



Carlisle/Kilbride United Church

**Sunday January 9, 2022**

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**Lighting of the Christ Candle:**

One: We light this candle, honouring the One who said, “I am the Light.”

**We welcome the light.**

**Settler Acknowledgement of Our Commitment to Truth and Reconciliation**

Long before my people journeyed to this land, Indigenous people were here and they received from their Elders an understanding of creation and of the Mystery that surrounds us all that was deep, and rich, and to be treasured. When they shared their vision, my people did not hear. My people tried to force Indigenous peoples to be like us, and, in so doing, we helped to destroy the vision that made them what they were. We are in the midst of a long and painful journey as we reflect on the cries that our church did not or would not hear, and how we have behaved as a church. As we travel this difficult road of repentance, reconciliation, and healing, we commit ourselves to work toward ensuring that we will never again use our power as a church to hurt others with attitudes of racial and spiritual superiority.

We pray that all Indigenous people will hear the sincerity of our words today and that they will witness the living out of our apology in our actions in the future.

**Call to Worship:** (based on Isaiah 60:1-6)

One: Arise! Shine!

**All: For our Light has come!**

One: The glory of the Lord is in this place.

**All: The glory of the Lord is in you, in me.**

One: Come in, knowing these words to be true:

**All: I have called you by name, you are mine.**

One: Come in, feeling these words in your bones:

**All: You are precious in my sight.**

One: We worship – hearing, knowing, feeling the love and wonder of our God!

**Opening Hymn:** VU 87 I Am the Light of the World

I encourage you to sing along with the musicians of Golden Ears United Church as they perform an energetic vocal duet accompanied by piano. I recommend using the lyrics on the video, as the vocalists don't always perform the refrain after each verse.

[VU 87 I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD - YouTube](#)

'I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.

- 1 When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,  
the work of Christmas is begun:

'I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.

- 2 To find the lost and lonely one,  
to heal the broken soul with love,  
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,  
to feel the earth below, the sky above!

'I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.

- 3 To free the prisoner from all chains,  
to make the powerful care,  
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,  
to see God's children everywhere!

'I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.

- 4 To bring hope to every task you do,  
to dance at a baby's new birth,  
to make music in an old person's heart,  
and sing to the colours of the earth!

'I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.

### **Opening Prayer:**

God of gifts that transform, we gather in awe and wonder at the ways in which you name us. Throughout time and space, you have called to our spiritual ancestors, naming them and renaming them as your people, to live in delight at being yours. Today, you continue to call to us, naming and renaming us, that in our quest for delight, we might see in us what you see, and share that splendour with the world. May this time of worship help us to hear our names, that we might remember that your goodness lives in us and calls us forth to be members of your family, your creation. May your Spirit rest upon us now as it rested upon Jesus. In humility, we ask these things in His name, as the one who taught us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom 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 and deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

### **Prayer of Confession:**

Holy One, on this day when we bear witness to the baptism of Jesus, we hear a story of blessing, of love, of transformation. But over time, this story may have caused us to see ourselves as separated, as special, as those who are better than others. Instead of being inclusive and celebrating who we are and whose we are, baptism has sometimes led us to believe that we are “more special” and “more favoured” than others. For all of these beliefs, we are sorry. May we see the power of transformation that baptism holds and be transformed to see your grace, offered to all of us. Forgive and inspire us, reminding all of us that we are yours. Amen.

### **Words of Assurance:**

One: Throughout scripture, we are reminded that grace is God’s greatest gift to us. Let us draw nearer to that gift, soaking in its light so that we might, indeed, remember who we are, to whom we belong, and that we are called to share your light and grace.

### **Young at Heart Time**

**Hymn:** This Little Light of Mine

There are so many variations of this song! In light of the "Young at Heart Time," here is one you might enjoy featuring a children's dance crew. Perhaps you'd like to bust out your own moves or round up the kids or grandkids for a little choreography?

[This Little Light of Mine Dance | Christmas Dance Song Easy Moves 🌟 - YouTube](#)

1 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine....

3 Jesus gave it to me; I'm gonna let it shine....

**Prayer of Illumination:** Let us hear and ponder – and wonder – and take it in – the mystery and the promise, the challenge and the hope that all lie here within the words of our Faith Stories. Amen.

**Scripture:** Luke 3: 15-22

<sup>15</sup> As the people were in expectation, and everyone reflected in their hearts upon John, whether he might be the Christ or not, <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, “I indeed baptize you with water. But One mightier than I is coming, the strings of whose shoes I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>17</sup> His fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly cleanse His threshing floor, and will gather the wheat into His granary. But He will burn the chaff with unquenchable fire.” <sup>18</sup> Then he preached many other things in his exhortation to the people.

<sup>19</sup> But Herod the tetrarch, being rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done, <sup>20</sup> added also this above them all: He locked John up in prison.

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily form like a dove on Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son. In You I am well pleased.”

