



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

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Sunday, September 11, 2016, 10:00am

Theme: Growing in God's Love

✠ indicates stand as you are able

MV = More Voices

Bold indicates participation by the people

VU = Voices United

We Gather With

PRELUDE: *Kari Orosz – All Creatures of Our God and King*

– arr. *Larry Shackley*

WELCOME, SPIRIT LINES, GREETING ONE ANOTHER

(Please feel free to move around)

INTROIT: *This Is the Day (Projected)*

MV#122

CHRIST CANDLE & SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Responsive, Projected)*

Leader: O God, open our eyes that we may see the needs of others;

Many: open our ears that we may hear their cries;

Leader: open our hearts that we may feel their anguish and their joy.

Many: Let us not be afraid to defend the oppressed, the poor, the powerless, because of the anger and might of the powerful.

Leader: Show us where love and hope and faith are needed, and use us to bring them to those places.

Many: As we join together in worship, open our ears and eyes, our hearts and lives, that we may in these coming days be able to do some work of justice and peace for you.

OPENING PRAYER: *(Unison, Projected)*

Grant us, O God, a vision of your world as your love would have it: a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or are poor;

a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can

enjoy them;
a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect;
a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.
Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, in and through Jesus Christ. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM – *Please see insert. Damon Jennissen, son of Heather Black & Justin Jennissen; Sofia Gutierrez, daughter of Carrie Black*

✠HYMN: *Draw the Circle Wide (Projected)*

MV#145

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

Open Minds

SCRIPTURE: *1 Timothy 1:12-17 (NRSV)*

Scripture Reader: John Robertson

Affirmation:

One: This is the witness of The Church,
Many: thanks be to God!

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Adult Choir – Come Build a Church*

- Medema

THE MESSAGE: *The Uganda Team*

Open Hands

✠HYMN: *Who Is My Mother (Projected)*

MV#178

INVITATION TO OPEN HANDS

OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN HANDS

with our Tithes, Offerings, & Prayers.

(Please print clearly and place your Prayer Slips in the Prayer Baskets.)

✠OFFERTORY: *What Can I Do? (Projected)*

MV#191

✠OFFERTORY PRAYER: (*Unison, Projected*)

O God, as you seek out those who are lost and lonely, find us. As we live in your loving presence, lead us to joy and freedom for ourselves and all of creation. May the good news of your church in action: for justice and reconciliation; for peace and wholeness; for open hearts, minds, and hands; inspire others to acts of ministry in our community and around the world. May these offerings be but the first step in that bold proclamation of growing in your love. Amen.

CALL TO PRAYER: *Where Two or Three Are Gathered (Projected)*

MV#14

PASTORAL PRAYERS & PRAYER OF JESUS

Open Hearts to Each Other and the World

✠COMMISSIONING and BENEDICTION: (*Leader*)

✠HYMN: *Go, Make a Difference (Projected)*

MV#209

POSTLUDE

Participating in worship leadership today: Rev. Bob Fillier, Rev. Tracy Robertson, Kari Orosz, The Adult Choir, John Robertson, The Mission & Outreach Committee, Kimberley Kavanagh, Kristin Raugust, Brian Shewan, Diane Paley, Mark Wagner, Deyelle MacDonald, Sherrill Knight, Linda Miller.

*The Sacrament of
Holy Baptism*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Introduction

At St. Thomas United Church, we follow the tradition of Jesus who welcomed children into his community. We celebrate the presence of children within this church community and offer to them the sacrament of baptism. We also affirm each child's uniqueness and look forward to journeying with them as they develop their full Christian potential.

As we invite Sofia Gutierrez and Damon Jennissen and their parents 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 profession of faith at confirmation in The United Church of Canada affords a unique opportunity to identify the particular faith being expressed here this day.

Questions of the Parents/Family

Do you desire to have your children baptized into this Christian community?

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

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

Will you teach your children to honour the faith questions that belong to them throughout their life?

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

Congregational Assent

Jesus calls us to welcome children into the full life of our community, opening our table and hearts to those most vulnerable, offering the wisdom of the ages to all who hunger for truth.

The gospels testify that all people are invited to accept God, the God who has already accepted us. We only need to accept that we are accepted.

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

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

All: We do, with the help of God. We also promise to walk with Sofia and Damon on their spiritual journeys. 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.

Baptismal Prayer

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation made known to us in water and word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. In the time of Moses, your people of Israel passed through the Red Sea from slavery into freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the Promised Land. You have come to us through water in the stories of Jesus who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb, baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, and became living water to a woman Samaritan at the well. Jesus washed the feet of the disciples and sent them forth to baptize with water and spirit. Bless, by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. Bless all who touch and taste this water that they may be ever reminded of your abiding presence and claim on their lives. Amen.

Baptism

One: Sofia and Damon, we baptize you in the name of Jesus Christ, the One who reveals the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The God of new life, new hope, and new creation. The God of love, justice, and mutuality shown to us in Jesus, and the Spirit of God who is in your past, present, and future. Amen!

All: Sofia and Damon, you are beloved children of God, with whom God is well pleased. Amen!