

Knox Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Emma Duncan  
FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Sacrament of Baptism

**Prelude and Fugue in B-flat minor, BWV 891 by J.S. Bach**  
featuring Daniel Lu on piano



Greetings

Call to worship

**Leader: As the day dawns anew**

People: so do our lives

**Leader: As our community gathers**

People: so does our spirits

**All: Come – young and old alike – and worship the Lord! Amen.**

Music: Come let us sing to the Lord our song (#412, verses 1, 2, 4)

Prayers of Adoration and Confession (including The Lord's Prayer)

As the deer pants for the water, so our souls long after you, O God. We come to this time of worship weary and worn from the cares of life. We are cast down and feel afraid of what tomorrow will bring. But you already know that Lord. You know the deepest cares and desires of our hearts. So, we gather together today from near and far, longing for an encounter with the risen Christ. We are thirsty for your life giving and life affirming waters of grace and redemption. Feed us, heavenly Father. Redeem us, compassionate Saviour. Strengthen us, abiding Spirit. Bless our worship in spirit and truth as we give you all honour, glory, and praise.

Compassionate Saviour, as you have done throughout the ages, you meet us where we are. You met Nicodemus in the middle of the night when he was confused and doubtful. You met the Samaritan woman at the well when all she wanted was a bucket of water. Today, you meet us when we need you the most. You meet us when we are confused and doubtful. You meet us when have been hurt by others. You meet us in our sin and shame.

Forgive us, O Lord, when we are unwilling to open our hearts to the movement of the Holy Spirit. Forgive us for closing ourselves from an encounter with you. Forgive us for not sharing your living water with others. Wash away all the dirt and messiness of our lives.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for your forgiveness, mercy, and grace. By your Spirit help us to fall in love with hope again. Guide us to be witnesses of your grace and share the gospel with others.

We pray all these things in the name of our risen Saviour, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed 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.

### Assurance of Pardon

In this time, we find God's Word, God's way, God's love, God's forgiveness. What more do we need to sustain us as we continue along the Way? On every road, in every moment, in every journey, we receive the living water of Christ Jesus so that we will never be thirsty again. People of God – in the name of Jesus Christ – receive the Good News of the Gospel. We are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

## Announcements

1. Welcome! (acknowledge pictures on the screen from last weekend)
2. Join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship for refreshments and conversation.
3. TODAY – Sacrament of Baptism (Welcome Ryan and Rutherford families and their guests)
4. Flowers in the Sanctuary  
Memorial Flowers are placed in the Sanctuary in loving memory of JK and Audrey Carman by Lynn Rutherford and family.
5. Thank you to Lynn Rutherford for doing our readings today.
6. Welcome to Enchorus Children’s Choir who are performing during our worship service today! Thanks to Catherine Richardson, Daniel Lu, and Addi Clark, and all of the children for sharing their musical talents with us.
7. Charitable givings receipts  
The charitable givings tax receipts for 2024 are now available. They will be mailed by the end of February.
8. Call to Worship during Lent  
If you and your family or friends would like to read the responsive Call to Worship during Lent, please speak with Rev. Emma.
9. Congregational Pancake Breakfast Saturday March 1, 9:00 a.m.  
Please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Burlington Food Bank. A freewill offering will be collected to cover the cost of the meal. Contact Kathy by February 26<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend.
10. Rev. Emma’s Vacation  
Rev. Emma will be on vacation from Monday February 24 – Monday March 10 with no access to her email or phone during this time. David Milmine will be leading worship on March 2 and 9. The Rev. Susan Kerr will be covering any emergency pastoral care needs. If you need to contact Susan, please contact Kathy Kelly, Ian MacIntyre, or one of our Elders.
11. Chilly Half Marathon (March 2)  
We have been working with the City and Road Race organizers to ensure that we will have parking next Sunday. The parking lot across from the church will be reserved for our use on Sunday morning.
12. Upcoming Events  
Saturday April 12, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. **Debbie to make announcement**  
Easter Eggstravaganza

Children’s Time: The Thirst Quencher

Music: O God eternal, sovereign Lord (#518, verses 1,3,5)

## Sacrament of Baptism for Mabel Ryan

**Emma:**

Baptism is a gift from God. With visible signs and words of promise, God moves towards us to claim us as children of the new covenant and members of the household of God. In baptism, God acts to unite us in Christ, to deliver us from the power of sin and death, and to call us into a new life of growth and service.

In the Sacrament of Baptism, the Church recognizes God's covenant of grace. We receive God's gift with joy and respond in faith.

Remember the words that Peter spoke on the day of Pentecost:

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, every one whom the Lord our God calls."  
(Acts 2:38-39)

Who comes to receive the gift of Baptism?

**Janet MacIntyre:**

On behalf of the Session, I present Mabel Dorothea Ryan, daughter of Amelia and Cory Ryan.

**Emma:**

Amelia and Cory, do you desire that your daughter be baptized?

**Parents:**

We do.

**Emma:**

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God who has been faithful to us in all generations, do you turn away from sin, renounce all evil powers in the world which oppose God's rule of justice and love?

