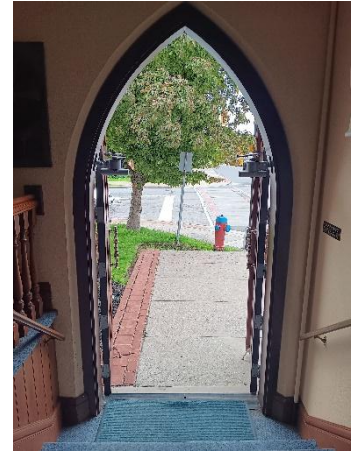


Knox Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Emma Duncan  
July 13, 2025

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



Greetings

Call to Worship

**Leader: We worship one God as Father, Son, and Spirit**

People: We have one Lord, one faith, and one baptism

**Leader: We come together as individuals**

People: But we are united in Christ

**All: Let us worship our risen Lord and Saviour! Amen.**

Music: Joyful, joyful we adore you (#410, verses 1, 3, 4)

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

Heavenly Parent, we have travelled here from many different places. We are tired. We are hot. We are anxious about the future. Some of us are fighting with loved ones. Some of us are having conflict in the workplace. All of us need to be here in your presence because in this time, we need to be reminded that we are loved. That we are forgiven.

And so, in this time and in this place, we gather to worship you as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are our Creator, Redeemer, and Guide. You have created the universe in all its complexity and diversity. You have created each one of us as unique individuals with different skills and abilities. In your great love for us, you sacrificed your Son so that we can receive the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. In unity and harmony with one another, we offer you all that we have in praise and adoration.

Redeeming Saviour, in this time of worship, we must also confess our sins. In the past week, we have done many things that do not honour you. We have complained about our lot in life when so many people suffer. We have gossiped about others so that we can feel better about ourselves. We fight with the people we love. Too often we behave like selfish and spoiled children who are only interested in getting what they think they deserve.

O Lord, in your great mercy, forgive our sins! Look down from heaven and give us your forgiveness and grace. Deliver us from temptation. Restore us to the joy of your salvation.

O God in Community, there are no words or deeds or hymns or prayers that can ever express our gratitude for your amazing grace. All we can say is thank you for the height and depth of your love. Send the Holy Spirit into our lives and into the Church so that we may be united in our faith, in our baptism, and in love for your people everywhere.

We pray all these things in the blessed name of 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

Brothers and Sisters in Christ – Hear the Good News! There is no ranking in God's kingdom. God offers each of us the same gifts: forgiveness, salvation, and new life in Christ. We give thanks to God for the forgiveness that we all receive in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Announcements

1. Welcome!
2. Welcome to our friends from Brant Hills Presbyterian Church who will be worshipping with us until the end of July.
3. Welcome to the families and friends of our baptism families!
  - a. Water
  - b. Washrooms
4. Join us for a time of fellowship and conversation after worship in our Fellowship Hall.
5. Thank you to Janice Bielski for doing the readings today.
6. **Midweek Social Drop-in**  
Every Wednesday from 9:30-11:00 a.m.
7. **Doors Open Burlington**  
Saturday August 9 from 10-2  
In celebration of our 180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we will be participating in Doors Open this summer. Each volunteer will work a 2-hour shift, either from 10-12 or 12-2. If you are able to volunteer for this event, please contact Kathy Kelly.

Children's Time: Putting down roots

Music: Jesus, friend of all the children (#656, all verses)

## Sacrament of Baptism

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?

Sharon White:

On behalf of the Session, I present

**Jordan Hunter Krauss**, son of Breanne and Alexander Krauss

**Archer Hugh Sinclair**, son of Victoria and Brett Sinclair

Emma:

Breanne and Alexander, Victoria and Brett - do you desire that your sons 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 Jordan and Archer in the love and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ within the home and the fellowship of the Church?

Parents:

We do.

For Godparents:

As Godparents of Jordan and Archer, do you promise to nurture these children in word and deed?

Godparents:

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 Jordan and Archer by word and deed, with love and in prayer, encouraging them 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 Jordan and Archer so that they may know you as Lord. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Act of Baptism

**Jordan Hunter Krauss** - I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Archer Hugh Sinclair** - I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Jordan and Archer have now been received by Christ's appointment into the global church. Through baptism, God has welcomed them into the family of God.

## Prayer

Creator God, thank you for the gift of Jordan and Archer who have been welcomed into your family today. May they know the wonders of your love and amazing grace. We pray for their parents and extended family - may their example, wise counsel, and love be a blessing in their 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. O Holy Spirit, dwell in our hearts as we receive your most holy Word today. Silence the voices in our heads except your voice. Ground us in your love so that we may be filled with your abundant grace. To you be all glory, forever and ever. Amen.

