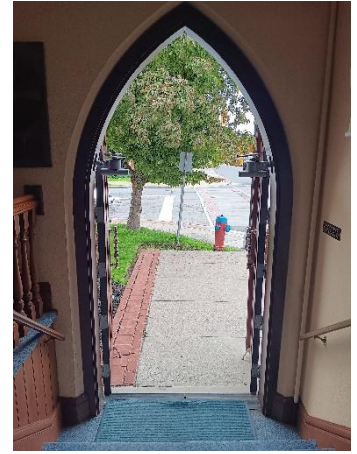


Knox Presbyterian Church
Rev. Emma Duncan
November 2, 2025

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



Greetings

Call to Worship

Leader: Good morning, people of God! May the peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you.

Leader: We gather from near and far to worship our Triune God.

People: In the company of all God's saints, we have come to bask in God's presence.

All: With prayer and praise, come and worship our risen Lord! Amen.

Music: God of mercy, God of grace (#39, all verses)

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

God of promise and purpose, in you, we live and move and have our being.

You are the Fountain of life and you refresh our weary souls.

You are the Light of the world and you show us the way.

You are the Spirit of life and you give us courage and strength.

We join our voices with the saints and disciples of every time and place, to worship you as Creator, Healer, and Source of our hope. Praise be to you, God most holy, Three in One, and One in Three, world without end.

God of goodness and mercy, we gather here today to offer you the best of our lives – our worship and praise. But when we are honest with ourselves, we really need to bring you the worst. There is so much weight holding us back from being the disciples that you call us to be. We are selfish and cruel. We ignore the poor and marginalized. We do everything in our power to be the centre of attention. We fail to protect your creation.

O Lord, we humbly seek your forgiveness! We repent for our sin and shame. Save us from our weaknesses and the temptations that we face each day. Give us life according to your word.

Thank you, precious Saviour, for being gracious to us. You bless us with love and forgiveness that we don't deserve. Blow the winds of your Spirit into our lives so that we may put our faith into action in all of our relationships.

All these things we pray in the name of our blessed assurance, 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 the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians, we hear these words - **For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.** (Ephesians 2:8) Each one of us is a sinner who is afflicted by temptation. Beloved in the Lord, receive the Good News of the Gospel – we are forgiven through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Announcements

1. Welcome! It is good to be back in your midst! My Inter-Mission was both restful and busy. I offer my thanks to everyone who helped 'hold the fort' while I was on sabbatical. I want to publicly thank the Rev. Susan Kerr who was our Acting Moderator. She did a lot of work behind the scenes and I am grateful for her support.
2. Welcome to the families that are here for the Sacrament of Baptism.
3. Join us for a time of fellowship and conversation after worship in our Fellowship Hall. Thanks to the Masih family for providing treats and pizza in celebration of their daughter's baptism.

Thank you to Neil Manson for doing the readings today. Thank you to Ian MacIntyre who will be reading the memorial names later in the service.

4. All Saints Sunday

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the repairs for the Campbell Window.

Total cost? **\$10,023.10**

City grant? **\$2,625.00**

How much donated thus far? **\$17,365.00**

Assuming that there are no additional costs associated with this project, the excess funds will be put into the Operating Account.

5. Upcoming Events

Remembrance Day	November 9 th
Elves Emporium	November 15 th
Annual General Meeting	November 23 rd
Congregational Christmas Breakfast	November 29 th

6. Apple Pies

We are taking apple pie pre-orders. \$20 each. Proceeds are for the Pantry Shelf at the Elves Emporium. Please contact Kathy Kelly in the church office or Janet MacIntyre.

7. Knox Burlington, the Book

Available through the church office for \$25. Celebrating our 180th Anniversary.

8. Knox Pewter Holiday Ornaments

In celebration of our 180th Anniversary, we have ornaments for sale for \$10. Please see Catharine Davidson to place your order.

9. **The Presbytery of Hamilton**, Mission Committee would appreciate the donation of cookies for the Chaplaincy McMaster Exam Hospitality Drop In. If donating homemade cookies please do not use lard or nuts. Please bring cookies to the church by November 9th. Should you have any questions please speak with Ian MacIntyre.