**Parents:**

I do.

**Emma:**

Do you renounce the ways of sin which separate you from the love of God?

**Parents:**

I do.

**Emma:**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ, accepting him as Lord and Saviour, trusting in his grace and love?

**Parents:**

I do.

**Emma:**

Do you desire, in dependence on the Holy Spirit, to mature as a Christian in the Church, to seek the guidance of Christ as you listen for his Word, to celebrate his death and life at the table he provides, and to engage in his mission in the world?

**Parents:**

I do.

**Emma:**

Do you promise to raise Mabel in the love and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ within the home and the fellowship of the Church?

**Parents:**

We do.

**Emma:**

I would now ask the congregation to stand if you are able.

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Mabel by word and deed, with love and in prayer, encouraging her to follow the way of Christ as you are able?

**The congregation:**

We do.

**Emma:**

Let us join together in proclaiming our common faith with the Apostle's Creed, which is on the screen.

**All:**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son our Lord

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died and was buried;

He descended to the dead.

On the third day, he rose again;

He ascended into heaven,

He is seated on the right hand of the Father,

And he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

**You may be seated.**

## Emma:

Let us pray. Loving God, we praise your most holy name. Throughout all generations, you have provided us with water as a sign of your grace. From the beginning, you cushioned us in the water of our mother's womb. And through baptism, we are born again through water and the Spirit. You have chosen water, a resource of life that we cannot live without, to represent your goodness and grace. Water nourishes us, cools us, refreshes us, and cleanses us.

In Jesus Christ, you pour out the waters of your grace. By the waters of baptism, you give us your Holy Spirit who teaches us and leads us into truth and fills us with a variety of gifts, so that we might nourish, refresh, and care for your people everywhere.

Pour out your Spirit upon us and upon this water, that it may be a sign of your presence here today. By the sign of this water, which is set apart from all common use, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, you cleanse us from sin through the death of Jesus, you raise us to new life through his resurrection and you graft us into his body, the Church.

Pour out your Spirit upon Mabel so that she may know you as Lord. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## The Act of Baptism

Mabel Dorothea Ryan - I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Mabel has now been received by Christ's appointment into the holy, catholic church. Through baptism, God has welcomed her into the family of God.

## Prayer

Creator God, thank you for the gift of Mabel who has been welcomed into your family today. May she know the wonders of your love and amazing grace. We pray for her parents and family - may their example, wise counsel, and loving be a blessing in Mabel and Juniper's lives so that they may grow in faith, hope, and joy. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

[Invite congregation to sing the Aaronic Blessing.]

## Aaronic Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you,

And be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you

And give you peace. Amen.



**Prayer of Illumination**

Let us pray. Holy One of all the ages, by your Spirit grant us the courage to experience the grace and hope found within your ancient teachings. As we come to the well of your Word, saturate us with that unending truth that open our eyes to see Christ in our world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***Our Old Testament reading is taken from the Book of Psalms and we will be reading Responsive Psalm 42 verses 1-8.***

Leader: As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

**People: My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.**

Leader: When shall I come and behold the face of God?

**People: My tears have been my food day and night,  
while people say to me continually, "Where is your God?"**

Leader: These things I remember, as I pour out my soul:

**People: How I went with the throng, and led them in procession  
to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs  
of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.**

Leader: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

**People: Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.**

Leader: My soul is cast down within me; therefore, I remember you  
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

**People: Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your torrents;  
all your waves and your billows have gone over me.  
By day the Lord bestows steadfast love,  
and at night God's song is with me,  
a prayer to the God of my life. Amen.**

**Our New Testament reading is taken from the Gospel of John and we will be reading chapter 4, verses 4-29.**

But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)

The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"

Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."

The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"

The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we

worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”

Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?”

**This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## Reflection: Sir, give me this water

### Let us pray.

As our Lord offered comfort to the disciples in the Gospel of Matthew, we now pray this prayer – “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30) Amen.



One of the blessings of being a minister is that people share their stories with me. Through our shared experiences, you have come to trust me with your stories and your secrets. I have also come to appreciate that people who don't know me at all – who only know what I do for a living – have also confided in me without hesitation. Being a carrier of your stories is one of the greatest privileges of my calling. And to be honest, it can also be a heavy burden. That's why the passage from Matthew chapter 11 that I just used in my prayer is one that I memorized many years ago. I say this prayer often because it reminds me that I do not carry these burdens alone – that they belong to Christ, whose burden is light and who gives rest to my weary soul.

One of the things that is very humbling about all of the stories that you have shared with me is that is your experiences with God are not confined to this building for an hour on a Sunday morning. In fact, like we heard two weeks ago in the story of Jesus and Nicodemus, many of your “God moments” happen outside of this building because the Holy Spirit does indeed blow wherever it chooses. Indeed, the Bible is full of stories about people encountering God in everyday situations. And this is still true today. People have felt the presence of God in the ordinary and mundane circumstances of life. God reveals himself to us through the clerk at the grocery store, the teller at the bank, or a neighbour out shoveling snow. We encounter God while we are doing dishes or laundry; while we

are in the car alone or running errands with family members or visiting a friend in the hospital; while we are out walking or listening to music or reading a book.

