

SA, SL, TS & DSM United Churches
Canada Day Service at South Raleigh Fire Hall
July 6th, 2025 @ 10:30 am

Prelude: - by Susan Baker

Welcome & Announcements:

Thank you for your support of all our past services, which are posted on our websites - Talbotstreet.ca and Southbuxton.ca

O Canada: VU 524

O Canada! Our home and native land,
True patriot love, in all thy sons command.
With glowing heart, we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free! From far and wide,
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land, glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

Welcome from South Raleigh Fire Station 16:

Introduction of Guests:

Moment of Silence: *We will observe a moment of silence to remember those who have served in the past and are now serving in the presence of God. Three rings of the bell will mark the end of our moment (traditional call to "return to the station"). Today, the bell is rang by Firefighter Steve Walker. Today please remember those firefighters who have died since we last gathered. Eric will close with prayer.*

Call To Worship:

Eric: What do we have to boast about?

People: **We boast about our Volunteer Firefighters, or well equipped Fire Hall, and that we have a great community that cares for one another.**

Eric: We as Christians can also boast about our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: **It is in Christ that everything is a new creation.**

Eric: In Christ, our community continues to share and care for each other. Let us worship!

Opening Hymn: VU 227 "For the Fruit of All Creation"

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.

For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Opening Prayer:

God of endings and beginnings, we thank you for always starting anew with us. When we find ourselves at our wits' end, at the end of our rope, at the end of our patience, or even at the end of our hope, you are there. You find us and bring us into your new beginning, again and again.

Today as we gather with the firefighters at South Raleigh Fire Hall - 16, we recognize that our firefighters also experience new beginnings and times of endings. Be with those wherever they are in their journey. Amen.

Ministry of Music: "Take These Wings" by Charing Cross & Wesley Choirs

Children's Time: "C.H.I.R.P." Video by Whitney (2022) and Station Chief Scott Russell (Video 2021)

Baptism Service for Emery Kay-Sharp

Emery's Parents: Alex Sharp & Sasha Kay

Emery's Grandparents: Kerstin and Jim Kay

Mike Sharp and Yvonne Bexton

Kim Fishleigh

Emery's Godparents: Kassie Kay-Cole and Austin Kay

Wesley Session: George Jordan

Leader: Eric Skillings

The day when a person is baptized is more important than the day when a person is ordained. (Raymond Brown)

Statement of Purpose:

Eric: Sisters and Brothers, let us celebrate God's gift of grace given to us in the sacrament of baptism.

People: There is one body and one Spirit; we have one hope in Christ.

Eric: There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, Creator of us all.

People: Out of the water of baptism we rise with new life, forgiven, renewed, and one with Christ, members of Christ's body.

Reading: Mark 10: 13 – 16

Hear this record of Jesus' radical concern for welcoming children:

People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might bless them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will not enter it." And Jesus took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them..

**Emery and her parents, and George come forward.*

Presentation of Emery:

George: On behalf of the congregation of Wesley United Church, I present Emery Lyn Kay-Sharp, infant daughter of Alex and Sasha, for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism:

Vows:

Eric: Alex and Sasha, do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others by the Spirit?

Alex and Sasha: I do, by the grace of God.

Eric: Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you seek to resist evil, and to live in love and justice?

Alex and Sasha: I will, God being my helper.

Eric: Will you proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, in your words and actions?

Alex and Sasha: I will, God being my helper.

Eric: Alex and Sasha, will you join with your brothers and sisters in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

Alex and Sasha: I will, God being my helper.

Eric: Alex and Sasha, will you pray for Emery and encourage her by your words and actions, and walk with her in the way of Jesus?

Alex and Sasha: I will, God being my helper.

Godparent Vows:

Eric: Kassie and Austin, recognizing that many persons nurture and influence the life of a child, will you support Emery and her parents as they grow in faith?

Kassie and Austin: I will, God being my helper.