Music: Jesus loves me this I know (#373, all verses)

Children's Time: The B-I-B-L-E

Sacrament of Baptism

Emma:

Baptism is not of our doing or deserving. It is a gift from God. In the Sacrament of Baptism, the Church recognizes God's covenant of grace. We receive God's gift with reverent joy and respond in faith and obedience.

Hear the words of the risen Christ - "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you; and remember, I am with you always, to the close of the age."
(Matthew 28:18-20)

Obedying the command of Jesus Christ and believing in his promises, the Church baptizes those whom the Lord calls. God acts for us in baptism as God has acted for our salvation since the beginning of time.

By the waters of baptism and the power of the Holy Spirit God claims us and calls each one by name. God unites us to Christ in his death and resurrection and grafts us into the body of Christ as members of the Church.

Who comes to receive the gift of Baptism?

Sharon White:

On behalf of the Session, I present

Jackson Van Buel, son of Skyler Davidson and Joshua Van Buel

Angel Ashraf, daughter of Komal and Ashraf Massi

Emma:

Do you desire to have your child baptized today?

Parents:

We do.

Emma:

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God who has been faithful to 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 your children in the love and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ within the home and the fellowship of the Church?

Parents:

We do.

Godparents:

As Godparents of Jackson, do you promise to nurture him 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 nurture Jackson and Angel 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 proclaim 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 at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again 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 give you thanks that you nourish and sustain all things by the gift of water. Since the beginning creation, water has given us life. In the fullness of time you sent Jesus Christ, who was baptized and anointed by your Holy Spirit. In that moment, you showed us just who Jesus is – your Beloved.

Heavenly Father, thank you for the opportunity to share in Christ's baptism. He did not need to be baptized because he is without sin and yet he took on the sins of the world. Send your Spirit to move over this water, that it may be a fountain of deliverance and rebirth. Wash away the sin of all who are cleansed by it. Raise them to new life and graft them to the body of Christ. Bless Skyler and Joshua, Komal and Ash as they raise their children. Bless them all with your love, peace, hope, and joy.

Pour out your Spirit on all those gathered here today so that we will always know that we are your beloved children. Heavenly Father - to you be all praise, honor, and glory. Now and forever. Amen.

The Act of Baptism

Jackson William Van Buel - I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Angel Ashraf - I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Jackson and Angel have now been received by Christ's appointment into the holy, catholic church. Through baptism, God has welcomed them into the family of God.

[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.

[Families may be seated.]

Prayer of Illumination

Let us pray. O Lord, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, and strength to follow on the path you set before us. In the name of our blessed Redeemer we pray. Amen.

Our Old Testament reading is taken from the Book of Psalms and we will be reading Responsively Psalm 119, verses 105-112.

Leader: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

**People: I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to observe your righteous ordinances.**

Leader: I am severely afflicted;
give me life, O LORD, according to your word.

**People: Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD,
and teach me your ordinances.**

Leader: I hold my life in my hand continually,
but I do not forget your law.

**People: The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I do not stray from your precepts.**

Leader: Your decrees are my heritage forever;
they are the joy of my heart.

**People: I incline my heart to perform your statutes
forever, to the end. Amen.**

Our Gospel reading is taken from the Gospel of Matthew and we will be reading chapter 8, verses 14-27.

When Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever; he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she got up and began to serve him.

That evening they brought to him many who were possessed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and cured all who were sick. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases."

Now when Jesus saw great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. A scribe then approached and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

Another of his disciples said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. A windstorm suddenly arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves, but he was asleep.

And they went and woke him up, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a dead calm. They were amazed, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?"

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

Reflection: Heroes of the Faith – Henri Nouwen

When I was getting ready for my sabbatical in the summer, I knew that I had to do something to prepare for worship when I came back. It wouldn't be helpful for me to come back after 12 weeks away to have to immediately deal with the pressure of having to figure out what I am preaching about in November. And I am VERY thankful that I did that!

What I decided to do for the month of November is to explore some of the heroes of the Christian faith. I have preached on heroes before, but, of course, there are many heroes that we *haven't* learned about.