**Or, like the Samaritan woman, she met God while getting some water for the day.**

This encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well is one of these occasions where the Lord reveals himself to someone doing their daily work. This woman – whose name has been lost to history – wasn't in a church or synagogue. She wasn't attending a Bible study or getting ready for the next church event. She wasn't looking for God at all. In fact, she didn't want to talk to anyone. Because of her history of bad relationships, she was shunned from society and she went to the well when no one would be there. She wasn't interested in hearing the other women gossip about her and so, she ran her errands at the hottest time of the day.

As she approached the well on that day, she probably groaned when she saw a man sitting there. Jesus and this woman were separated in their society by their ethnicity, religion, and gender. According to the social norms of their time, they were NOT supposed to interact with each other at all.

And yet, Jesus spoke to her. He said, [give me a drink](#).

Now this woman could have simply given Jesus what he asked for without uttering a single word. Instead, she showed great courage by engaging in conversation with him. There is no doubt that this woman was intelligent – she listened to Jesus and responded with a knowledge of the Jewish faith and the history of her own people. She also wasn't afraid to answer his question about her past relationships. She went against the societal norms, just as Jesus was.

And as she began to understand exactly WHO Jesus was, her encounter at the well changed her life forever. She abandoned one of her most valuable possessions - her water jar – and went home to tell everyone about Jesus, the Messiah.

It is important for us to appreciate that this unnamed woman of ‘ill repute’ from the despised race of Samaritans was the first evangelist recorded in the Gospel of John. Remember the goal of John’s Gospel – [so that everyone may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah?](#) (John 20:31) With this story, John is showing us that this mission will be accomplished in many different ways and through many different people.

This woman was the first person who told others about the Messiah when all she wanted was a bucket of water.

This story is so powerful and has so much to teach us today.

For me, it is a humbling reminder that my work, while important, is not what brings people to Christ. God’s Spirit does that work, not me. My job is to nurture you on your faith journey and to encourage you to open your hearts and minds to the movement of God in your everyday life.

And for all of us, we need to follow the example of the Samaritan woman and be open to the fact that God will reveal himself in our daily lives, and not just in this building. We have to be courageously willing to encounter God at home or in the car or in the grocery store. We have to be ready for God to show himself to us through other people whether there are family or friends or a complete stranger. And when God does reveal himself to us, we - like the Samaritan woman - are invited to take a drink of Christ’s living water, which gushes up to eternal life. We are also invited to say to the world – come and see Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

To God be the glory. Now and always. Amen.

## Dedication of our Tithes and Offerings

Enchorus Children's Choir - "Always Sing Your Song"  
accompanied by Daniel Lu on piano

**Prayer of Dedication** (Prayer not written in advance)

### Prayers of the People

Gracious and loving God, you have created all things and formed all people in your image. You came to us in Christ to show your love to the whole human family. You sent your Spirit to blow through us and all around us.

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for moments of joy in our lives, for the times of work and play and rest; for love given and received; for relationships that add meaning and happiness to our lives. With all that we are and all that we have, we give you thanks for the blessings of this life.

Holy God, your Spirit moved over the waters at the dawn of creation and continues to move around us today. We come to you with our prayers for all who are thirsty.

We pray for all who are physically thirsty. For those who don't have enough water to drink, or feed their animals; for those whose fields are parched and crops have withered; for those who must walk long distances to find enough water to survive, or who have to be content with water that is unclean. May they taste the refreshing waters of your love.

We pray for those who are spiritually thirsty. For those who long to know your presence, but don't know where to find you. We pray for those who are alone and without hope; for those who long to feel needed and loved; for those who are searching for meaning and purpose. May they have an encounter with the risen Christ.

We pray for those who are thirsty for justice. In a world that is broken in so many ways, Lord, we pray for peace. As the people of Ukraine commemorate the sad three-year anniversary of the invasion on their nation, we pray for peace between Ukraine and Russia. We also pray for peace in the Middle East. Give comfort to the bereaved. Provide healing to the injured. Give courage to all of the helpers. Blessed are the peacemakers.

Lord, we long for a world where people are valued over possessions, where there is an equal sharing of resources, and where families, communities, and nations can live in harmony with one another. May the Church and all believers follow the example of the Samaritan woman at the well and share the Good News of the Gospel in courage and faith.

O Lord of love, we pray for those who we name before you...

O Living God, throughout the millennia, you have come to your people in many different ways. In times of joy and sorrow. In times of doubt and fear. In times when we weren't expecting an encounter with you. You have been present in our worship and in our everyday lives. Send your Spirit to reveal Christ to us so that we may willingly receive your living water. With willing spirits, may we invite people to 'come and see' who Jesus is and what he offers us - the living waters of salvation, grace, and eternal life. In the blessed name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

**Music: Spirit, Spirit of gentleness (#399, all verses)**

**Blessing (Isaiah 58:11 The Message)**

**Sung Amen**

Enchorus Children's Choir - "As You Walk Through This World"  
accompanied by Daniel Lu (piano) and Addi Clark (flute)