



January 12, 2025

Melville United Church

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Melville United Church

January 12, 2025

Baptism of Jesus

Presiding: Rev. Felicia Urbanski

Guest Speaker: Mark Konrad

Music Director: Colleen Weber, (piano & organ) with the Melville Choir

Prelude

Welcome

Announcements & Introducing the Guest Speaker

Land Acknowledgement

Let us take time to acknowledge the peoples who have lived on and stewarded these lands since time immemorial. God, help us to be thankful, and to become better neighbours and stewards that we might continue to honour these lands.

Lighting the Christ Candle (responsive)

We light this candle as a sign of God's Spirit at work in the world,

may its light brighten our spirits, may the light of God shining through us brighten the world.

Call to Worship (responsive)

Isaiah said to the people,

"Don't be afraid."

The Angel said to Mary, to Joseph, and to the shepherds,

"Don't be afraid."

Jesus said to those who would listen,

"Don't be afraid."

And, deep in their hearts, deep in our hearts, everyone wondered, "Why not?"

God says, "Don't be afraid. I am with you. In the tears and sorrows, in the laughter and joy, I am with you."

We are not alone.

We will not be afraid.

God is with us; God is with us all.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn: How Firm a Foundation VU 660 (verses 1-3)

1 How firm a foundation, you servants of God,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can be said than to you has been said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2 "Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.

3 "When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

Opening Prayer

Children's Time

Music Ministry: When You Pass Through the Waters by Paul D. Weber. Sung by the Melville United Church Choir

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 43: 1-7, Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

But now, this is what the Lord says—
he who created you, Jacob,
he who formed you, Israel:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;
I give Egypt for your ransom,
Cush and Seba in your stead.
Since you are precious and honored in my sight,
and because I love you,
I will give people in exchange for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
Do not be afraid, for I am with you;
I will bring your children from the east
and gather you from the west.
I will say to the north, 'Give them up!'
and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.'
Bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the ends of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. 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 barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

Reflection: Jesus and Human Rights – Rev. Urbanski

Hymn: Christ, When for Us You were Baptized VU 99

Christ, when for us you were baptized
God's Spirit on you came,
As peaceful as a dove, and yet
As urgent as a flame.

God called you, "My beloved Son"
called you “my servant true”,
Sent you God’s kingdom to proclaim,
God's holy will to do.

Straight-way and steadfast until death
You then obeyed the call
freely as Son of Man to serve
and give your life for all.

Baptize us with your Spirit now
Your cross on us be signed,
That likewise in God's service we
may perfect freedom find.

Presentation: The origin of human rights, Amnesty International and Global Importune *Mark Konrad (executive director of Global Importune, London, ON)*

Joys and Concerns

- **Birthdays**
 - Bruce Perkin celebrates on Jan.18th

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Song: One More Step VU 639 (verse 1)

One more step along the world I go, one more step along the world I go.
From the old things to the new, keep me travelling along with you.
And it’s from the old I travel to the new, keep me travelling along with you.

Offertory Prayer

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

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoice the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Benediction and Commissioning

Postlude: Rain Down *by Jaime Cortez*

Household Prayer:

Within my body lives a tie to something greater than me.

Within me exists a song written by the Creator.

I long to sing it.

We sing to God, the Spirit moving in the human heart.

We sing to God, the Spirit faithful, untameable.

We sing to God, the Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love.

Let us sing and praise, give and receive.

- *by Elaine Bidgood Sveet, inspired by "A Song of Faith".*

Welcomers: Barb Gregory, John Cuming

Counters: Chris Hopewell, David Gohn