Our first hero is Henri Nouwen.

Born in the Netherlands on January 24, 1932, Henri Nouwen knew from a very young age that he would serve the Church. He was ordained as a Catholic priest in 1957 and he quickly realized that he needed to understand more about the people who God called him to serve. But instead of doing more theological studies, he was given permission to study psychology. He received his PhD in psychology in 1964. Given his academic brilliance, it looked like Nouwen was destined to spend his life in the classroom. He taught at Notre Dame, Yale, and Harvard Universities, but God called him to a different ministry – to serve the poor, marginalized, and those with intellectual and physical difficulties. And God also called him to write.

And write he did!

During his lifetime, Nouwen published 39 books which have been translated into 35 languages. He was a master communicator who is considered one of the greatest spiritual writers of our time. His ability to connect to readers on a fundamental level is because

he embraced his own emotional and spiritual frailty. Through his honesty and openness, his readers discovered that, despite their own brokenness, they too were deeply loved by God.¹

I am one of the people who considers Henri Nouwen a hero of our faith. His writings have influenced me greatly – both in my personal faith journey and my call as a minister. And it is Henri who travelled with me during my sabbatical.

From September 1, 1995 to August 31, 1996, Henri took a sabbatical from his role as pastor at L'Arche Daybreak, a Christian community for people with developmental challenges in Newmarket, Ontario. He wrote a journal during his sabbatical which was made into a book called "Sabbatical Journey." Sadly, Nouwen passed away from a sudden heart attack less than a month after completing his sabbatical. He was 64 years old.

I read this book with my Spiritual Director during my sabbatical. Nouwen's writings and our conversations about this book guided me as I reflected on who God is calling me to be in the next season of my life. He wrote these profound words...

What does it mean to be faithful to my vocation? Does it require that I be consistent with my earlier way of living or thinking, or does it ask for the courage to move in new directions, even when doing so may be disappointing for some people?²

Vocation is a word that we don't really use much anymore.³ It has several meanings including the work that we are employed to do. It also is used to describe a role that we have like a spouse or parent. We also use it in the context of our faith. Who are we called to be by God?

¹ <https://henrinouwen.org/more-about-henri/>

² Henri Nouwen. *Spiritual Journey: The Diary of his Final Year*. 1998, page ix.

³ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/vocation>

Each one of us has a unique experience of vocation. There are many different careers represented in this congregation and many roles that we have played in our lives. And in many cases, our vocations overlap with the sense of call that we have received from the Lord. As Christians, God calls each of us to a vocation of love, forgiveness, kindness, and service in all of our interactions whether that be at home or at work or in the community. And yes, as Nouwen said, it takes courage to follow our vocation.

When reading Nouwen's sabbatical journey, I was challenged on many occasions to reflect on my own. I am a broken human being who is loved by God and how do I use my gifts and abilities in service of Christ and his Church?

Quite frankly, this is a question that will take a lifetime to answer. Nouwen didn't answer it in a year and I certainly didn't answer it in 10 weeks. It is a process. That's why it is called a journey.

And on that journey, we always need to remember that we have a wonderful guide – our Lord, Jesus Christ. When I was pulling everything together for this service, I knew that I had to pick a passage from the Gospels that shows the journey that Jesus was on. In Matthew chapter 8, we see that Jesus was a very busy man! Jesus went to Peter's house and healed his mother-in-law who then served them a meal. He healed the sick and interacted with the crowd including the religious leaders who followed him everywhere. And then he got into the boat with his disciples. And in the midst of all of this busyness, what did Jesus do? He RESTED!!! He took time away from his vocation to let his body rest. And after his rest, Jesus performed his primary vocation – to save his disciples from their sin and fear.

Christ's vocation as Saviour and Redeemer is the foundation for the journey that each of us is on. As we explore and discover our own vocations, God's Spirit leads us in faith and God's Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light for our path. God also inspires men and women to serve as shepherds and guides along the way. Heroes like Henri Nouwen who challenge us and give us the courage to enter into new ways of living, thinking, and serving.

Amen.

