

Tsawwassen United Church

1st Sunday After Epiphany / Baptism of the Lord

Jan. 11, 2009, 10:00 AM

Jan. 6, which follows on the twelve days of Christmas, is known as Epiphany when we read of the visit of the magi to the infant Jesus and his family.

During the season of Epiphany we celebrate the various ways in which Jesus is shown forth to the world.

*Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation.*

At the points marked “”, those who are able are invited to stand.*

THE PEOPLE GATHER

PRELUDE: A Meditation on “Hanson Place”

~ Robert Lowry

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

WELCOME

*OPENING HYMN: When Jesus Comes to Be Baptized

VU 100

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Be still, and know that God is.

Before creation began, God was.

And when all human striving has ceased, God will still be.

From everlasting to everlasting, God is God, who alone is worthy to be worshiped. Let us sing praise to our God.

OPENING PRAYER:

God, you touch our lives with mystery and hope. We come to this place today, ready to see your power working through us. Help us to be open to your Word, and to answer your call among us. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

STORYTIME WITH THE CHILDREN (*with Brenda Miller*)

HYMN: This is God's Wondrous World

VU 296

INVITATION TO CONFESSION: Spirit of the Living God

VU 376, v. 1

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Giver of life, in the midst of a plundered earth we groan with creation:

have mercy on us.

Giver of life, in the midst of poisoned waters we groan with creation:

have mercy on us.

Giver of life, in the midst of polluted air we groan with creation:

have mercy on us.

Giver of life in the midst of mountains of waste we groan with creation:

have mercy on us.

Giver of life, in the midst of a world at war we groan with creation:

have mercy on us.

Giver of life, we who are made in the image of God have gone astray,

and creation groans with us:
have mercy on us.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

PSALM 29

VU 755

GOSPEL READING: *(Reader: Lynne Meinert)*

Mark 1:4–11

pew Bible N.T. page 33

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

One: This is the witness of God's people.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE SACRAMENT OF INFANT BAPTISM

*HYMN: I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

VU 644

SERMON: "The Meaning of Our Baptism"

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CHOIR'S ANTHEM: Prayer for Christmas

~ Ruth Elaine Schram

CELEBRATING THE GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE:

- The Offering is Collected
- Announcements of the Congregation's Life & Ministry
- Doxology: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
- Offering Prayer

VU 541

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

THE LAST WORD: Acts 19:1–7

pew Bible N.T. page 131

*CLOSING HYMN: Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

VU 101

*COMMISSIONING

We are the church! We follow where the Spirit leads,
daring to be risk takers wherever we go!

We are filled with the breath of the Holy Spirit!

May the blessing of God, Creator and Giver of Life, the Son,
Life of God incarnate, and the Holy Spirit, bearer and power of new life
among all people be with us now and forever. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE: Rondo In G

~ John Bull

We Celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

The sacrament of baptism
proclaims and celebrates the grace of God.

By water and the Spirit,
we are called, claimed, and commissioned:
we are called God's own,
welcomed as children of God;
we are claimed by Christ,
united with Christ,

united with one another and the Christian community
of every time and place;
we are commissioned to Christ's ministry
of love, peace, and justice,
and strengthened by the Holy Spirit
for the work of the church in the world.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES:

On behalf of the congregation of Tsawwassen United Church,
I present the following persons for initiation into the body of Christ through
baptism:

Timothy Peter Blewett, son of Erin and David Blewett
Josephine Ethel Obera, daughter of Sheri and Sunny Obera

To the parents:

Will you share your faith with *N.* (and *N.*),
growing with *him/her/them* in faith, hope, and love?

I will, God being my helper.

COMMITMENT OF GODPARENTS:

Will you pray for *this/these child(ren)*
and take care that *she/he/they* may learn and live the faith?

I will, God being my helper.

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT:

Let us pledge to these persons our support and care.

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

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

Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — A NEW CREED:

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE POURING OF WATER

THE ACT OF BAPTISM: BAPTISM IN THE NAME OF THE TRIUNE GOD

BLESSING

MARKING WITH THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

LAYING ON OF HANDS

LIGHTING OF A CANDLE

DECLARATION AND CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME:

Let us pledge to these persons our support and care.

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

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

Amen.

BLESSING: May God Who Creates You

VU 454

SENDING FORTH:

All who are united in the covenant of baptism
are the Body of Christ in the world. Go in peace.

Amen.

Today we are receiving through Baptism:

Timothy Peter Blewett,
child of Erin Elizabeth (McEvoy) Blewett
and David Jonathan Blewett

Godparents for Timothy:
Emma Blewett and Patrick McEvoy

and

Josephine Ethel Obera,
child of Sheri Louise (Brekstad) Obera
and Sunday Vincent Obera

Godparents for Josephine:
Mary Sambell and Owen Moore



UPCOMING EVENTS AT T.U.C.

- **MEN'S CLUB**

The Men's Club will be having a breakfast meeting this month on **Saturday, January 24th**, at the Tsawwassen Golf Club. Coffee will be available at **8:00 a.m.** and breakfast will be at **8:30 a.m.** Our own Walter Melnyk will entertain us with some of his unique and humorous routines. Any men of the congregation who are not members of the Men's Club are also most welcome, but please let either Bill Williams (604-943-7262) or Albert Knudsen (604-943-6748) know by Tuesday night, January 20th, if you plan to attend.

- **HANDBELLS**

The Handbells will be playing both pre-service and in-service on **Sunday, January 25th**. Plan to attend early at **9:40 a.m.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SNOW OFFERING**

Did you miss church in December due to the snowfall we had? Please consider making a snow offering to help make up our collection shortfall for December 2008. December is usually our biggest month for offering intake and helps balance out the end of the year, but this year we had an overwhelming amount of white stuff falling and discouraging folks from attending.



