

**The United Church of Canada
Carlisle/Kilbride Pastoral Charge
Baptism of Jesus, January 11, 2026
Kilbride 9:30 a.m.; Carlisle 11:00 a.m.**



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Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Welcome to this place and to this time together. We are pleased that you could join us today as your presence helps to enrich the experience of worship.

As we worship God, we acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of (Kilbride: the Huron-Wendat, Petun, Seneca, Neutral, Anishinaabe, and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation), (Carlisle: the Neutral, Haudenosaunee, Anishinabek, and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation), who continue to cry out for justice. As treaty people, we commit to listen, learn, and work to right the wrongs of the past and present.

Life and Work of the Church

Lighting the Christ Candle: John 1:5

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Gathering Song: VU 79 (v. 1 & 4) – Arise, Your Light Is Come

The chancel choir and congregation of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia, take this hymn at an energetic pace, led by their organist, who adds interludes between each verse. Composed by William H. Walker in 1872, the tune is appropriately known as FESTAL SONG, and, echoing Isaiah 60:1, Ruth Duck penned the lyrics in 1974.

[Arise, Your Light Is Come! | The Chancel Choir of Trinity Church](#)

1 Arise, your light is come!
 The Spirit's call obey;
 show forth the glory of your God,
 which shines on you today.

4 Arise, your light is come!
 The mountains burst in song!
 Rise up like eagles on the wing;
 God's power will make us strong.

Call to Worship:

(Celebrate God's Presence)

All who thirst, come to the water
and drink deeply of these living streams.

**Come, all who are weary;
come, all who yearn for forgiveness.**

As the waters of the Jordan washed over Jesus,
so the Holy Spirit washes over you and me.

**Our gracious God beckons and blesses us.
Let us give praise for new life in Christ.**

Opening Prayer:

God our Creator, Living Water,
River of Mercy, Source of Life,
in whom we live and move
and have our being,
who quenches our thirst,
refreshes our weariness,
bathes and washes
and cleanses our wounds,
be for us always a fountain of life
and for all the world a river of hope
springing up in the midst of the deserts of despair.
Honour and blessing, glory and praise to you forever.
Amen.

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

Words & Music: Daniel Charles Damon 1995

The Chancel Choir of Trinity United in Kitchener performs Dan Damon's 1995 hymn accompanied by Music Director and organist Alan C. Whitmore. I particularly enjoy the trumpet in the final verse.

I Have Called You by Your Name

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the women reaching out,
choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.
- 4 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.

Prayer for Grace and Assurance of Grace:

(written by Gord Dunbar in Gathering/ACE-2020-21, used with permission)

We have gathered, surrounded by the light of Christ
and the waters of baptism:

we have nothing to fear from the truth which sets us free.

Let us turn with confidence to the God of grace. Let us pray:

We stand on the banks of the river with you, companion Jesus.

We look at the stream of people moving forward to accept the gift of baptism – and we wonder.

Do they truly understand how completely their lives will be disrupted?

**Are they truly aware of the challenge of living a life of faith
that changes them from the inside out?**

Do they truly welcome the call to never be the same again?

For that matter, O Christ, do we? Do I?

Yet, as we watch those who have received their baptism,
this washing away of what was in order to invite in what *will be*,
we notice the look of transformation that gushes forth in their smiles,
we become aware of the change in their posture and the light that warms their faces.

That's the kind of wholeness for which we yearn.

That's the kind of new life we seek as we share the confessions of our hearts with you,
relayed silently within our hearts:

(a time of silent prayer)

Ah, here we are, wrapped within your loving arms of compassion, O Spirit,
anticipating your intimate touch through the waters of life –
your cleansing, your renewing, and your equipping of us for life's vagaries.
We imagine the trickles of water over our face, down our back, and into our eyes.

Each trickle maps a path of transformation.

Each trickle becomes a web of strength and of courage.

