



Sunday January 09, 2022
ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH, MIDLAND
Baptism of Christ & Renewal of our Baptismal Vows

The Reverend Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Music Director: Victoria Warwick
Readers: Barb and Charlie Carswell
Singers: Shayla Brown, Rebecca Amadei, Jordan Kenny,
vocals, Kye Andrews, guitar, Marty Smyth, bass.
Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Bruce Wilcox

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO THE GATHERED:

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

SUNG RESPONSE: VU# 444 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise Sung by
Shayla Brown

OPENING PRAYER: read by Charlie Carswell
written by Dora White from Minnedosa United Church in Manitoba. Found in
Gathering A/C/E 2021/2022 pg. 42

Holy and sustaining God, we come to worship and praise you.
We journeyed with you to Bethlehem and followed the star of the east.

Today we gather with you at the River Jordan, remembering Jesus' baptism.

As we enter this season of epiphanies and revelations,
may your Spirit stir our hearts and open our lives to new learnings and
understandings.

Fill us with a willingness to go into the deep waters,
ever mindful that you have called us by name and that you go with us. Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE LAND

HYMN: VU#644 "I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry" sung by Jordan Kenny,
vocals, Kye Andrews, guitar, Marty Smyth, bass.

1. I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.
2. I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.

3. When you heard the wonder of the word,
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
4. If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.
5. In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young.
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
6. When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.
7. I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Isaiah 43:1-3a;
Luke 3:15-17; 21-22 read by Barb Carswell

HYMN: "Be Not Afraid" based on the Isaiah passage.

"Be not Afraid" written by Bob Dufford and sung by John
Michael Talbot

You shall cross the barren desert
But you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety
though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words to foreign men
and they will understand.
You shall see the face of God and live.

**Be not afraid
I go before you always
Come, follow me and I will give you rest**

If you pass through raging waters in the sea
you shall not drown.
If you walk amid the burning flames



you shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the power of hell
and death is at your side
know that I am with you through it all.

**Be not afraid
I go before you always
Come, follow me and I will give you rest.**

SERMON:

RENEWAL OF OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS: Please take a moment to place your hands in water and remember your baptismal vows.

HYMN: MV #161 "I Have Called You by Your Name!" sung by Rebecca Amadei

1. I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called and chosen; you are mine.
2. I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name; speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.
3. I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.
4. I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER read by Charlie Carswell
(written by Karen)

Holy One, as we begin this new year, may we be reminded that we are your beloved. May the waters of our baptism remind us that like water in our bodies, intricate to our very being, so your spirit dwells in us. We are called by name to follow you, to walk your path of love and compassion, wisdom and justice.

Even in the midst of a pandemic, as the prophet Isaiah reminds us, we can walk through deep waters of health restrictions and the raging

fires of this virus, and come through it all, knowing that you are with us and guide us.

Remind us that our baptism marks us as your followers; called to love you, ourselves, and others.

May our hearts reach to others with compassion as we make calls and send texts to remind each other that we are not alone. May our hearts reach out to others as we pray for our global community, our world and all of creation.

May our hands reach out to others in the acts of love and justice that we pursue in our daily lives. May our hands work to feed the hungry; and to build a better society.

May our feet walk the path of Christ; going into places where others dare not tread. May we walk with the marginalized, the oppressed, and the sick as one, supporting each other. Amen (followed by the Lord's Prayer)

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE