



THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

January 16, 2022

Melville United Church

300 St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON N1M 1N9

Mailing address: PO Box 41, Fergus, ON N1M2W7

519-843-1781

Team Ministry

Minister of Worship, Pastoral Care & Outreach

Faith Formation & Youth

Ministry of Music Team

Office Administrator

Custodian

Chair of Church Council

Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain

Office hours

E-Mail

Web Site

Pastoral Care Numbers

Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

Martha Duncan

Suzanne Flewelling, Colleen Weber

Lynda Rivet

Robert Mitchell

Allan Hons

Alison Rainford, Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. T., Th. & F.

secretary@melvilleunited.com

www.melvilleunited.com

709-682-8756, 519-843-3841

Melville United Church
January 16, 2022
Observing the Baptism of Jesus

Presiding today - Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

Welcome

I greet you in the name of the infant Christ, the babe in the manger, our Saviour.

We gather in community today – January 16, 2022 virtually and in person. We will continue to offer both in-person and on-line services with printed copies being distributed to those without internet access who are unable to attend in person. For those who are joining us online or by reading, we invite you to have a candle or tea light available.

As we gather this day, we mark the baptism of Jesus, the beginning of Jesus' ministry, when, by the waters of the Jordan River, with the waters of the Jordan River, John offered Jesus blessing, as Jesus is claimed, called and commissioned by God.

Announcements

- **2021-2022 Gifts with Vision** catalogues are out. These gifts are perfect for those difficult to buy for people. There's no going out, no standing in line, no wrapping. And you will be helping out those in need near and far. Items address healing and reconciliation, leadership, counter racism, wellness and safe spaces, education, poverty and hunger, the future, Mission & Service. Gifts range from \$5 to \$140. Gifts include food for the north, help build a well, purchasing Covid vaccines for the Global South and East, and much more. You can find the full catalogue at www.giftswithvision.ca.
- We continue to **collect items for the food bank**. A list of the most needed items was sent out, and if you need a printed copy, just let someone on the Social Justice team or Rev. Lynda know, and we will get it to you. In addition to non-perishable food items, the food bank is also looking for personal and feminine hygiene products as well as fresh vegetables, apples and oranges.

I invite you to join us now for a time of worship and contemplation.

Land Acknowledgement *Peter Chynoweth, Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2021, p.25. Used with permission.*

Land is sacred and holy.

Our relationship to the land is sacred and holy.

Our relationship with each other on this land is sacred and holy.

It calls for respect and appreciation.

And so we offer our appreciation, our thanksgiving, and our respect

that we can gather in this place and on this land

as a result of the welcome that comes through the Haldimand Treaty and the Simcoe Patent - Treaty No. 4,

which allow for peaceful and respectful living on this land.

Thanks to the

Petun,

Haudenosaunee,

Anishinabewaki,

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation,

Odawa and

Mississauga people

who have lived on and walked these lands for thousands of years.

We acknowledge that we are connected with the people who have lived here for all these years because of the treaties.

Because we are treaty people, we must honour the responsibilities that come with it.

May we be people who remember this with gratitude and respect.

Sharing the Light:

(If you are watching this on-line or reading it from a page I invite you to take a moment to light a candle, centre yourself and prepare to enter in to a time of worship and prayer. As you light your candle repeat the following words)

There once was someone who said such wonderful things and did such amazing things

teaching

healing

helping

loving

inviting everyone to join in

that people wondered who he was.

Finally they just couldn't help it. They had to ask him who he was.

When they asked him who he was, he said, "I am the light of the world."

So we light this candle to remember and remind ourselves that the Light of the World, and the love, healing and welcome offered are with us here in this time.

Call to Worship: *Frances Flook, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022, p.42. Used with permission.*

Through the waters of baptism, Jesus was called.

Through the sacrament of baptism, we too feel God's call.

By the voice from heaven, Jesus was claimed as God's own.

We too find ourselves marked by the love of God.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was commissioned to his ministry.

By the Spirit's breath, we too take our place as God's servants.

