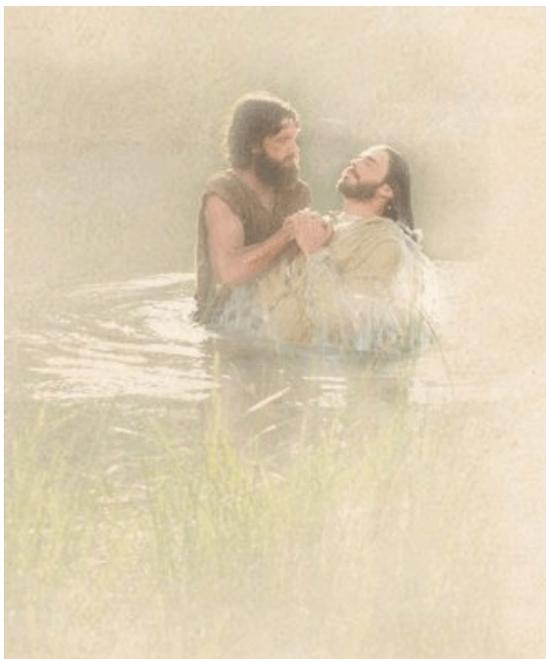


**Melville United Church**  
**Sunday, January 11, 2015**  
**Baptism of Jesus**



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*\* Congregation please stand as you are able.*

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

**Prelude: Improvisation**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Sharing the Light**

**Call to Worship:**

God's Spirit calls to our spirits,  
**inviting us to worship.**

God's Spirit calls to our spirits,  
**inviting us by love.**

God's Spirit calls to our spirits,  
**calling us by name,**  
**calling us to grow in faith,**  
**calling us to be made new.**

Come, people of God, let us worship together the God of new years and new beginnings.

**\*Hymn:** Shine, Jesus, Shine

**Opening Prayer:**

**We come, gracious God, at the beginning of a new year. It is a year full of both uncertainty and possibility, known and unknown. We are aware that there will be many choices facing us. We are aware that we may have great joy or we may experience great sadness. We are aware that we may have both success and disappointment. We pray that we will always know your presence and that we will rely on your Spirit as we seek to follow your ways. Amen.**

**Prayer for Inner Healing:**

**As we gather to mark the beginning of Jesus' ministry we acknowledge that, like the crowds on Jordan's bank, we come humbly to acknowledge our shortcomings. With that crowd we confess our**

**Melville United Church**  
**St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781**  
**Team Ministry**

Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care	Rev. Marion Loree
Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach	Jennifer Auger
Minister of Music:	Matthias Schmidt
Church Secretary:	Gerri McCullough
Custodian:	Robert Mitchell
Chair of Church Council:	Ralph Rainford
Pastoral Care:	Millie Cumming, Elizabeth Stinson
Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain	Alison Rainford
Secretary's Office hours:	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. T., T. & F.
E-Mail:	secretary@melvilleunited.com
Web Site:	www.melvilleunited.com

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**fear of change and our reluctance to look at ourselves and our lives with a critical eye. Inspire us to renewal, Holy Presence and increase our willingness to be and do all that we were created for. Amen.**

**Words of Affirmation:**

“You are my Beloved, my Child, with you I am well pleased.” Know that these words are not only meant for Jesus. They are God’s words for you, too. Take them to heart and go forward in right relationship with God and one another.

**Thanks be to God! Amen!**

**Chorus:** Will You Come and See the Light - vs 1 **VU 96**

**Will you come and see the light from the stable door?**

**It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.**

**It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are;  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?**

**\*Hymn:** Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

**VU 444**

**Sacrament of Baptism**

**Statement of Purpose**

From the beginning of time, people have come before God and their community to celebrate the miracle of life, and to give thanks to God for the special gift that our children are to us. That is what we do in our sacrament of baptism. We give thanks to God, we express our own faith in God as central to our lives, and we commit ourselves afresh to the nurturing of our children in the Christian church.