## **Reflection**

**Hymn:** To the River Jesus Journeyed (tune VU 374)

Juanita Austin's new lyrics are set to the familiar tune BEACH SPRING, used in the hymn "Come and Find the Quiet Centre." I offer two instrumental versions of the tune: the first is a contemplative piano arrangement by James Koerts (2015), and the second an American folk- and Celtic-inspired track from the documentary *Lewis & Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery* (1997). I invite you to sing along or, if you prefer, simply listen to the music while meditating on the lyrics printed below.

[Beach Spring - YouTube](#)

[Beech Spring \(The Corps of Discovery\) Original Soundtrack - YouTube](#)

In the desert, flowing freely, runs the River Jordan on,  
Giving life to all who wander down its banks to meet with John.  
There he calls for newer vision, change of life and change of heart.  
“Leave your past, refresh your spirit. Let this be a brand new start.”

To the river Jesus journeyed in the burning heat of day.  
“John, baptize me in the water, strengthen me, and with me pray.  
Help me wash away the blindness and the fear that keeps me bound.  
Help me open to the Mystery, here is where my strength is found.”

Rising from the cooling waters, open to God’s holy mind,  
Seeing with compassion’s insight all God’s children – humankind.  
Blessed by Spirit, held by mercy, wing-swept by the holy dove,  
Jesus calls us all to follow, living lives of steadfast love.

*Words by Juanita Austin – January 11, 2017*

**Stewardship Second:** You are God’s beloved people, gifted to be a blessing.

**Prayer of Dedication/Offering:**

We are indeed recipients of God’s grace and generosity. God loves us and affirms us.  
But, in receiving, we are also called to give, to share, and to live lives of gratitude.  
Baptism reminds us that ordinary gifts can do extraordinary things. Baptism inspires  
us to use our gifts not knowing how they might transform. Our offerings of time, talent,  
and money will gratefully be received. Now is the opportunity to share your gifts to  
further the church’s work and the Spirit’s mission.  
Oh God, we give you thanks for our community of faith and we give in gratitude for  
your watchful presence with us throughout the years. Amen.

**Prayers of the People:**

Sing into prayer: “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” (VU 400) x2

**This recording from the album *Son Shiny Day* (1973) is performed by the composer of the hymn, Ken Medema. Medema is an American singer-songwriter, pianist, and former musical therapist who has recorded over 40 albums.**

**[Ken Medema - Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying - YouTube](#)**

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

God of Mystery and Light,  
we come to you this day in awe and wonder at your beauty  
and your ability to create and recreate all that swirls around us.

You call us to be in covenant with you—to know and receive your love and to give it back to all creation, to each other, and to you.  
Envelop us this day, surrounding us in the safety that is the knowledge that your Spirit is with us as we seek to follow the path of Christ.  
So much of your world is lost this day. People are lost to each other. Children are lost from their parents and caregivers. Men and women are lost in their struggle with drugs and alcohol. Families are lost because of disagreement, unemployment, and heartbreak. Countries are lost in the dust of war; refugees cry out in their loss of home and loss of safety.  
But yet, your light shines wherever we are, searching us out as a lighthouse searches for a ship at sea. Your grace reminds us that we are worthy to be named—even if you must name and rename us so that we hear you calling to us.  
We are affirmed before we ask for affirmation.  
May we live in awe and wonder at this reality.  
This day, we lift up those in our community who feel like they don't belong: because they might not fit in with social norms at either school or work, because they are controlled by fear and anxiety, because they feel alone or judged, because they are sick or paralyzed by grief.  
Enable us to be the ones who help others to hear their name being called, to receive your love, your hope, and your Spirit of Peace.  
We thank you that you have given us hands that can reach out, eyes that see deep beneath the surface, ears that hear truth, mouths that speak justice, and hearts that open wide to give and receive your love.  
Thank you for the will to try again when we fail, when we fall, when we need to learn from you and from each other.  
Send your Spirit once again to help us use these gifts for the betterment of your world and the coming of your kingdom. In the strong name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

**Hymn:** MV 161 I Have Called You by Your Name

Thank you to Érika Wood from Forest Grove United Church, Toronto, for sharing the beautiful gift of her voice. The 1995 hymn "I Have Called You by Your Name" was composed by Daniel Charles Damon, an Associate Editor of Hymnody for Hope Publishing and a Fellow of the Hymn Society of the United States and Canada, the highest honour the Society can confer.

[I Have Called You by Your Name MV 161 - YouTube](#)

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 your 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 ouch 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.

**Benediction:**

May God's love and grace shine upon you. May the Light of Jesus shine from within you. May the joy of the Spirit shine all around you. And may you and those you love, wherever they might be, remember who you are and to whom you belong.

Amen, Amen,  
and may it be so,  
this day and forever more.

**Online Postlude:** Algonquin Water Song

In honour of the Baptism of Jesus and in acknowledgement of the deep significance that water plays in all our lives, no matter our faith traditions, I pass along this Algonquin Water Song. I love the idea that water has memory – what might this mean in terms of our connection to each other, our ancestors, Mother Earth, Jesus and John?  
[Sing The Water Song - YouTube](#)

**Announcements**

Sunday Zoom Coffee Time – Every Sunday at 11 am, following our service, join our Zoom coffee time using the same Zoom link as the 10 am service.

Devotional group – We are moving to Zoom for our meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.