Each trickle disrupts life as we knew it

to prepare us for the renewed life we will come to know.

As we blink away the trickles from our eyes,

our vision becomes your vision.

We understand now.

You have taken us as we are, O God.

You have summoned out what we shall be.

In baptism, you have set your seal upon our hearts.

Living Christ, do we yet know how completely our lives will continue to change through
our baptism?

Perhaps, but *we do* know that you are with us each step of the way – our companion
and our guide, the one who taught us to pray,

Lord's Prayer: VU 960 (sung)

This setting of the Lord's Prayer is an example of Anglican chant, where rhythmic notation is approximate, as it meant to imitate speech rhythms. It was first published

in 1774 as part of a group of twenty anonymous chants in English organist Richard Langdon's *Divine Harmony, a Collection in Score of Psalms and Anthems*. If you feel moved to sing along to John Keys' organ solo at home, note that that there is a seven-second introduction.

The Lord's Prayer (Langdon) (Instrumental Version)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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 them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Remembering Our Baptism:

The sacrament of baptism proclaims and celebrates the grace of God.
By water and the Spirit, we are called, claimed, and commissioned:
we are called God's own, welcomed as children of God;
we are claimed by Christ, united with Christ,
united with one another and the Christian community
of every time and place;
we are commissioned to Christ's ministry
of love, peace, and justice,
and strengthened by the Holy Spirit
for the work of the church in the world.

Congregational Renewal of Baptismal Faith

At various moments on the journey of our life in Christ, we have opportunity to reaffirm and renew the faith proclaimed in baptism. This is one such moment.
As those who have been baptized, we gather to reaffirm the power of the Holy Spirit and to celebrate our place in the people of God.
With joy and thanksgiving we celebrate the faith we all share,
and rededicate ourselves to the life and work of the body of Christ.

A. Profession of Faith in the Triune God

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others by the Spirit?

All: I do, by the grace of God.

B. Commitment to Seek Justice and Resist Evil

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you seek to resist evil and to live in love and justice?

All: I will, God being my helper.

C. Commitment to Follow the Way of Jesus Christ

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ?

All: I will, God being my helper.

D. Commitment to the Mission and Ministry of the Church

Will you join with your brothers and sisters in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

All: I will, God being my helper.

Congregational Commitment:

As a baptized and baptizing church, will you continue to support and nurture one another within a community that worships God, resists evil, and seeks justice?

All: We will, God being our helper.

Prayer:

Most Holy God, in water, renew us.

In calling, **affirm us.**

In living, **guide us.**

In proclaiming, **strengthen us.**

In faith, **encourage us.**

In trusting, **love us.**

God of power and of love, at his baptism you called Jesus your beloved son and sent your Spirit upon him.

May we, born of water and of the Spirit, know ourselves to be beloved by you. Help us to rejoice in the new life to which you call us. Amen.

Act of Remembrance: (*dip your hand in the water and make the sign of the cross on your hand or forehead*)

Let us remember that we have been marked with a sign that says we are one of Christ's own.

Hymn: VU 442 – Wash Us, God, Your Sons and Daughters (Words for Adult Baptism)

Words: Ruth Duck 1986; Music: attrib. Benjamin Franklin White 1844

*Ruth Duck set her touching 1986 lyrics to the well-known hymn tune BEACH SPRING. Although we'll be singing the words for adult baptism, Oleta Adams performs the version for children's baptism, a recording of which can be found on her 1997 album *Come Walk with Me*. Adams (b. 1953) is an American gospel and soul singer, pianist, and songwriter.*

Wash O God Our Sons and Daughters - Oleta Adams

- 1 Wash us, God, your sons and daughters,
newborn creatures of your womb.
Number us among your people,
raised like Christ from death and tomb.
Weave us garments bright and sparkling;
compass us with love and light.
Fill, anoint us; send your Spirit,
holy dove and heart's delight.