The sacrament of baptism proclaims and celebrates the grace of God. By water and the Spirit, we are welcomed as children of God, we are claimed by Christ, we are united with the Christian community of every time and place and we are commissioned to Christ’s ministry of love, peace, and justice.

**Presentation of the one to be Baptized**

On behalf of the congregation of Melville United Church I present Peyton Adam Lippold, son of Tyler Mathew Lippold and Chantelle Marie Gear for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism.

*(family comes forward)*

**Scripture:** Galatians 3:27-29 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)

Each one of you is a child of God because of your faith in Christ Jesus. All of you who have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. In Christ there is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female. All are one in Christ Jesus. Furthermore, if you belong to Christ, you are the offspring of Abraham, which means you inherit all that was promised.

**Profession of faith by the parents:**

You have brought your child here for baptism. In baptism we are joined to the Christian family through the sign and seal of God’s eternal love. Do you believe in God and God’s love?

**Yes, I do so believe.**

Do you believe that God is revealed to us in Jesus the Christ who lived and died, and who lives on in the Christian church?

**Yes, I do so believe.**

Do you believe that God, through the Holy Spirit, is active in the world to direct and to strengthen you?

**Yes, I do so believe.**

Will you do your best to provide a Christian home for your child, encouraging him to grow in his own faith and to seek confirmation?

**Yes I will, God being my helper.**

**Commitment by Congregation** (*congregation stands*)

We are to receive this child as part of our faith community. In so doing, we remember our calling to share life together, and to be open to the future that he contains. We are also called to support this family and this child with love and with Christian teaching. Are you willing, as you are able to share in this responsibility?

**We are willing, God being our helper.**

Let us remain standing as we repeat “A New Creed” together.

**Affirmation of Faith:** A New Creed

VU 918

**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.**

**Blessing of the Water** (*children bring water and people call out blessings*)

### **Prayer**

Loving God of grace, pour out your Spirit upon us and upon this water, that this font may become your womb of new birth, our fount of blessing and source of grace. May it be a sign and promise of new life, not only for the one who will be baptized this day, but also for all who pass through the waters of baptism. We pray in the spirit of Christ, who was himself baptized. Amen.

### **The Baptism**

Peyton Adam Lippold, you are baptized in the name of God our mother and father whose arms are open wide;  
 in the name of Jesus, the Son, who teaches us how to love;  
 and in the name of the Holy spirit, whose wings will encourage you and keep you safe.

### **Sign of the Cross and Blessing**

Peyton, child of God, we bless you with water and the sign of the cross so that the world will always know, and you will never forget, that you are a precious child of God.

### **Laying on of Hands/Blessing**

May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you. May God look upon you with kindness and bring you peace.

### **Lighting of the Baptismal Candle**

Your parents will now light your candle. It represents the light of Christ which shines in you and in each one of us and it reminds us that the light of God's presence is with us always.

*Child is introduced to the congregation the following blessing is sung.*

**Sung Blessing:** May God's Sheltering Wings

MV 214

**May God's sheltering wings,  
 her gathering wings protect you.  
 May God's nurturing arms,  
 his cradling arms sustain you,  
 and hold you in her love,  
 and hold you in his love.**

### **Prayer**

Gracious God, keep this child in your grace as he grows in mind and body. Keep his parents in your love as they give guidance to their child. Keep us all that we may always be faithful to you. Through Christ. Amen.

### **Presentation of Certificates**

### **Welcome of Transferred and New Members**

Ephesians 2:19-22

This means that you are strangers and aliens no longer. No, you are included in God's holy people and are members of the household of God, which is built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, with Christ Jesus as the capstone. In Christ the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in our God; in Christ you are being built into this temple; to become a dwelling place of God in Spirit.

The church is a community of people with varied gifts, united by the Holy Spirit. We gather to celebrate God's presence, to discern God's truth, and to follow the way of Jesus. By our baptism we are made members of Christ's church. We exercise this membership in the

denomination to which we belong, which for us is the United Church of Canada, and within the context of a local community of faith. We are now to welcome into this congregation Brad and Heather Halls and Elizabeth Stinson.