Welcoming Sasha as a New Member:

Presentation of Sasha:

George: On behalf of the congregation of Wesley United Church, I present Sasha Renee Kay, whom we welcome into the membership of Wesley United Church.

Sasha's Vows:

Eric: Sasha, as you have committed to these vows for Emery, do you commit to these vows for yourself as you become a member of Wesley United Church?

Sasha: I will, God being my helper.

Congregational Commitment:

The congregation may stand, as they are able, to pledge their support.

Eric: Dear friends in Christ, let us pledge to Sasha our support and care.

People: As your brothers and sisters in Christ, we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. We pledge to you our love and our support. With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church.

Welcome to Sasha:

Eric: In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to the privileges and responsibilities of membership in the Wesley United Church congregation. We give thanks to God for your witness among us.

Congregational Commitment:

The congregation may stand, as they are able, to pledge their support.

Eric: As Wesley United Church, do you commit yourselves to support and nurture these persons within a community which worships God, loves and serves others, seeks justice, and resists evil?

People: We do, by the grace of God.

Affirmation of Faith:

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 us 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 in respect in creation,

To love and serve others,

To seek justice and resist evil,

To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Prayer:

Eric: Blessed are you, O God, Ruler of the universe, Maker of heaven and earth, Keeper of sky and sea. At the beginning, your Spirit was at work, brooding over the waters of creation's birth. Again and again you have shown your grace to us through water: cleansing the earth at the flood, parting for the exodus at the Red Sea, flowing from the rock in the wilderness.

In the fullness of time, you gave us Jesus: nurtured in the waters of Mary's womb, baptized by John in the River Jordan, giver of living water, wellspring of eternal life.

Therefore, eternal and present God, we thank you for the water with which you bless us. We pray that those who are baptized, into the death and resurrection of Jesus, may live in your grace.

Pour out, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon this water, that this font may become your womb of new birth, our fount of blessing and source of grace.

All glory, praise, and honour be to you, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pouring of the Water: *(Alex and Sasha)*

Listen to its free-flowing powers;

Listen to its releasing power;

Listen to its welcoming powers.

Act of Baptism:

Eric to Parents: What is the name of this child?

Parents: Emery Lyn Kay-Sharp.

Eric: "Emery Lyn Kay-Sharp", I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Marking of the Cross

Eric: Emery, Child of God, from this day forward, you bear the sign of Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

Laying on of Hands:

Eric: Emery, may the Holy Spirit, Love's power, guide you, inspire you, and work within you, all the days of your life. **People: Amen.**

Blessing:

Eric: May the blessing of God, Source of Love, Jesus Christ, Love incarnate, and the Holy Spirit, Love's power, be with you today and always.

People: Amen.

Presentation of Emery:

Presentation of the Bible:

by (Clair Riley – Emery's great grandfather)

Presenter: Emery, receive this book, our Holy Scriptures, and hear what the Spirit is saying to you and to the Church.

Lighting of the Baptismal Candle:

George will light the baptism candle from the Christ Candle and present it to the parents.

Eric: Emery, may your light shine before others, that they may see your good works, and give glory to God.

Eric: It is customary to light Emery's baptismal candle on her birthday to remind her, and yourselves, of her baptism.

George will present the Baptism Certificate and congratulate the parents.

Congregational Welcome:

Eric: There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:

People: **By one Spirit, we are all baptized into one body.**

We are children of the one God, Mother and Father of us all. We welcome you into the community of faith.

Blessing:

Eric: The grace of Christ attend you, the love of God surround you, the Holy Spirit keep you.
Amen.

The baptism party may be seated.

Children's Hymn: "This Little Light of Mine"

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Building up this world, I'm gonna let it shine.
Building up this world, I'm gonna let it shine.
Building up this world, I'm gonna let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Right here in this room, I'm gonna let it shine.
Right here in this room, I'm gonna let it shine.

