

SouthWest United Church
January 8, 2023
Baptism of Christ Sunday
Communion and First Service in Our New Home

Prelude

Gathering Hymn: VU 402 We Are One (vs 1 & 2)

Welcome

Welcoming the Light

The lighting of this candle signifies that our love is unanimous and unified, like a hymn sung by many joyful voices. It is not just us, nor the flickering of the flame, but in welcoming the light of Christ, we remain part of a union made of love and warmth, many fragments of light warming up in the passion of our faith, in the endlessly benevolent love of God. Amen

Call to worship

God, whose creative glory we see in the rushing wind and the swirling waters, and whose love is revealed in the smile of a child, **remains with us.** God, whom we have discovered in the scriptures, and who has discovered us, and who comes clear to us in Jesus and in the lives of the saints, **remains with us.** God, whom we encounter in the worship and service of faith communities, whose Spirit is within the pastoral caring and the justice-seeking of this church, **remains with us.** God, gracefully known in the hard places of our earthly life's journey, and who laughs and celebrates joyfully with us here, **remain with us.** God, who will be with us as this life ends, who is with us in time and beyond time, is with us. **Let us worship our loving and faithful God.**

Opening prayer

Amazing, Wonderful God, we gather in Your name to celebrate our arrival in this sanctuary and this new beginning. We give thanks for the abundance of gifts in our midst. May we use all of these gifts wisely and joyfully, so that we may witness to Your love in the world. Guide our steps in the way of Jesus, who empowers us and calls us to live out our holy calling as Your people. Amen.

Hymn: MV 135 Called by Earth and Sky

Prayers for Grace and Transformation /
Words of Affirmation

We know the good news God proclaimed to us: God will continue to listen to us. God will go with us in this new venture of life and faith. God is eternally to be trusted. God's peace, which passes all knowledge and understanding, will be our peace. **Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be; set your seal upon my heart and live in me. (MV 85)*

The Peace

Exegesis/Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Isaiah 42:1–9

Psalms 29 VU 756

Matthew 3:13–17

***Alleluia!**

Reflection

Embracing the New

A New Creed

Hymn: VU 710 Shall We Gather at the River

Invitation to the Offering

Doxology: Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still. Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side, draw the circle wide. *Traçons un grand cercle...* (MV 145)

Offertory Prayer

Holy One, we humbly ask that you use these gifts to build a world of compassion, justice and mercy for all.

Amen

Announcements

Communion Hymn: VU 402 We Are One (vs 3)

Holy Communion (see insert)

Prayers of the people/Lords Prayer

***VU 402 We Are One (vs 4)**

Extinguish the Candle

Blessing

Closing Hymn: VU 625 I Feel the Winds of God

The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples. SouthWest United worships on the traditional territory of the Mohawk, members of the Six Nation Confederacy, including Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga Seneca and Tuscarora peoples.

Some prayers adapted from © 2010 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial No Derivatives (by-nc-nd) Licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.5/ca>. Any copy must include this notice.

January 8, 2023 - We Are One Baptism of Christ Sunday Communion & First Service in Our New Home



**SouthWest United Church
c/o 225, 50e Avenue, Lachine QC H8T 2T7
Office/bureau: 514-768 6231
Email/courriel southwestunited@gmail.com
Service at 11:30 a.m.**

Pastor: Beryl Barraclough, DLM
Director of Music: Sarah Fraser
Clerk of Session: Dennis Brown
Office Administrator: Amy Barratt