Brad and Heather have been worshiping and working among us for awhile now and have been actively sharing their gifts with us. They have officially transferred their membership here from Trinity United Church, Cobourg, Ontario.

Elizabeth has been living and working among us as a retired clergy person and has also been very actively sharing her spiritual gifts and pastoral care skills. Although she could continue as a Voluntary Associate Minister, she has expressed a desire to become a full and regular member of Melville United Church.

Heather, Brad and Elizabeth, will you join with us, or continue with us, as together we celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, love and serve others, seek justice and resist evil?

**Response: I will, with God's help.**

*Congregation please stand.*

Dear friends in Christ, let us pledge to these persons our continued support and care.

**As your brothers and sisters in Christ, we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. We pledge to you our love and our support. With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church.**

In the name of Jesus the Christ, we welcome you to the privileges and responsibilities of membership in this congregation. We give thanks to God for your witness among us.

*The congregation may express their welcome.*

**Scripture Reading:** Acts 19:1-7 (Inclusive Bible-Egalitarian Translation)  
(Paul baptizes with the Spirit)

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior of the country and came to Ephesus. There Paul found disciples, to whom he

put the question. "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?"

They replied, "No, we were never even told there was such a thing as a Holy Spirit."

"Then how were you baptized?" He asked.

"With John's baptism," they responded.

Paul then explained, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance; he insisted that the people believe in the one who was to come after him - in other words, Jesus."

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. And the moment Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came down on them, and they began to speak in tongues and prophesy. There were about twelve of them.

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 29                      **VU 756**  
(God's voice is over the waters)

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 1:4-11 (Inclusive Bible-Egalitarian Translation)  
(Jesus is baptized by John)

And so John the Baptizer appeared in the desert, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to John and were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist, and he ate nothing but grasshoppers and wild honey. In the course of his preaching, John said, "One more powerful than I is to come after me. I am not fit to stoop and untie his sandal straps. I have baptized you in water, but the One to come will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

It was then that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan River by John. Immediately upon coming out of the water, Jesus saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. Then a voice came from the heavens: "You are my Beloved, my Own. On you my favour rests."

**Message:**

**Hymn:** In the Quiet Curve of Evening    **VU 278**

**Offering:****Ministry of Music:** J. Althouse - Lord I Stretch My Hands**Offering Song:** In the Bleak Mid-winter vs 4 VU 55**\*Offertory Prayer:**

Receive what we bring, O God - our gifts, our time and talents, our very selves. Speak your blessing on us and send us out to repair and rebuild your beloved community in every place we go. With Jesus' Spirit in us, we pray and live. Amen.

**Joys and Concerns:****Prayer Prelude:** Come and Fill Our Hearts (sung 3 times) MV 16

Come and fill our hearts with your peace,  
 You alone, O God, are holy.  
 Come and fill our hearts with your peace,  
 Alleluia! (Repeat twice more)

**Prayers of the People:****Prayer of Jesus:****\*Hymn:** I Am the Light of the World VU 87**\*Blessing/Sending Forth:**

Go now in faith and with courage, empowered by God's Spirit to spread the light and the transforming message of Christ in every dark corner.

We go, knowing God's love goes with us. For we, too, are God's dear children, beloved and blessed and valued. Amen!

**\*Parting Song:** Go Tell It On the Mountain - chorus VU 43

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
 over the hills and everywhere.  
 Go, tell it on the mountain  
 that Jesus Christ is born. (repeat)

**Postlude:** M. Reger - Jesus ist kommen**Prayer of the Week:**

God-with-us, open us to understand the ways in which we participate in unjust relationships every day. Inspire our concern and guide our actions with your Spirit as we question and seek to change. Help us claim our baptism in Christ as a blessing and source of power. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** The Door Youth Centre**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** First - Port Credit**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford**Welcomers:**

Diane Maloney, Mary Lloyd,  
 Isobel Glennie, Elizabeth Stintson