

Minister: Elisabeth Bachem
Organist: Deirdre Morrell-Ormerod

Third Sunday in Lent
Lenten Theme: The Wilderness Journey

March 4, 2018

Gathering the Community

[* indicates to stand, if able]

The Organ Prelude will commence at 11:00 AM. Please remain seated and use the time during this period to prepare quietly for our time of worship together.

Organ Prelude
Welcome & Introduction to the Service
Lighting of the Christ Candle
Silence

* Call to Worship

From the waters of Creation, the earth sprang forth.
From the waters of a womb, a blessed child was given to us.
From the waters of a river, people were baptized and marked as God's children
Praise be to God, whose loving gifts and presence have called us together.

* Prayer of Gathering

God who offers us light and hope, be with us this day as we celebrate a baptism and reflect on faith in a changing world. Help us to remember your healing, cleansing, and claiming love for us. Remind us again of the many ways in which you reach out to us. May the images of the water and light be for us images of hope. Bring us closer to you, loving God. Embrace us again with your love. We open our hearts to you this day.

* **Hymn: "God we pray at this beginning"**
[Voices United #443]

A reading from Mark 10:13-16 Jesus defends the children

Anthem: "Ave verum"

The Sacrament of Baptism

Baby Georgia Marielle, daughter of Shilo Fry and Matt Smith
(see separate insert)

* **Baptism Hymn: "In the bulb, there is a flower"**
[Voices United #703]

Hearing the Word

A reading from: Romans 12:9-21 *Marks of the Christian life*
The Gospel reading: Mark: 12:28-34 *The most important commandment*

* **Hymn: "When I needed a neighbour"**
[Voices United #600]

Sermon Series: The BIG Questions
Today: "Will Christianity survive?"

A moment of Silence is kept

Responding to the Word

**We sing of God the Spirit,
faithful and untameable,
who is creatively and redemptively active in the world.**

**The Spirit challenges us to celebrate the holy
not only in what is familiar,
but also in that which seems foreign.**

**We sing of the Spirit,
who speaks our prayers of deepest longing
and enfolds our concerns and confessions,
transforming us and the world.**

**We offer worship
as an outpouring of gratitude and awe
and a practice of opening ourselves
to God's still, small voice of comfort,
to God's rushing whirlwind of challenge.**

**Through word, music, art, and sacrament,
in community and in solitude,
God changes our lives, our relationships, and our
world.**

From the "Song of Faith" United Church, 2006

Offering our Gifts

*** The Doxology: "What Can I Do"**

[More Voices #191]

Offertory Prayer

Preparing for Service During the Week

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

[Voices United #960]

Announcements & Notices

*** Parting Hymn: "Jesus, you have come to the lake
shore"**

[Voices United #356]

* Commissioning

Sung Blessing: "May the Love of the Lord"

[see inside front cover of Voices United]

**Next week: "Why do Christians believe they are the
only ones who go to heaven?"**

Readings: Matthew 7:13-23 and Luke 23:35-43

"Faith does not eliminate questions. But faith knows
where to take them."

Elisabeth Elliott, American writer