Dedication of our Tithes and Offerings

Henri Nouwen once said that our inner [spiritual] life is like a banana tree filled with monkeys jumping up and down. It is not easy to sit and trust that in solitude God will speak – not as [some] magical voice, but as a knowledge that grows gradually over the years.

As we grow in the knowledge of Christ's love and grace, we offer our tithes and offerings.

Song of Thanks - We give thee but thine own (#661, verse 1)

We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.

Let us pray one of Henri Nouwen's prayers.⁴

Dear Lord,

Help me keep my eyes on you. You are the incarnation of Divine Love, you are the expression of God's infinite compassion, you are the visible manifestation of the Father's holiness. You are beauty, goodness, gentleness, forgiveness, and mercy. In you all can be found. Outside of you nothing can be found. Why should I look elsewhere or go elsewhere? You have the words of eternal life, you are food and drink, you are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. You are the light that shines in the darkness, the lamp on the lampstand, the house on the hilltop. You are the perfect Icon of God. In and through you I can see the Heavenly Father, and with you I can find my way to him. O Holy One, Beautiful One, Glorious One, be my Lord, my Savior, my Redeemer, my Guide, my Consoler, my Comforter, my Hope, my Joy, and my Peace. To you I want to give all that I am. Let me be generous, not stingy or hesitant. Let me give you all—all that I have, think, do, and feel. It is yours, O Lord. Please accept it and make it fully your own. Amen.

⁴ <https://henrinouwen.org/meditations/a-prayer-2/>

All Saints

Living Memorial

November 2, 2025

Campbell Window

A & B

Cpl. Norman Barker
Lois Beaty
Doris & Omar Bell
Albert & Hazel Buckingham
Esther & Alfred Burman

C & D

Donna Carpenter
Padre Santiago Courneen
Lorne & Marie Craig
Dora, Ethel, George & Jack
Davidson
Lorna & Roger Delorme
George Duncan
Lillian Dyer

E, F & G

Clifford & Pat Earley
David & Edrie Elder
Gwen Ellis
Evelyn Evans
Elmer Fraser
Rev. Frank Gillespie
Jeffrey Graham
Harold & Edna Gulliver

H, I & J

Harry Halsall
James & Viola Handy
George W. Harrington
Steven G. Harrington
Robert J. Harrington
Kathleen Heal
Burt & Gladys Hockridge
John, Johnny, Frank, Dora &
Anna Jaconelli

K & L

Dave Kelly
Doris & Gordon Lamb
John, Peggy & Ross Levy
Gordon Lewis
Bill Long
Cora Long
Muriel & Bill Low
Linda Longman

M

Norma & Gordon MacIntyre
Dora & Norman MacKay
Al & Chic MacKay
Raymond. MacKay
Tim MacKay
John McGibbon
Edith McGowan
John & Helen McNiven
Joan & Sandy McTavish
Norm & Anne Minty
Pearl Murray

N, O & P

Stephanie & Ted Oag
Christine Nixon
Donald Nixon
Gordon Nixon
Carol Provost
Lyman Potts
Emma & Bill Punnett

Q & R

Trudy Ramsay
Maria, Bernardo & Hugo
Riskowsky
Irene Rowles
Richard & Elizabeth Ryan

S & T

Barry Saunders
Gertrude Schneider
Wesley & Francis Sherritt
Lyle & Louise Sifton
Win & Jean Sims
Evelyn & Bill Skinner
Daisy & Cranston Spencer
Ray & Dorothy Spring
Ivy, Tommy & Jim Thomson
James & Catherine Thomson

U, V & W

Arend & Gaye Vanderveen
Cecil & Lillian Ward
Dennis Ward
George & Marion Watling
Stan & Julia White
Brad Wilken
Barry Wilkins
Harry & Minnie Wilkins

X, Y & Z

Jess Yates
Robin Yates
Dan Young
Duncan & Edna Young
Edward & Mary Alice Young
James & Evelyn Young
Lew & Jean Young
Milton & Polly Young

Prayers of the People (not written in advance)

Music: Word of God, across the ages (#497, all verses)

Blessing

Sung Amen