***Our Old Testament reading is taken from the Book of Psalms  
and we will be reading Responsively Psalm 14***

Leader: Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God."

**People: They are corrupt; they do abominable deeds;  
there is no one who does good.**

Leader: The LORD looks down from heaven on humankind  
to see if there are any who are wise, who seek after God.

**People: They have all gone astray; they are all alike perverse;  
there is no one who does good, no, not one.**

Leader: Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers  
who eat up my people as they eat bread  
and do not call upon the LORD?

**People: There they shall be in great terror,  
for God is with the company of the righteous.  
You would confound the plans of the poor,  
but the LORD is their refuge.**

Leader: O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion!

**People: When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people,  
Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad. Amen.**

**Our New Testament reading is taken from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians and we will be reading chapter 3, verse 14 to chapter 4 verse 6.**

For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

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

## Reflection: Ephesians – Growing up in God

For those of you who are visiting with us today, I am in the middle of a sermon series on the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Paul lived in the region of Ephesus for almost 3 years and his letter to the Christians there in was written while he was in prison awaiting trial in Rome. It is a letter of both teaching and encouragement. For us today, it is a pure coincidence that we are celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism on the day when Paul mentions baptism! I don't believe in luck - I prepared this sermon series before Bre and Victoria contacted me about getting their sons baptized. 😊

In this section of Paul's letter, he is encouraging the people of God by telling them how he prays for them. Even while Paul was under house arrest in Rome, totally unsure about his own future, he still encouraged others in their faith. Be strengthened in your inner being. Let Christ dwell in your hearts. Be rooted and grounded in love.

He then goes on to beg them – beg them – to lead a life worthy of the Lord.

### **And what does that life include?**

Humility

Gentleness

Patience

Love

Unity of spirit

Bond of peace

If Paul can live such a life while in prison, why can't we do this? Why is it so hard for us - as we sit here in this beautiful sanctuary - to get along with each other?

As we struggle to lead lives worthy of the Lord, it's important for us to remember that Paul was no stranger to conflict. The New Testament records that Paul had personal conflicts with other leaders in the early Church. For example, in Paul's letter to the Galatians, he describes an argument that he had with Peter over the inclusion of certain people into the Church. (Galatians 2:11-21) In the Book of Acts chapter 15, it is recorded that Paul and Barnabas also had a 'sharp disagreement' and that they parted company. (Acts 15:26-41) In other words, Paul had his own share of personal conflict.

Paul understood that we all have conflict in our personal relationships. There is conflict between husbands and wives. Between parents and children. Between siblings. And then there are the challenges with our friends, neighbours, and co-workers. I am willing to say that there isn't a single person here today who has NOT experienced such conflicts. We can all think of situations where gentleness, patience, peace, and love have been sorely lacking!!!

Even though we have all experienced these kinds of conflicts, Paul wrote this letter to a COMMUNITY of believers. So, in this passage, Paul was talking about how we live in community with one another. And once again, Paul was speaking from a place of experience. He knew that churches *should* be a place of sanctuary, harmony, and unity, but sadly, this is not always the case. Each one of us is a broken individual who brings that brokenness into the communities in which we belong, including the Church. This past week was the 12<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of my ordination and unfortunately, I have experienced conflict during those 12 years.




And so, what does Paul tell us this section of his letter about living in community?

**First of all, he is reminding us of our roots.**

Remember that you are a beloved child of God who has been adopted into God's family.

And secondly, he's telling us that it's time for us to grow up.

As grown-ups, this is what we should believe...

-  That God is sovereign and able to accomplish far more than we can ask or imagine
-  That our Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – is united as one
-  That there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism

When we make an effort to believe all of these things, we can put aside our differences and be united as one body. When we live a life worthy of our calling as Christians – lives where humility, gentleness, patience, and love are practiced on a daily basis – then the bond of peace is indeed possible.

And circling back to what we talked about last week, when we forgive others as we have been forgiven by God, then God will use the Church to help people cross over the Bridge of Life.

Friends, Paul is not feeding us baby food here. As wonderful as it is to have babies baptized here today, this is not food for them. Because we all know that being a grown-up – in life and in faith – is harder than it looks. Paul is challenging us to be mature in our faith so that unity and peace can be achieved. When we are rooted and grounded in Christ, then the Church will thrive and flourish.

Amen.

Dedication of our Tithes and Offerings

Song of Thanks – Salvation and Immortal Praise (#629, verse 1)

Salvation and immortal praise

unto our God we sing!

Let heaven and earth and rocks and seas

with glad hosannas ring.

Prayer of Dedication (not written in advance)

Prayers of the People (not written in advance)

Music: The Church's one foundation (#479, verses 1, 2, 5)

Blessing (Ephesians 4:15-16 The Message translation)

Sung Amen