

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026
The Baptism of Samuel T.

Gathering Music

“Tell me the Stories of Jesus”



Welcome



Announcements

Light the Christ Candle



Fire and water are sustaining when handled with respect. Let us hold to our faith as the water of life and the light for our way.



Prelude

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

Call to Worship

We worship God who caused the sea to look and flee. God is our strength; we will praise God !

We worship God in whose presence the mountains and hills skipped. God is our strength; we will praise God !

Tremble, O Earth, at the presence of the Almighty, the One who turns rock into pools of water and flint into springs. God is our strength; we will praise God!

Amen.

Hymn VU # 644

"I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"

- 1 I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptised,
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 'til 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 baptised,
to see your life unfold.



CHEER UP OLD BOY!

Prayer of Confession

God, when we get afraid of what lies ahead, we want to go back to the old ways instead of seeking your new way with us.

When we don't see the signs of hope we expect, we complain, we turn to other things, and we blame each other.

When we do have enough, we want even more and, by wanting more, often others have less than enough.

When we work so hard to get something, we forget your goodness and think our lives are what we've done, have, or achieved. Gracious God, forgive us and open us to you. Holy Giver, our hands are open to receive your gifts. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Trust in God's forgiveness and power to transform our regret to mercy.

Thanks be to God ! Amen.



Time with the Young People
by Sarah & Greg

The Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism

(Congregation's part in BOLD type)



Statement of Purpose

We gather now to celebrate God's gift of grace given to us in the sacrament of baptism.

We are one body and one Spirit; we have one hope in Christ.

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, Creator of us all.

Out of the water of baptism we rise with new life, forgiven, renewed, and one with Christ, members of Christ's Body.

Presentation of the Candidate

On behalf of the congregation of Erin United Church, we present **Samuel Peter Thompson** for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism.

Profession of Faith and Promise

A. Profession of Faith in the Triune God

MINISTER: Do you believe in God, Source of Love, in Jesus Christ, love incarnate and in the Holy Spirit, love's power ?

PARENTS: I do, by the grace of God.

B. Commitment to follow the way of Jesus Christ.

MINISTER: Will you follow in the way of Jesus Christ, resisting oppression and evil, seeking justice, and witnessing to God's love for all creation ?

PARENTS: I will, God being my helper.

C. Commitment to the Mission and Ministry of the Church

MINISTER: Will you join with your brothers and sisters in this congregation to share in the life, work, and ministry of Jesus Christ ?

PARENTS: I will, God being my helper.

Commitment of Parents or Sponsors

MINISTER: Will you pray for this child, encourage him by your words and actions and walk with him in the way of Jesus ?

PARENTS: I will, God being my helper.

Commitment of Godparents

MINISTER: Recognising that many persons nurture and influence the life of a child, will you support this child and his parents as they grow in faith ?

GODPARENTS: I will, God being my helper.

Congregational Commitment

MINISTER: We have heard the will of these persons, we receive this child in Christ's name, as we ourselves have been received. We all belong to the one household of faith in Jesus Christ. Will you support this child with constant love, wholesome example, Christian teaching, and faithful prayer ?

I will, God being my helper.

Affirmation of Faith

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give our thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life, and within it, the gift of water. Over its unshaped promise your Spirit hovered at Creation. By water comes the growth of the Earth. Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom; in the waters of the Jordan your Child Jesus was baptised. Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Eternal and present God, we thank you for the water with which you bless us.

Pour out, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon this water, that this font may become new birth of blessing and source of grace.

Blessed are you, O God. All glory, praise and honour be to you, now and forever. Amen.

The Act of Baptism

Baptism in the Name of the Triune God

Samuel, you are baptised in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lighting of the Baptismal Candle

We light the Baptismal Candle from the Christ Candle to symbolise the Christ, the Light of the World, has been and ever will be in the life of this child. May your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to God. **Amen.**

Blessing

May the blessing of God, Source of Love, Jesus Christ, Love Incarnate, and the Holy Spirit, Love's power, be with you today and always.
Amen.