Right here in this room, I'm gonna let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Scripture: Galatians 6: 1 - 10

Help Each Other

My friends, if someone is trapped, you should gently lead that person back to the right path. But watch out, and don't be tempted yourself. You obey the law of Christ when you offer each other a helping hand. If you think you are better than others, when you really aren't, you are wrong. Do your own work well, and then you will have something to be proud of. But don't compare yourself with others. We each must carry our own load. Share every good thing you have with anyone who teaches you what God has said. You will harvest what you plant. Don't get tired of helping others. You will be rewarded when the time is right, if you don't give up. We should help people whenever we can, especially if they are followers of the Lord. **

Message: "Help Each Other"

Paul describes for us this new creation, which is relationship, a new community. We are this new creation. My faith is wrapped up in your faith, my growth in your growth. Paul asks us to measure our faith by our impact on the wider community and the folks around us.

Paul says:

"Share every good thing you have with anyone who teaches you what God has said. You will harvest what you plant. Don't get tired of helping others. You will be rewarded when the time is right, if you don't give up."

"Don't get tired of helping others".

This seems simple enough except we do get tired helping others. Especially when they seem to get themselves into some pickle time and time again, and call the local Fire Department to bail them out. Yet the firefighters come each and every time they are called. We may wonder do they ever get tired?

It must be quite a responsibility to keep at it when you are feeling spent. The community is counting on you. Your fellow firefighters are depending on you. Many times you may be running on fumes – but you still show up. Each and every

one of us get to that place when it isn't in us to keep going when we want to stop. It isn't within us to keep serving when the energy runs out.

Paul talks about sharing. To share you have to be in partnership with the wider community. In those times that it seems we are incapable of doing good for others, we need to work in concert with others; our fellow firefighters, our neighbours and friends, our church family, whoever you are in community with – work together. We all need reminders that we are not alone. We need the Communities around us, we need our families of faith, we need our extended family.

Paul may be sharing with us that people do come into our lives for a reason, and we are in other people's lives for a reason. That reason may be that we are shaped to work with others - for the betterment of all. We can do it together! We are not alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God!

Reflection Hymn: VU 600 “When I Needed a Neighbour”

When I needed a neighbour,
were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty,
were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?

I was cold, I was naked,
were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?

When I needed a healer,
were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?

Wherever you travel
I'll be there, I'll be there,

wherever you travel I'll be there.
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
I'll be there. **

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Sharing Of Our Gifts: MV 191 – “What Can I Do?”

(repeat as needed)

What can I do? What can I bring?
What Can I Say? What can I Sing?

I'll sing with joy, I'll say a prayer
I'll bring my love, I'll do my share

Doxology: VU 541 “Praise God From Whom...”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

Offertory Prayer:

People: Compassionate God, who strengthens us for the journey, we bring these gifts in response to your call to sow seeds of love and justice. May our offerings build up the family of faith and extend your grace to the world beyond. In gratitude, we dedicate all that we have and all that we are. Amen.

Firefighter's Prayer: Station 16 - Captain Ken Wood

When I am called to duty God,
Wherever flames may rage,
Give me the strength to save some life
Whatever be its age.

Help me embrace a little child,
Before it is too late,
Or save an older person from
The horror of that fate.

Enable me to be alert,
To hear the weakest shout,
Then quickly and efficiently
To put the fire out.

I want to fill my calling Lord,
To give the best in me;
Halting all the fear and pain;
Protecting Life and property.

And when that moment comes, dear Lord,
When end of life draws near,
I trust to your eternal love
All those whom I hold dear.

Firefighter's Spouses and Families: (Chief Russell)

Pastoral Prayer:

Closing Hymn: VU 602 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind
is like to that above.

Before our Maker's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes,
each other's burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

This glorious hope revives
our courage on the way;
that we shall live in perfect love
in God's eternal day.

Benediction:

Eric: We are blessed. We are sent out into our community, during good and bad times, to help as needed. Let us not grow weary of doing what is right. Go and work for the good of all. Go in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit to do all the good you can for all the people you can in all the ways you can for as long as you can, now and forever more.

Go Now in Peace:

**Go now in peace, never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others, so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Postlude: Susan Baker