- **READERS AND COFFEE SET-UP**

The sign-up sheets for scripture reading and coffee set-up are almost clean slates for the next few weeks. The clipboards are on the table in the narthex. Please sign up!

- **DONATION ENVELOPES**

Donation envelopes for 2009 are available for pick-up in the narthex. Some envelope holders have been assigned new numbers, so **please do not use 2008 envelopes in 2009**.



- **ITS TIME TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT BIRTHDAY BAGS.**

For those few who might not know, for several years our church has provided bags filled with everything a parent needs to host a child's birthday party. The bags are distributed to needy families by the Ladner Food Bank and The Hub in Whalley focusing on the working poor. Thanks to everyone who contributed cake mixes already. A full list of what goes into each bag is available at the Outreach notice board. The least contributed items in past years are icings and fruit crystals. Each bag also contains candles, invitations, balloons, goody bags, [and candy and novelties to go in them], a table cloth, napkins, paper cups, and paper plates. Candies should be hard and individually wrapped or small packages. We try to provide a one year supply for our partners in this project and chocolate doesn't last a year. You do not have to donate a whole bag. Shop for what is fun for you to get. Some people prefer to donate cash and have Outreach shop. Just mark your envelopes or cheques "Birthday bags". Dollar stores are perfect for lots of these items at good prices. Take a look at some of the thank you notes we have received from last year. They are

pinned on the Outreach bulletin board just outside the lounge. Our goal is 50 bags to be completed by the end of February. If you have any questions see or call Jean Stuart or Archie Mullan.

- **EMERGING SPIRIT**

Emerging Spirit, Living the Hope, will be held in Vancouver on **January 16 and 17, 2009**. There will be nine distinct workshops organized into three streams that people have identified as the most strategic — Sunday morning, connecting with the community and leadership. One of the big messages of Emerging Spirit is that we need to find a way to be in conversation about matters of life and faith with all ages and types of people. For more information and to register go to (http://www.emergingspirit.ca/living_the_hope_vancouver).

- **EPIPHANY EXPLORATIONS 2009: A SYMPOSIUM OFFERING RICH RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY AND LAY LEADERSHIP**

January 22nd to 26th, 2009, First Metropolitan United Church, 932 Balmoral Rd., Victoria, BC. Cost: \$265.

Five days of spiritual nurture, continuing education and music with internationally recognized speakers. For more information or to register, visit the First Metropolitan United Church website: www.frstmetvictoria.com/epiphany.

- **TRUTH & RECONCILIATION: SEEKING BALANCE IN RELATIONS**

Saturday, February 7th, 2009 & Saturday, April 25th, 2009, Knox United Church: 10–4:30 p.m., Coastal Salish Territory (Vancouver).

In the context of the Truth & Reconciliation process, 2 one-day workshops will bring together Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal participants. These workshops will introduce indigenous teachings on relationships to land, medicines and language; reflect on our relationship to history, our ancestors and the land; explore the concepts of reciprocity and responsibility; and explore a collective vision of restoring balance in relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples. These 2 days will include ceremony, spiritual practice and creative expression. To register call Ryerson United Church 604-266-5377. For more information see the notice on the bulletin board in the narthex.

- **DELTA LEADERSHIP PRAYER BREAKFAST**

You are invited to the 35th Anniversary Prayer Breakfast on **Saturday, February 7th**, at the Town & Country Inn at 8:00 a.m. The speaker this year is Mr. Mark Washington, BC Lions Defensive Backs Coach. Enjoy some great food and listen to Mr. Washington. For tickets or to help sponsor this great event call Linda Frost at 943-7775 or email lindafrost@lightspeed.c

PEW CLEAN-UP



Can you help with pew clean-up? At the end of worship services please ensure that the pew is left tidy. If you are not taking your bulletin home, leave it in the basket on the narthex table. If you notice bulletins or other items left behind by others please remove them from the pews on your way out and place them on the narthex table.

TSAWWASSEN UNITED CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT:

Reaching in, we strive to grow in Christ.

Reaching out, we nurture God's world.

- Newcomers:** If you are a newcomer, please sign our guest book in the narthex. Feel free to take home a "Welcome to this Place" brochure available on the table in the narthex. Our website contains more detailed information and a listing of upcoming events.
- Nursery Room:** Parents of infants and toddlers are invited to use the nursery room. The service can be heard there. Please ask an usher for directions.
- Fragrance Free Policy:** Tsawwassen United Church is a "fragrance free" building with regards to the scents that people wear.
- Sign-Up Sheets:** The sign-up sheets for counting and scripture reading are posted on the bulletin board to the left of the name tags board in the narthex for referral and further signing-up.
- Large Print Bulletins:** There are large print bulletins available on the table in the narthex for the vision impaired.
- Assisted Listening:** There are assisted listening devices available on the table in the narthex for the hearing impaired. Please ask an usher for directions on where to sit so it can be plugged in.
- Bulletin Deadline:** Please note that the deadline for the bulletin is Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. Announcements can be e-mailed to malmond@tsawwassenunited.org.
- E-Letters:** The minister sends weekly letters via e-mail to members of the congregation. Please make sure the minister has your e-mail address. The e-letters are also posted on the church website at www.tsawwassenunited.org/ministersletter.htm. For those without internet access a printed copy of the e-mail can be found on the table in the narthex.
- Minister's Hours:** The minister's work days are Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. Days off are Monday and Friday. If you have pastoral concerns or would like a visit from the minister, Rose-Hannah, please notify the church office.



We recycle our bulletins. If you are not taking your bulletin home, please leave it in the basket on the narthex table.