

# Saint Andrew's United Church

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*We are called to be the united church. Mission is our home. We foster belonging; provide spiritual accompaniment; and ask the deep questions*

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## Baptism of Christ January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### **WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

++ Please rise in body or spirit

MV = More Voices; VU = Voices United;

TLUS = Then Let Us Sing

### **PRELUDE**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GREETING:**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

### **TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGMENT:**

*We worship on the unceded territory of the Halq' eméylem-speaking peoples.*

### **CANDLE LIGHTING:**

### **WE WELCOME EACH OTHER**

Where do we find ourselves

when the Christmas angels disappear

and no longer sing of peace and good will?

When the shepherds go back to their flocks

and the magi return to the east?

Where do we find ourselves now, when the Christ Child has outgrown his manger bed?

**Jesus calls us to join him at the River Jordan,  
to be baptized with him  
and receive the Holy Spirit.**

Let us answer the call. Let us come to the river.

Let us pray.

Written by Fern Gibbard, *gatheringworship.ca*. Adapted.

**AND WE CENTRE IN GOD:**

Calling and sending God,  
Jesus was baptized in the Jordan river  
“to fulfill all righteousness.”

**He was baptized for us,  
that in him and in his baptism  
we might be covenanted with God and one another.**

Descend upon us now, Holy Spirit,  
**and name us as your children.**

**++HYMN: MV 12 – “Come Touch Our Hearts”**

**WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD:**

“Who am I,” asks John,  
That I should baptize Jesus instead of Jesus baptizing me?”

“Who am I,” we ask,  
“That God should care about me?”

“Who are we,” we ask, “That we should be called beloved,  
and called to do the work of God?”

Am not I too conflicted, our church too confused and pulled this  
way and that, our world too torn by grief and strife  
to be the home of the holy?”

*[Silent Prayer]*

**AND WE ARE ACCEPTED:**

Let it be, says God.

Let it be.

Accept this grace, for it is not something we can and must earn.  
You are beloved. You are worthy. You are loved. You are home.  
Do not doubt it.

**WE RESPOND:** VU 79 – “Arise, Your Light is Come” v 4

**Arise, your light is come!  
The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing;  
God’s power will make us strong.**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART**

**SCRIPTURE:** **Reader: Cherie Dobson**

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29 [VU 756]

Matthew 3:13-17

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**++HYMN:** VU 380 – “She Comes Sailing on the Wind”

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S LOVE**

**AFFIRMING OUR FAITH:** A New Creed

**PASSING THE PEACE:**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** VU 960 [Ecumenical Version]

**MISSION AND SERVICE STORIES:**

## **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:**

Let us present our offering to the work of God.

### **++OFFERTORY: “These Gifts We Bring”**

These gifts we bring with grateful hearts,  
to reconcile, make new.

Gather us in grace, show us the way,  
to live our lives in Truth;  
to share Your love in all we do.

*The offering is brought forward.*

### **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:**

The magi perceived your star;  
the disciples followed your Son;  
the early Church received your revelation.

**Like those before us,  
we receive your gifts  
and offer them to your world.**

### **++HYMN: MV 161 – “I Have Called You By Your Name”**

### **WE Go OUT To SERVE GOD**

### **++COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

### **EXTROIT: VU 679 – “Let There be Light” v 1,5,6**

### **END OF WORSHIP**

### **BEGINNING OF SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY**



St. Andrew's is a member  
of Affirming United