We gather here called, claimed, and commissioned as God's people.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn: When Jesus Comes to be Baptized VU 100

- 1 When Jesus comes to be baptized,
he leaves the hidden years behind,
the years of safety and of peace,
to bear the sins of humankind.
- 2 The Spirit of the Lord comes down,
anoints the Christ to suffering,
to preach the word, to free the bound,
and to the mourner, comfort bring.
- 3 He will not quench the dying flame,
and what is bruised he will not break,
but heal the wound injustice dealt,
and out of death his triumph make.
- 4 O Spirit help us be like Christ:
to live in love and charity,
to walk in truth and justice now,
and grow in Christian dignity.
- 5 We praise you, God, source of all life,
we praise you, Christ, eternal Word,
we praise you, Spirit, gracious gift;
your triune presence fills our world.

Opening Prayer (in unison): *Dora White, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022, p.42. Used with permission, alt.*

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.

We pray through Jesus our baptized and baptizing Saviour.

Amen.

Ministry of Music: "You Are Mine" by David Haas, *sung by Valerie Brenneman and Colleen Weber*

Call to Reconciliation *Reverend Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy with Communion for January 13, 2019 (Baptism of the Lord - C). Used with permission.*

Broken?

God promises to make us whole.

Lost?

God promises to come and find us,

gather us up,

and bring us home.

Confused about tomorrow?

God promises our future is grounded in love.

Let us confess that,

though we have heard the promises over and over,

we have trouble believing them.

I invite us to join in our Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation

as we confess our lives to God.

Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation (in unison) *Reverend Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy with Communion for January 13, 2019 (Baptism of the Lord - C). Used with permission, alt.*

**We know what it is like to be singed
by the flames of our lives, Holy God.**

**We look for ourselves in all the wrong places –
success, power, adoration.**

**We carve our names in the granite walls of work and task,
hoping we will be remembered when we are gone.**

**We have gone through the waters of baptism,
but live as if they have not changed us.**

**We need to hear your sure word,
'do not fear,' Shaper of our lives.**

**Our failures do not cause you to quit loving us,
for you continue to claim us,
gathering us up in your compassionate arms.**

In our baptism,

we discover not the end,

but the first step of our journey with Jesus Christ, our Risen and Redeeming Saviour.

(Silence is kept)

Words of Assurance *Reverend Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy with Communion for January 13, 2019 (Baptism of the Lord - C). Used with permission, alt.*

God's words of comfort and restoration
are more powerful than any foolishness,
any mistakes,

any sins we commit.

This is good news:

we are claimed and proclaimed

we are loved,

we are God's people!

Thanks be to God!

By water and word,

**by the Spirit of God's redeeming grace,
we are forgiven and given hope.
We are marked and sealed as God's beloved children. Amen.**

"...In the Midst"

Water

The average person can go about 60 days without food before starving to death, but one can go only about 3 days without water, because it is so vital. In fact, the human body is mostly water.

Water as Spirit

- In Jeremiah 2:13 God refers to Godself as a "spring of living water"
- Jesus with the woman at the well (John 4:13-14): Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life



Sometimes when I cup my hands under the tap to rinse my face, I note the shape of a heart in the way the water sits in my hands. I think of Love, and as theologian Heidi Russell describes it, God as Love is the Source of Love, the Word of Love and the Spirit of Love

Whether you too, see the image of a heart in water, or water flowing into a glass or out of the showerhead, you can think of the springs of living water, that are the essence of God

...May we find God in the midst of all our days.

Hymn: Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

VU 375

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.

- 1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the
valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.

- 2 You swept thro' the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with their idols and lies,
then you spoke thro' your prophets to open their eyes.
Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.

- 3 You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world
was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush
of the wind.

- 4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams,
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
with bold new decisions your people arise.
Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.

Scripture:

Prayer *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1.** Copyright 2012, alt.*

As we prepare to hear scripture, let us pray.
Glorious and Holy God,
when Jesus was baptized for your healing mission
the heavens opened in a flash of glory
as vision and voice blazed upon the waters.
May your Spirit so burn in us

that we hear your word translated into deed
and follow Jesus in paths of justice,
right relationship,
and peace.
Amen.

Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-7 (NRSV)

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you

Restoration and Protection Promised

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
and honoured, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, 'Give them up',
and to the south, 'Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.'

Scripture: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (NRSV)

Jesus is baptized by John

As the people were filled with expectation,
and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John,
whether he might be the Messiah,
John answered all of them by saying,
'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming;
I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor
and to gather the wheat into his granary;
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

The Baptism of Jesus

Now when all the people were baptized,
and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying,
the heaven was opened,
and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.
And a voice came from heaven,
'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

May God bless to our understanding these readings from scripture. Amen.

Reflection: The Waters of the Jordan



Prayer *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1**. Copyright 2012.*

Holy God, when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan
the heavens opened, the Spirit descended,
and your voice affirmed your love in Jesus
for the healing of the human race and all creation.
By water and word you lovingly invite us
into this same life-giving mission.

May your Spirit,
moving like a stream of water flowing from its source,
work in us this day to realize your vision
of a world made new in Christ,
in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

May the words I speak and the reflection that we all share
find a response that is worthy of you,
most Just, most Loving, and most Compassionate God. Amen.
David Sparks, Summerland, B.C.

Whenever I heard about the River Jordan I always have pictured a huge river, far bigger than the Grand River, more like the St. Lawrence River or the Mississippi River. I think of the recounting in the Hebrew Scriptures in Joshua of the crossing over the Jordan and the flow of the river being halted and rising up in a single heap 15 or 20km upstream from where the Israelites crossed at Jericho. Picturing that distance, I had a sense that the Jordan was a very significant body of water.

And as if that wasn't grand enough, I think of Jesus and John wading into a massive body of water for something so incredibly important, the beginning of Jesus' ministry.

But the Jordan River is actually not like this. Mark Twain said this when he saw the Jordan River in 1867:

When I was a boy I somehow got the impression that the river Jordan was four thousand miles long and thirty-five miles wide. It is only ninety miles long, and so crooked that a man does not know which side of this he is on half the time. In going ninety miles it does not get over more than fifty miles of ground. It is not any wider than Broadway [the street] in New York.

Now, as he was known for, Mark Twain stretched the truth a bit. But the Jordan is a total of 63 miles long north of the Sea of Galilee, and about the same distance, as the crow flies from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea. It is about 100 feet wide at its broadest point and perhaps 17 feet at its deepest point.

So how can this mere stream be the location of such an important beginning? Jesus' claiming, as God's beloved son, his calling and commissioning as God's presence on earth, are the very essence of our Christian faith. How to reconcile that with such a humble beginning?



Sometimes in our own lives, it seems impossible that we can do very much at all. How can we be faithful disciples, carrying the message of God's love and mercy when we feel like a small and broken reed on the bank of a muddy creek?

For instance, how do we help an Indigenous nation who would like to live off the land, when their water, lakes of which dot the land, is so full of bacteria, despite their remote locations, that they need a water treatment plant to be able to even bathe in the water, to even have it sprinkled on their head in baptism. But there is no water treatment plant in their vicinity, and even if there is, there is not the funding and training to be able to operate it.

A recent report of a consortium on universities and media organizations studied water quality issues in First Nations communities across the country. Indigenous people report gastrointestinal illnesses, skin problems and birth defects that they believe are related to the poor quality of water. As of last September, there were 45 long-term drinking water advisories in effect in 32 First Nations across the country. Four months ago, the community of Shoal Lake 40 had a boil-water advisory lifted that was in place for **24 years**, since 1997—long-term, not just as in a few weeks or months or even a year, but some adults' entire lifetime. Can you imagine? That would mean for your whole life, every time you or your children wanted a drink of water, every time you cooked with water, every time you or your children brushed your teeth, every time you or your children took a shower or bath, your water would have to be boiled for 5 minutes to be sure it was safe, to say nothing of clean. It would, and does, affect people's livelihoods, their mental health, their socioeconomic positions.

And the alternatives? To buy water? But water is expensive, more expensive than, say pop, and money is limited. So what choice to families make? To drink pop instead of water. Researcher Lori Bradford, a professor and co-author of a review of 16 studies on the quality of drinking water in First Nations across the country says, "When [pop] costs less than water, you can see how that might contribute to obesity and diabetes. Cancers were reported. There's higher levels of mental stress, neurological problems, hypertension, heart disease, liver disease, kidney problems, immune issues and autoimmune diseases, as well as thyroid conditions."

According to a 2004 United Nations report, the incidence of water-related illnesses is several times higher in First Nations communities than in Canada's general population, despite our country having one of the lowest rates of waterborne diseases in the world.

There are so many layers to the problem, but perhaps at the heart of it all, is a sense that we, descendants of settlers, need to consider our view of Indigenous people, and the lives they live relative to ours. As a beginning, we can listen for what living is like for First Nations. We can read and become familiar with the experiences of our hosts.

If we're feeling overwhelmed, we should take heed of the stream, the small river, the Jordan. Perhaps its very limited size is its significance. Jesus was baptized, along with everyone else, in that minor body of water. It is a continuation of the theme that marked the very beginning of his life—in the very midst of humanity in all its challenges—poverty, heart-break and pain.

Regardless, or perhaps in keeping with, the body of water in which he was baptized, Jesus was aware of the situation of humanity around him. Having lived thirty years as a peasant craftsman in a small backwater, he knew how hard life could be. But the insignificance of that life just made it even clearer that he needed to make a commitment as large as his life, as large as God's mercy and

blessing. And so he did, seeing **all** people, regardless of how **society** viewed them, as valuable and worthy of his care and love and life.

May we too, regardless of the insignificance of our circumstances, make a commitment to view all people as worthy of living the life we live. May we too, seek to bring justice, by recognizing the right of all people to secure lives, including safe water. May we too use our position to learn what it is that others need to live a quality of life, and then use our voices to share those needs with those who can make the changes.

Jesus sought truth and reconciliation, empowered by the spirit represented by water and dove. May we too seek truth and reconciliation, empowered by Jesus the Christ and God's spirit.

For in life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us, we are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Amen.

Hymn: I Have Called You by Your Name MV 161

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.

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.

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.

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.

Joys and Concerns

Preparation for Prayer

Let us practice the art of Praying with our Eyes Wide Open, that in seeing the world and those within it we are called to tend we may be *opening the eyes of our hearts to all in need around us* (Lamont Koerner '81 MDiv God Pause for Thursday, September 16, 2021 from Luther Seminary):

Prayers of the People *Spill the Beans Resources Team, spill the beans: worship and learning resources for all ages, Issue 41, p. 72. Copyright 2021, alt.*

God of love,
in whose presence
we find what it is to be beloved,
we thank you for the expressions of love
that we have witnessed in our own lives,
amongst family and friends,
neighbours and colleagues.

For every time
when we have known
what it is to be accepted
for who we are
not for someone else's expectation about us,
we give thanks.

For every time
when we have known
what it is to be forgiven
when we have done something that has hurt others
we give thanks.

For every time
when we have known
what it is to be included
and our fears of rejection proved unfounded
we give thanks.

And while we give thanks,
we also know that for each of us giving thanks
there will be someone whose experience is very different.

We pray for those people
for whom a sense of being beloved
is a distant dream,
devastated by abuse,
spoiled by neglect,
corrupted by indifference,
pushed to the sidelines and out of sight,
to be marginalized and oppressed
and we lament with them
the harshness of a world
in which anyone feels unloved,
unwelcome,
unimportant.

God of love,

into our communities
flood a spirit of compassion,
that we might look out for
and care for
one another as equally beloved by you;
we especially at this time hold in the silence of our hearts
and in our prayers

into our institutions, leaders and nation
flash a furious fire
to flush out the hypocrisy
that gives support to the wealthy and the privileged
while removing safety nets for the vulnerable and isolated;
into our churches
descend with your presence
that we might never forget
that it is you, Holy Love,
and your hope and vision
of justice, righteousness and grace,
we worship and serve.

Hear our prayers
offered in the name of Jesus, the Beloved. Amen.

Lord's Prayer Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Minute for Mission:

A Better World: One Water Project at a Time

According to UNICEF, more than half of the global population does not have access to safe sanitation and 2.2 billion people still lack access to safe drinking water.