Laying on of Hands

The Holy Spirit be upon you and with you, child of God, disciple of Christ, member of the Church.
Amen.

Declaration and Congregational Welcome

Into the household of faith, we welcome you with joy and thanksgiving.

We are members of the body of Christ, we are inheritors of God's promise, in the name of Christ, we welcome you.

Presentation of the Baptism Certificate

Choral Blessing VU#454 *"May God Who Creates You"*

During the singing, the child will be introduced to the congregation.

**May God who creates you give you light;
may God who sustains you make you wise;
may God who protects you give you joy,
may God who surrounds you give you peace.**

The Pictorial Presentation

“Our Three Lovely Brothers”



Musical Offering VU# 540

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully



Offering Prayer

**O God, here are the fruits of our journey along the
Way of Jesus. Bless our journeying into ever
deeper communion with you. Bless what we give
of our time, our talent, and our treasure for your
purposes in the world. May what we give become
a holy water nurturing wholeness. Amen.**

*(The children may now proceed with their guardians to
have sharing time.)*

The Scriptures

First Reading

read by Peter

Exodus 14:19–31

Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land.

The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites ! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen."

Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen - the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived. But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

Second Reading

Mark 10:13–16

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

This is the Word of God.

Thanks be to God !



Message

by Rev. Yun-Hee

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;**

**‘til 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 shine;
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:
'til all things now living unite in thanksgiving,
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.**

Prayers of the People

Gracious and loving God, on this Baptism Sunday, we celebrate the new life you give us through Christ in Samuel. Like gentle rain from above, so are your gifts of life to us, great God. In your mercy, you move our hearts from anxiety to worship. (*rainstick*)

Like the sun that rises every morning, so is the steadiness of your love that provides for us. In your mercy, you move us from trust in things we've made to trust in your mystery and promises.
(*rainstick*)

Like a surprise gift, a bonus we could never earn, you offer us new possibilities and a chance to breathe again. In your mercy, you move us from fear to courage in your ways.
(rainstick)

Restore in us the daring confidence that if we take a break and worship you, if we stop our hands and our heads, that you will provide for us out of the storehouse of your goodness. *(rainstick)*

Give us the imagination to feed those who are hungry and help the thirsty find fresh water. Give us the imagination to be companions to the sick, the lonely, and those in prison. Give us the awareness that you are present even in our most lonely, fearful place. We pray in Jesus' Name. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer VU#960

**Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowéd 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 those who 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, for ever and ever. Amen.**



Hymn MV # 157 *"I Am a Child of God"*

1

I am a child of God,
I am a glimpse of God's new Creation.
I am a child of God,
I am a child of God.

2

I am an endless prayer.
I am a yearning for contemplation
I am an endless prayer,
I am an endless prayer.



3 I am an angry voice,
I am compassion and consternation,
I am an angry voice,
I am an angry voice.

4 I am a cry for peace,
I am commitment and dedication,
I am a cry for peace,
I am a cry for peace.

5 I am a song of joy,
I am the moment of jubilation,
I am a song of joy,
I am a song of joy.

Blessing



As we celebrate the waters of baptism, may God renew your faith, refresh your spirit, and guide your steps into newness of life.

Go forth with courage, serve with compassion, love with generosity, and trust in God's presence wherever you go.

May the blessing of God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - be with you today and always.

Amen.



Commissioning “Go Now in Peace”

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true.

Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there within, around, above.

Go now in peace, in faith and in love.

Amen, amen, amen.

**God, we thank you for being with us.
And
thank you Congregation for worshipping today
in person and by Zoom !
Thank you for your participation !**

Welcome Samuel to the Christian Family !



*(adapted from the United
Church of Canada's
Resources, "Gathering".
Images from the public
domain*