

# Chalmers United Church



10:30 AM SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 2024  
REV. ELIZABETH GUILLAUME-KOENE  
“BAPTISM: WELCOMING, BLESSING, BELONGING”

## COVID PRECAUTIONS

1. Self-screening guidelines: If you have Covid symptoms or are isolating due to close contact, you should not attend in person. Services are also live-streamed.
2. Masking is encouraged but no longer mandatory.  
Many will still choose to remain masked for their own or for others' safety. We welcome this choice and urge everyone to respect individuals' choices - each according to their own personal situation.
3. Social distancing is encouraged in the sanctuary and MacCallum Hall.

*We respectfully ask people to finish their conversations and make their way to their seats as the organist start to play, to allow for a few minutes of quiet reflection. Thank you.*

**Bold Text** indicates the parts that everyone reads together.

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

*Hymn Prelude on Breathe on me Breath of God - Daniel Burton*

### WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

**All:** The lands on which we are gathering today are the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Peoples. We acknowledge their enduring presence on this land, as well as the presence of the Huron-Wendat, Metis, Inuit and other First Nations from across Turtle Island. We deeply respect the many generations of people who have cared for this land and whose spiritualities, teachings and ways of knowing are closely tied to it. We seek to build right relations with these Peoples, to learn from them and to live together on this land with respect and gratitude.

#### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

**One:** We light this candle to remind us that Christ is the light of the world and present in our midst.

**All:** May the life and words of Jesus enlighten us on our way.

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

**One:** You will say in that day:

**All:** **God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid;  
for the Sovereign God is my strength and my song.**

**One:** With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.  
And you will say in that day:

**All:** **Sing praises to the Sovereign God  
who has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.**

#### CENTERING PRAYER

**One:** We come to you, O God, our River of Life:

**All:** **May we drink deeply, and receive your grace.**

**One:** We come to you, O God, our Rock of Ages:

**All:** **May we stand in trust, and receive your strength.**

**One:** We come to you, O God, our Source of Compassion:

**All:** **May we open our hearts,  
and receive your healing love. Amen.**

**HYMN VU 375** Spirit, *Spirit of Gentleness*

**Refrain: Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,  
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free.  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
stir me from placidness  
Wind, Wind on the sea**

**1** You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,  
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;  
and over the eons you called to each thing;  
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings. **R**

**2** You swept thro' the desert, you stung with the sand,  
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;  
and when they were blinded with their idols and lies,  
then you spoke thro' your prophets to open their eyes.

**3** You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,  
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;  
and down in the city you called once again,  
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

**4** You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,  
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams,  
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,  
with bold new decisions your people arise. **R**

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## A WORLD ENGAGED WITH GOD

### A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**All:** Holy One, Sacred Mystery, greater than words can express;  
whose love for us and all creation exceeds our capacity to  
imagine, open our hearts and minds to hear afresh your Word to us  
today. Amen

### READINGS

Matthew 28: 18-20

Titus 3: 4-6

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

*Baptism: Welcoming, Blessing, Belonging*

**HYMN VU 382** *Breathe on Me Breath of God*

**1** Breathe on me, breath of God,  
fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love,  
and do what thou wouldst do.

**2** Breathe on me, breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,  
until my will is one with thine,  
to do and to endure.

**3** Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
till I am wholly thine,  
until this earthly part of me  
glows with thy fire divine.

**4** Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
so shall I never die;  
but live with thee the perfect life  
of thine eternity.

Words: Edwin Hatch 1878, French trans. Suzanne Bidgrain 1937  
Music: Robert Jackson 1888 Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

## COMMITTING TO THE FUTURE BAPTISM

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

**One:** Sisters and brothers, siblings in Christ,  
Let us celebrate God's gift of grace  
given to us in the sacrament of baptism

**All:** **There is one body  
and one Spirit;  
we have one hope in Christ.**

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

**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 CANDIDATE**

Margot Craft

On behalf of Chalmers United Church, I present Shannon Royster for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH AND PROMISES**

**A. Profession of Faith in the Triune God**

Question: Do you believe in God, Source of love;  
in Jesus Christ, love incarnate;  
and in the Holy Spirit, love's power.

Answer: I do, by the grace of God.

**B. Commitment to Seek Justice and Resist Evil**

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

Answer: I will, God being my helper

**C. Commitment to Follow the Way of Jesus Christ**

Question: Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ in your words and  
actions?

Answer: I will, God being my helper

**D. Commitment to the Mission and Ministry of the Church**

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

Answer: I will, God being my helper

**CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT**

One: Let us pledge to Shannon our support and care.

**All: As a baptized and baptizing people,  
we commit ourselves to support and uphold you  
within the community of faith.**

One: May God grant us all  
the grace to live out our baptism.

**All: Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of the universe,  
Maker of heaven and earth, Keeper of sky and sea.  
At the beginning, your Spirit was at work,  
brooding over the waters of creation's birth.  
Again and again

You have shown your grace to us through water:  
cleansing the earth at the flood,  
parting for the exodus at the Red Sea,  
flowing from the rock in the wilderness.

**All: Blessed are you, O God.**

One: In the fullness of time, you gave us Jesus:  
nurtured in the waters of Mary's womb,  
baptized by John in the River Jordan,  
giver of living water,  
wellspring of eternal life.

**All: Blessed are you, O God.**

One: Therefore, eternal and present God,  
we thank you for the water with which you bless us.  
We pray that those who are baptized,  
into the death and resurrection of Jesus,  
may life in your grace.

