

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, January 7, 2018 – Epiphany and Baptism of the Lord Sunday.

Prelude

Welcome and greetings

Acknowledging the land

For thousands of years, First Nations peoples have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We are gathered on the traditional territory of the Abenaki and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

*Introit	Through many days of darkness, through many scenes of strife, the faithful few fought bravely to guard your people's life. Their gospel of redemption, sin pardoned, earth restored, was all in this enfolded: one church, one faith, one Lord.	<i>VU 274.3</i>
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*Call to worship / Opening prayer

One: In the beginning... God's spirit hovered over the waters;

All: Thanks be to God for water.

One: The voice of the Lord is heard on the seas;

All: Thanks be to God for water.

One: John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River;

All: Thanks be to God for water.

One: We are baptized by water and the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God for water and the Spirit.

One: Water, cool and refreshing on a hot summer’s day.

All: Jesus Christ is like living water.

One: Water, a warm soothing shower in winter.

All: Jesus Christ is like living water.

One: Water, a needed element soaked up by thirsty plants.

All: Jesus Christ is like living water.

One: Water, when we are washed clean, we feel revitalized.

All: Jesus Christ is like living water.

One: Water, in our Baptism we have been made new.

All: Jesus Christ is like living water. Amen.

***Hymn** *Shall we gather at the river*

VU 710

Children’s time

*Response	Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace!	VU 400
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Prayer of confession and affirmation of grace

John the Baptizer called the people to a baptism of repentance. Yet we are often afraid of repentance – it can be scary to turn away from familiar habits and patterns, and embrace God’s new way of living. Even as this new year begins we recognize that resolutions are quickly forgotten or outright abandoned.

John calls us to submit ourselves but we don’t want to do that– we fear letting go of the power we think we have. **Help us, loving God to let go of the powers of this world, to which we cling so dearly, and to embrace you as the ultimate power in our lives. We pray this in Christ’s name, Amen.**

John the Baptizer said, “I baptize you with water but the Christ will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” Brothers and sisters, by grace, Christ gave us the power to change. Let us be open to the transformation God seeks to work within us – now and always – through the Holy Spirit. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

***Hymn** *What child is this?*

VU 74

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Announcements

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us today. On this Epiphany Sunday and Baptism of the Lord, we are invited to remember the power and grace we have as children of God. We are invited as individuals and as a community to repent and change for the works toward reconciliation.

Bienvenue à l'Église Unie Plymouth-Trinity! Des **Bibles en français** se trouvent à l'arrière.

If you are a visitor, please join us for fair-trade coffee or a cold drink after the service and take a peace candle back to your congregation.

We thank our volunteers:

Reader: Kristi Roht

Ushers: Inge Lunkenbein and Val Rawlings

Sexton: Dave Fowlis

Happy birthday to Vera Armstrong (today), Denis Ashby (Jan. 8) and Eva Scheib (Jan. 13)

Happy belated anniversary to Samuel V. Dansokho and Selma Chipenda-Dansokho (Jan. 3)

Congratulations to Esaïe Kuitche and Floriane Mepoubong who got married yesterday (Jan.6) in Bafoussam, Cameroon.

Bulletin covers this week are donated by UCW in memory of our members who are no longer with us.

Annual Report: deadline for material is Sunday, January 21 - in order to complete and distribute the report on February 4, one week before the Annual congregational meeting on February 11.

This week

Tuesday, January 9th - The UCW will meet in the parlor at 7 p.m.
All annual reports are due at this time.

Wednesday, January 10th – Worship meeting in the parlor at 7:30 p.m. with the minister.

Thursday, January 11th – TACT will be meeting at 6 p.m.

Next week

Sunday, January 14: 2nd Sunday after Epiphany.

Lectionary readings: 1Samuel 3:1-10, 11-20; Psalm 139:1-6,13-18;
1Corinthians 6:12-20 and John 1:43-51

Service en français à 9 h

Worship in English at 10:30 a.m.

Outreach

Gifts with Vision 2017/18: There are copies of the current United Church *Giving catalogue* at the front and back of the sanctuary; you can also check the website www.giftswithvision.ca to choose gifts or make donations; tax receipts will be issued. The Gifts with Vision programme has given over \$1.7 million to United Church partners making a difference in people's lives.

Example: A gift of \$25 will contribute to providing basic school supplies and teaching materials in Kenya and Zambia.

Mitten tree: We again have our outlet for winter shoppers and idle fingers! Mental Health Estrie prepares festive HUGS packages (Hats, Underwear, Gloves, and Socks/Scarves) for homeless people. The gift bags contain hats, underwear, gloves, scarves and socks in adult sizes, either hand-made or bought, as well as toiletries. Our mitten tree will be ready to receive "fruit", including toothbrushes, soap, etc. for HUGS between Advent and Palm Sunday.

Moisson Estrie: The local food bank has launched Club des nouilles or Pasta Club. Members commit to donating at least \$5 per month for a year. These extra funds, will enable Moisson Estrie to stock the precious macaroni, spaghetti and other forms of pasta which are essential items, especially for low-income families. The money will also go towards other basic ingredients which are always in short supply, such as flour, sugar, oil, peanut butter and canned fruit and vegetables.

Because of generous partners, \$5/month is multiplied by 12, i.e. for each \$5, \$60 of food is distributed.

Each week the food bank assists about 300 individuals or families as well as supporting around 30 community organisations and a dozen schools.

Please remember Moisson Estrie when you do your weekly grocery shopping. Or join the Club des nouilles at www.moissonestrie.com.

