

Stairs Memorial United Church

Faith that Matters

Love that Matters

Community that Matters



Discover Your Gifts, Share Your Gifts

Worship Leader:	Rev. Catherine MacDonald
Music Director:	Byron Hermann
Student Minister:	Jessie Crabtree
Reader:	Marlene Kemp
Zoom/Livestream:	Jack Godfrey

January 16, 2022 @ 10:30 AM

[www.stairsmemorialunitedchurch.ca](http://www.stairsmemorialunitedchurch.ca)

## **WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

Welcome & Acknowledging the Territory

Sung Meditation – We Believe in the Light

**We believe in the light.  
We believe in the light.  
That has come, that has come.  
And is coming. X 2**

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship (Responsive) Based on Isaiah 43:1–7

Come in, hearing these words:

**Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.**

Come in, knowing these words to be true:

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

Come in, feeling these words in your bones:

**You are precious in my sight.**

**We come to worship, hearing, knowing,  
feeling the love and wonder of our God.**

Opening Prayer (Together)

**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.**

*Silent Prayer...*

**We turn to you,  
knowing that you understand us,  
forgive us, and love us like a Mother,  
and so we sing with confidence and faith,  
“Our Father Our Father, in Heaven  
Hallowed be your name  
Your kingdom come, your will be done  
On earth, as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread  
Forgive us our sins  
As we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil  
For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.”**

**▲ Hymn – A Light Is Gleaming – VU # 82**

**Words of Assurance**

**Prayer of Confession (Together)**

**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.**

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

A Time for Wondering

Scripture – Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

Reflection – The Gift of Affirmation

Ministry of Music

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn – I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry VU # 644

A New Creed

Minute for Mission

Offering Time & Song – This Little Light of Mine

**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.**

Prayers of the People

Hymn – Jesus Bids Us Shine VU # 585

Blessing & Benediction

We have heard the words of the prophet: Do not fear!

**As we go, may we go with courage!**

We have heard the story of Jesus' baptism.

**As we go, may we hear our name as a gift.**

Song of Dismissal – Will You Come and See the Light VU # 96

**Will you come and see the light from the stable door?  
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.  
It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are;  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?**

The Life and Work of the Faith Community

*Liturgy adapted from United Church of Canada: Discover Your Gifts, Share Your Gifts*