2 Every day we need your nurture;
by your milk may we be fed.
Now we join your feast, partaking
cup of blessing, living bread.
Give us new life; guide our footsteps;
free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying,
by your Spirit, children, heirs.

3 O how deep your holy wisdom!
Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honour!
With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you,
water-washed and Spirit-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer.
Recreate us; God, transform!

Prayer for Illumination:

(Celebrate God's Presence)

Eternal God,
in the reading of the scripture, may your Word be heard;
in the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known;
and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. Amen.

Readings from Our Christian Tradition

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 42:1-9 *The servant of God brings justice*

42:1 Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

42:2 He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street;

42:3 a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

42:4 He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

42:5 Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

42:6 I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,

42:7 to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

42:8 I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

42:9 See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17 *Christ revealed as God's servant*

3:13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

3:14 John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

3:15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.

3:16 And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him.

3:17 And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Response:

The words of our faith spoken among us.

May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Reflection

Hymn: VU 567 – Will You Come and Follow Me

Words: The Iona Community 1987; Music: Scottish traditional, arr. The Iona Community 1987

The Adult Choir of St Matthew's Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, performs the Iona Community's 1987 hymn as arranged by Tom Trenney. Besides being a composer, Trenney is a conductor, organist, and teacher as well as the Minister of Music at First-Plymouth Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, since 2009.

[Will You Come and Follow Me - Tom Trenney - Adult Choir, St. Matthew's Lutheran, Wauwatosa, WI](#)

- 1 Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
- 2 Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?
- 3 Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?
- 4 Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

- 5 Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grown in you and you in me.

Offering Prayer:

(Celebrate God's Presence)

**Gracious God,
bless and transform all that we offer:
our faltering steps, our brokenness,
our hope, our risking, our hearts,
that your covenant may be written on our hearts
and we may be a blessed and transformed covenant people.
In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Offering Music: MV 156 – Dance with the Spirit

Words & Music: Jim Strathdee 1995

This short hymn celebrating the Holy Spirit is part of the composer's larger work *Mass for the Healing of the Earth*. It is given a passionate and uplifting performance by Jay Esplana, Sabrielle McCurdy, Lindsay Warnock, and the band at Canadian Memorial United Church in Vancouver.

[Dance with the Spirit | Sunday Service | Canadian Memorial United Church \(CMUC Music\)](#)

Dance with the spirit early in the mornin',
give with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way

Hymn: VU 242 – Let All Things Now Living

Words: Katherine K. Davis 1939, alt.; Music: Welsh folk melody; desc. Katherine K. Davis 1938

Led by conductor Eunsook Park, the award-winning Gracias Choir performs this joyful hymn with orchestral accompaniment. American composer and music teacher Katherine Kennicott Davis (1892-1980) wrote around 800 pieces, most of which were choral. In this case, she set her 1939 lyrics to the traditional Welsh melody known as ASH GROVE.

[Gracias Choir - Let All Things Now Living](#)

- 1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.

God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into Light.

- 2 By law God enforces, the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shines;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise:
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

Sending Forth and Blessing:

(Celebrate God's Presence)

May the water of your baptism enliven you;
may the faith of your baptism strengthen you;
may the community of the baptized support you;
and may Christ who was baptized keep you in God's love. Amen.

Sung Sending Forth: VU 79 (v. 1) – Arise, Your Light Is Come
[Arise, Your Light Is Come! | The Chancel Choir of Trinity Church](#)

- 1 Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.

Online Postlude: Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)

Written by Matt Crocker, Joel Houston, and Salomon Ligthelm, this contemporary song by Australian worship group Hillsong United won the Dove Award for Song of the Year in 2014 and was ranked the No. 1 Christian song of the decade by the American magazine *Billboard*. In this video by Canadian Memorial United Church, Sabrielle McCurdy, Heather Olson, and Rose McNeil perform in three-part harmony.
[Oceans | Sabrielle McCurdy, Rose McNeil, Heather Olson | CMUC Music](#)