Today—Baptism of Jesus Sunday—is a good day to consider our relationship with water.

How many Bible stories do you know have to do with water? Many of us have heard the story of Moses making water flow from rock and parting the Red Sea. We may remember stories about Jesus turning water into wine, walking on water, and calming it, too. So often, water is the focal point of God's miracles and grace. It figures prominently because it's necessary.

Clean water is essential to life, and yet around the world people suffer for lack of it.

The issues are complex. Climate change is altering weather and water patterns, causing shortages and droughts in some areas and floods in others. In some parts of the world, a growing population means rising demand and there isn't enough water to go around. Water infrastructure problems sometimes mean people can't access water even when it is available. There are racial and gender

implications to accessing water, too. Did you know that, on average, women and children in the Global South walk nearly 6 kilometres to access water and carry nearly 19 liters of water every day? Through Mission & Service you help provide solutions to water issues worldwide.

Your generosity supports irrigation projects and provides accessibility to water. Your gifts help construct bore holes, wells, and rain catchment tanks, which in turn address food security and sanitation issues in communities. During crises, your gifts help deliver drinking water where it's needed most. In the midst of the global pandemic, your support is helping to construct sanitation stations and share life-saving hygiene communications through flyers and radio programs.

Thank you for your generosity! Together, we *can* build a better world. One water project at a time.

Offering Invitation *David Lander, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022, p.41. Used with permission.*

In the waters of baptism,
we are renewed, refreshed
and held in love, care and assurance
of all who are beloved of God.
Let us then offer our gifts,
our words, our works,
our very selves
to the work of God
in our congregation,
our community,
and beyond.

Offering

If you would like to do your part by making a monetary donation to Melville United Church, there are several ways to do that.

1. By leaving your offering envelope on the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary.
2. Cheque (post-dated cheques are welcome): made payable to Melville United Church-which can be mailed to the church at P.O. Box 41, Fergus ON N1M 2W7 or put in the mail slot beside the parking lot door.
3. Donate online through the Canada Helps web-site
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/melville-united-church>
4. Call or email Lynda, to arrange Pre-Authorized Remittance payments (PAR).
5. E-transfer directly from your bank. E-mail to secretary@melvilleunited.com

Thanks to all of you who continue to contribute so much to make Melville the caring community of faith that it is. May you be blessed.

Offering Prayer *Fern Gibbard, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022, p.42. Used with permission.*

We bring our gifts to you, O God, in love and expectation:
in love because you first loved us;
in expectation because your blessing will increase these gifts manyfold. Amen.

Hymn: I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry VU 644

- 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.

Commissioning *Hilary Squires, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022, p.42. Used with permission..*

As the water washed over Jesus, so may the words of our worship continue to wash over you as you go from this place.

As Jesus emerged from the river refreshed in his ministry, may you emerge from this place refreshed in yours and ready to serve. Amen.

Change the Light/Blessings

Watch. I am going to change the light and I invite you to change your light.

I'm not going to put it out, just change it.

See how it is only in one place?

Change Light

Can you see it? Now it is moving everywhere, to everyone, with everyone.

Now everywhere you go today, the light will go with you.

Blessing *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word**[®] **Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1**. Copyright 2012.*

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who stood with sinners on the river bank,
uphold you.

May the love of God,
who calls us beloved children, bless you.

May the power of the Holy Spirit,
who descended upon Jesus as a dove,
give you peace. **Amen.**

Household Prayer: Morning *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word**[®] **Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1**. Copyright 2012.*

Loving God,
we begin this new day in the sure knowledge
that you have claimed us as your children.
In all that we do,
keep us mindful of actions that are pleasing in your sight.
In all that we say,
make us attentive to the witness we give to your love.
Let our lives be an example to all whom we encounter,
living as daughters and sons of God
who follow in the path of Jesus,
our Lord and our brother. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word**[®] **Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1**. Copyright 2012.*

As evening comes and we end the labors of this day,
we thank you, Lord Jesus, that you have been our companion.
If we have disregarded your fellowship, forgive us.
Where we have strayed from your path, correct us.
Let us rest this evening as children of God,
sheltered in the love of those who belong to your holy family of grace.
Amen.