



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

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Sunday, May 21, 2017, 10:00am
Theme: Called Alongside

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

MV = More Voices
VU = Voices United

We Gather With

PRELUDE: *Kari Orosz – Let Go – by Imogen Heap & Guy Sigsworth*

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: Corine Copeland

CALL TO WORSHIP: **(Responsive)**

God listens to us!

God hears the sound of our prayers! Praise God!

God does not reject our prayers.

God does not withhold faithful love from us. Praise God!

Come,

let us worship God.

OPENING PRAYER: *(Leader)*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM: *Please see insert
Maja Haillie Frost, daughter of Marina & Robert Frost*

✠HYMN: *I Can Feel You Near Me God*

MV#48

SCRIPTURE: *John 14:15-21*
Scripture Reader: Sheila Campbell

Affirmation:

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

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Adult Choir: “Deep River” with “Shall
We Gather at the River” – by Robert Lowry/Lloyd Larson*

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

THE MESSAGE: *What part of “the Jesus in you” are you willing to
share?*

✠HYMN: *In the Quiet Curve of Evening*

VU#278

MINUTE FOR MISSION: *London Community Chaplaincy*

INVITATION TO OPEN HANDS

OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN HANDS
with our Offerings & Prayers.

✠OFFERTORY: *Grateful (chorus only)*

MV#182

✠OFFERTORY PRAYER: *(Unison)*

**God, whose children we are, receive these gifts we offer. May
they help to bring others ever closer to you, and to experience
and appreciate your presence in their lives. Amen.**

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

VU#186

PASTORAL PRAYERS (Leader) & PRAYER OF JESUS

†COMMISSIONING and BENEDECTION: (**Responsive**)

Take with you these words of Christ: "I will not leave you orphaned."

We are never alone!

"Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me."

God guides us in all we do.

"Because I live, you will live also."

In Christ we have new and everlasting life.

HYMN: *Your Love Is Amazing*

MV#26

POSTLUDE

Participating in worship leadership today: Rev. Tracy Robertson, Kari Orosz, The Adult Choir, Hal Tonkin, Brian Shewan, Sherrill Knight, Nancy Rehder, Myrna Malanik, Diane Paley, Corine Copeland, Mark Wagner, Brittney Whittaker, Deyelle MacDonald, Erin MacLean-Berko, Lori Weller, Sheila Campbell, Dan MacDonald.

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 Maja Haillie Frost and her parents, Marina and Robert, 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 Maja'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 her and us all; doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with her 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 her throughout her 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. Maja, 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 Maja on her 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

Maja Haillie Frost,
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

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