

First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge
Sunday, January 12th, 2025
The Baptism of the Lord

Praise Medley: Children of the Light
My Love Colours Outside the Lines

Greeting and Announcements

Introit: Jesus, Name Above All Names

Call to Worship:

Like the soft whisper of a little child singing to herself before
anyone else in the house is awake,

**ever so gently, God's voice cradles us with songs of
wonder and awe.**

With the persistence of teenagers and young adults, heady with
the newfound freedom of questioning everything,

**God's voice rumbles like a river through our lives,
sweeping away all the boundaries between us.**

Like the grandpa who passes on the secret to his bread, like the
nana who teaches her grandkids how to drive,

**God's voice is always reminding us that we are
precious, esteemed, beloved.**

Prayer of Approach: (unison)

**When we baptize ourselves in the frigid waters of fear, you
come to gather us up, drying us off with grace, wrapping us
in the warm, fluffy towel of the Spirit. When our faith
becomes as threadbare as the carpet beneath our feet, you
come, your work boots on, your tool belt around your waist,
building a new foundation for us, whistling, 'my hope is
built on nothing less...' When we worry that someone else
has taken our place in your heart, you show us where our
name is etched, so you can always feel us with every beat.
Holy One, we lift our prayers of joy to you, as we worship
together today.**

Hymn: On Jordan's Bank **VU 20**

A Time for All People

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**We know what it is like to be singed by the flames of our
lives, Holy God. We look for ourselves in all the wrong
places – success, power, adulation. We carve our names in
the granite walls of work, hoping we will be remembered
when we are gone. We have gone through the waters of
baptism, but live as if they have not changed us. We need to
hear your sure word, 'do not fear', Shaper of our lives. Our
failures do not cause you to quit loving us, for you continue
to claim us, gathering us up in your compassionate arms. In
our baptism, we discover not the end, but the first step of
our journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.**

(Silent reflection)

Assurance of Pardon:

God's words of comfort and restoration are more powerful than
any foolishness, any mistakes and sins we commit.

**This is good news: we are God's people! By water
and word, by the Spirit of God's redeeming grace, we
are marked and sealed as God's beloved children.
Amen.**

Hymn: Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness **VU 375**

Offertory Hymn: Grant Us, God, the Grace **VU 540**

Offertory Prayer: (unison)

**We offer our gifts in recognition that we are baptized
people, transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. So, we
will hold nothing back but will share our lives, our hearts,
our energies, as well as our efforts, in ministry to the world
around us. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Scripture Readings:

Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29 on **page 756 of VU**

Epistle Lesson: Acts 8:14-17

Gospel Lesson: Luke 3:15-17,21-22

Hymn: Spirit Song

Meditation

Ministry of Music

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response: Breathe On Me, Breath of God

Hymn: How Firm a Foundation **VU 660**

Commissioning and Benediction:

Baptized, we will go to share God's love with others.

**We will welcome those the world rejects as our
sisters and brothers.**

Baptized, we will become the grace of our Lord Jesus.

**We will share the waters of life with everyone we
meet.**

Baptized, we will become the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

**We will be a community of justice, not judgement and
a household of hope for everyone.**