



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

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**Sunday, January 22, 2017, 10:00am**  
**Theme: A Call to Follow**

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

**MV** = More Voices  
**VU** = Voices United

### **We Gather With**

PRELUDE: *Kari Orosz: Outer Hebrides – by Paul Halley*

WELCOME to our Livestream Worship Service

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREATY 7 LAND

ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETING ONE ANOTHER

*(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: *I Am the Light of the World (v.1)*

**VU#87**

CHRIST CANDLE & SILENCE – Karen Kotkas

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Responsive)*

As he walked by a lake, Jesus called fishers to follow him.

**And immediately, immediately! they left their work and went with him.**

As Jesus journeys through our lives, he asks us to follow him.

**In this moment, this moment! we have the chance to leave the past behind, and pursue Christ into God's future.**

As Jesus wanders in our world, he invites others to join in.

**We would join Jesus in this ministry, reaching out to our neighbours, without delay, without delay!**

OPENING PRAYER: *(Leader)*

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Children's Choir*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM – *Please see insert*  
*Noah Freake, son of Laura and Michael Freake*

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

✠HYMN: *Dance with the Spirit*

**MV#156**

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 4:12-23 *(NRSV)*

*Scripture Reader: Diane Paley*

***Affirmation:***

One: This is the witness of The Church,

**Many: thanks be to God!**

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Adult Choir – Make My Life an Alleluia*  
*– by Schram*

THE MESSAGE: *'Go' to 'Come'*

✠HYMN: *Take My Life and Let It Be*

**VU#506**

MINUTE FOR ST. THOMAS: *M.O.S.T*

INVITATION TO OPEN HANDS

OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN HANDS

with our Offerings & Prayers.

✠OFFERTORY: *We Give You But Your Own (Projected)*

**VU#542**

✠OFFERTORY PRAYER: *(Unison, Projected)*

**We are called to follow, yet are often slow to respond, God of grace.  
We are blessed with more than we ever need or can ever use, yet we  
are reluctant to part with even a portion of this abundance. As we  
offer our gifts to you, remind us that learning generosity is part of**

**our call to follow the One who models your gracious nature in every word, every gesture, every day. Amen.**

CALL TO PRAYER: *Bathe Me in Your Light (v.1) (Projected)*      **MV#82**

PASTORAL PRAYERS & PRAYER OF JESUS (*Unison, Projected*)

‡COMMISSIONING & BLESSING: (*Responsive, Projected*)

We could play hide and seek, waiting for others to come find us,  
**but we will go in God's light, seeking those in the world's shadows.**  
We could stay where we are, our hearts and souls captured by fear  
**but we will follow the One who leads us to serve all longing for new life.**

We could cling to our burdens and worries, using them as an excuse to ignore those around us,  
**but we will lay them down to join the Spirit in embracing our sisters and brothers.**

HYMN: *Sent Out in Jesus' Name*

**MV#212**

POSTLUDE

Participating in worship leadership today: Rev. Tracy Robertson, Kari Orosz, The Adult Choir, The Children's Choir, Erin MacLean-Berko, Diane Paley, Dan MacDonald, Brian Shewan, Karen Kotkas, Tess & Harold Ashley, Maxine Mendritzki, Brittney Whittaker, Kristin Raugust, Jillian Sanderson.

# *The Sacrament of Holy Baptism*

## **SACRAMENT OF 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 Noah Kenneth Freake and his parents, Laura and Mike, and his older brother, Thomas, 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 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?

### **Question of the Godparents**

As those who have been set apart from the community of faith to enjoy a special relationship with Noah as he grows and matures I ask you: Will you pray for him, and take care that he may learn and live the great diversity of the Christian faith?

### **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. Noah, 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 Noah 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.  
**Over its unshaped promise your Spirit hovered at creation.**  
**By water, comes the growth of the earth.**  
**Through water, you led your children of Israel to freedom.**  
**In the waters of the Jordan Jesus was baptized.**  
**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**

Noah Kenneth Freake,  
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**

Noah Kenneth Freake,  
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: Noah, you are a beloved child of God, with whom God is well pleased. Amen!**