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

**All: Blessed are you, O God.**

One: All glory, praise, and honour be to you, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

### WATER IS Poured

### ACT OF BAPTISM

### BLESSING

### LIGHTING OF A CANDLE

## WELCOME

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

All: **We are members of the Body of Christ.  
We are inheritors of God's promise.  
In the name of Christ, we welcome you.**

### HYMN VU 559 *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*

1 Come, O Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing your grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing  
call for songs of endless praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,  
Mount of God's unfailing love.

2 Here I pause in my sojourning,  
giving thanks for having come,  
come to trust, at every turning,  
God will guide me safely home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God,  
came to rescue me from danger,  
precious presence, precious blood.

3 O, to grace how great a debtor  
daily I am drawn anew!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to you.  
Prone to wander, I can feel it,  
wander from the love I've known:  
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,  
seal it for your very own.

Words: Robert Robinson 1758, alt.

Music: John Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813

Word alterations © 1993 The Pilgrim Press

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# COMMITTING TO THE FUTURE

## OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

**HYMN VU 540** *Grant Us, God, the Grace of Giving*

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

Words: anonymous Music: attrib. Christian F. Witt, Psalmody Sacra 1715,  
adapt. Henry John Gauntlett 1861 Used by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Gracious God,  
In the face of all that this world  
has become and endures:  
the death and destruction,  
the dirt and disfigurement,  
the division and disinterest,  
We need a baptism that will cleanse and heal us,  
and wash away our sin.

In the face of all that this world  
could be and could know:  
the beauty and the bravery,  
the compassion and companionship,  
the generosity and curiosity,  
We need a baptism that will renew and inspire us,  
and awaken us to your life within.

So, pour out your living water, we pray,  
flood us and make us new  
and send us out as water bearers  
to awaken life in your world.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**All: O Great Spirit, we honour your name as sacred and holy. Bring your good road to us, where the beauty of your ways in the spirit-world above is reflected in the earth below. Provide for us day by day – the elk, the buffalo, and the salmon. The corn, the squash, and the wild rice. All the things we need for each day. Release us from the things we have done wrong, in the same way we release others for the things done wrong to us. Guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your good road and set us free from the evil one and his worthless ways. May it be so! Amen.**



**HYMN VU 642** *Be Thou My Vision*

- 1 Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;  
naught be all else to me save that thou art,  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;  
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;  
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,  
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.
- 3 Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight  
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,  
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;  
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.
- 4 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 5 Great God of heaven, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be vision, O ruler of all.

Words: trans. Mary Byrne 1905, vers.. Eleanor Hull, 1912 alt  
Music: Irish trad. by permission. #A715424 OneLicense.net

**BENEDICTION**

- One: All who are united in the covenant of baptism are the body of  
Christ in the world. Go in peace. May God bless you and keep you.
- All: Amen.**
- One: May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
- All: Amen.**
- One: May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace.
- All: Amen.**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

**HYMN VU 454** *May God Who Creates You*

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.

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**POSTLUDE**

*All Glory be to God on High* - F.W. Zachow

## THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Minister</b>          | Rev. Elizabeth Guillaume-Koene is trained as an Intentional Interim Minister and Spiritual Director in the Reformed tradition. She lives in Bowmanville with her husband, three boys and a small menagerie of critters. She spends her spare time gardening, playing board games and at their cabin up north |
| <b>Organist</b>          | Juliet Milsome   |
| <b>Co-Liturgist</b>      | Linda Steinberg  |
| <b>Presenter</b>         | Margot Craft   |
| <b>Hymn Singers</b>      | Members of Chalmers United Church  |
| <b>Media Techs</b>       | Ahmad Spierij, Brigitta Holzschuh, Aidan McClung   |
| <b>Reader</b>            | Monika Holzschuh   |
| <b>Refreshments</b>      | Monika Holzschuh   |
| <b>Counter</b>           | David Yen  |
| <b>After the service</b> | you are invited to join in fellowship and coffee at the back of the Sanctuary.   |

At 10:30 join us in person at Chalmers or watch live-streamed on Chalmers YouTube channel. The service will also be posted later to the same channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUgl1tZaiRjj18sFwj2P2Q>  
The link for Chalmers' YouTube channel can also found on the home page. [www.chalmersunitedchurch.org](http://www.chalmersunitedchurch.org).

The flowers this week  
are to commemorate  
this special day for  
Shannon, Rev Elizabeth and Chalmers



# BAPTISM

Baptism is a symbolic action that signifies the new life God gives us as we join the church community. Baptism uses water as a symbolic cleansing that signifies the acceptance of new life within the church family. The sacrament of baptism is the single rite of initiation into the Christian community, the church.

The United Church offers baptism to all ages. We believe the gift of God's love doesn't depend on our ability to understand it, so we baptize people as infants right up through adulthood. During the ceremony, which usually takes place as part of a regular worship service, everyone in the congregation pledges support for the candidate or child and their parents.

*Baptism by water in the name of the Holy Trinity is the means by which we are received, at any age, into the covenanted community of the church. It is the ritual that signifies our rebirth in faith and cleansing by the power of God. Baptism signifies the nurturing, sustaining, and transforming power of God's love and our grateful response to that grace. ([A Song of Faith](#))*

Baptism is not a requirement for God's love. We believe people who die without baptism are in no way condemned, lost, or damned.

Baptism in the United Church is recognized by all denominations of the Christian church that practise infant baptism. Similarly, if someone has already been baptized in another church at any age, the United Church recognizes their baptism and welcomes them as Christians.

www: [Baptism and Communion | The United Church of Canada](#)



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