within it, the gift of water.
Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do,
that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ,
in whose name we pray.
Amen.

Pouring of the water

Listen to its free-flowing powers;
Listen to its releasing powers;
Listen to its welcoming powers.

The Act of Baptism

Theodore Justin Quennell,
you are baptized,
in the name of God, Creator of us all
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Blessing

May the blessing of the one God,
Mother and Father of us all,
be with you today and always.
Amen.

Marking with the Sign of the Cross

Theodore Justin Quennell,
Child of God

You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit
and are marked by the cross of Christ forever.

Amen

Laying On of Hands

May the power of the Holy Spirit work within you,
that being born of water and the Spirit,
you may be a faithful witness of the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

All: Theodore, you are a beloved child of God, with whom God is well pleased. Amen!