August 11, 2024

Baptism Sunday

We Gather Together

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements — Rev. Valerie Oden

Land Acknowledgement

Introit — *Gather Us In* — MV 7

Call to Worship — Joanne Little, Lay Leader

One: From scattered lives, we are called to this place--

All: Called into the community of saints and fellowship with one another.

One: As the Spirit stirs today, may we be ready to notice.

All: And may we trust that we belong to the love that knows no bounds.

Opening Prayer (in Unison)

As you beckon, God of life, so may we respond.
You call us by our name, and we are yours.
May your love reach us newly today,
enlivening your promise that you have us.
Then, with courage, may we go forth loving others.
Amen.

*Opening Hymn — *Make a Joyful Noise (Psalm 100)* — VU 820

We Share in Holy Baptism

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism — Please see Insert

MYA RAE SMULSKI AMEI CELINE SMULSKI

*Hymn of Blessing — *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry* — VU 644

We Listen for the Spirit

Scripture — Isaiah 43: 1-3; John 10: 11-14, 27-30 — Annika Schoenhardt

Reflection — "Ultimate Belonging" — Valerie Oden

Special Music — *You Are Mine* (D. Hass)
Joanne Little, Annika Schoenhardt, Sherry Steele

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Prayer Hymn — *Spirit of Life* — VU 381

Silent Personal Prayer

Pastoral Prayer / The Lord's Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

Offering our Gifts

Offering plates can be found in the narthex. Electronic gifts are welcome by e-transfer to contactus@riverbendunited.org or on the church website.
We give in gratitude for God's grace and in hope that peace may spread to all.

*Closing Hymn — *Will You Come and Follow Me* *Vss. 1, 2, 4* — VU 567

*Benediction

*Musical Response — *Will You Come and Follow Me* *Vs. 5* — VU 567

Postlude

*****denotes you are invited to stand as you are able and inclined*

"VU" refers to the red hardback hymnal *Voices United*
"MV" refers to the spiral bound songbook *More Voices*

We welcome the people of St. Paul's United Church
throughout August in our summer partnership worship.

Welcome to Riverbend United Church. If you're new with us, we would love to meet you. Feel free to introduce yourself to your neighbour in the pew, and/or **fill out a Welcome Card in the pews**. We'd love to know who you are!

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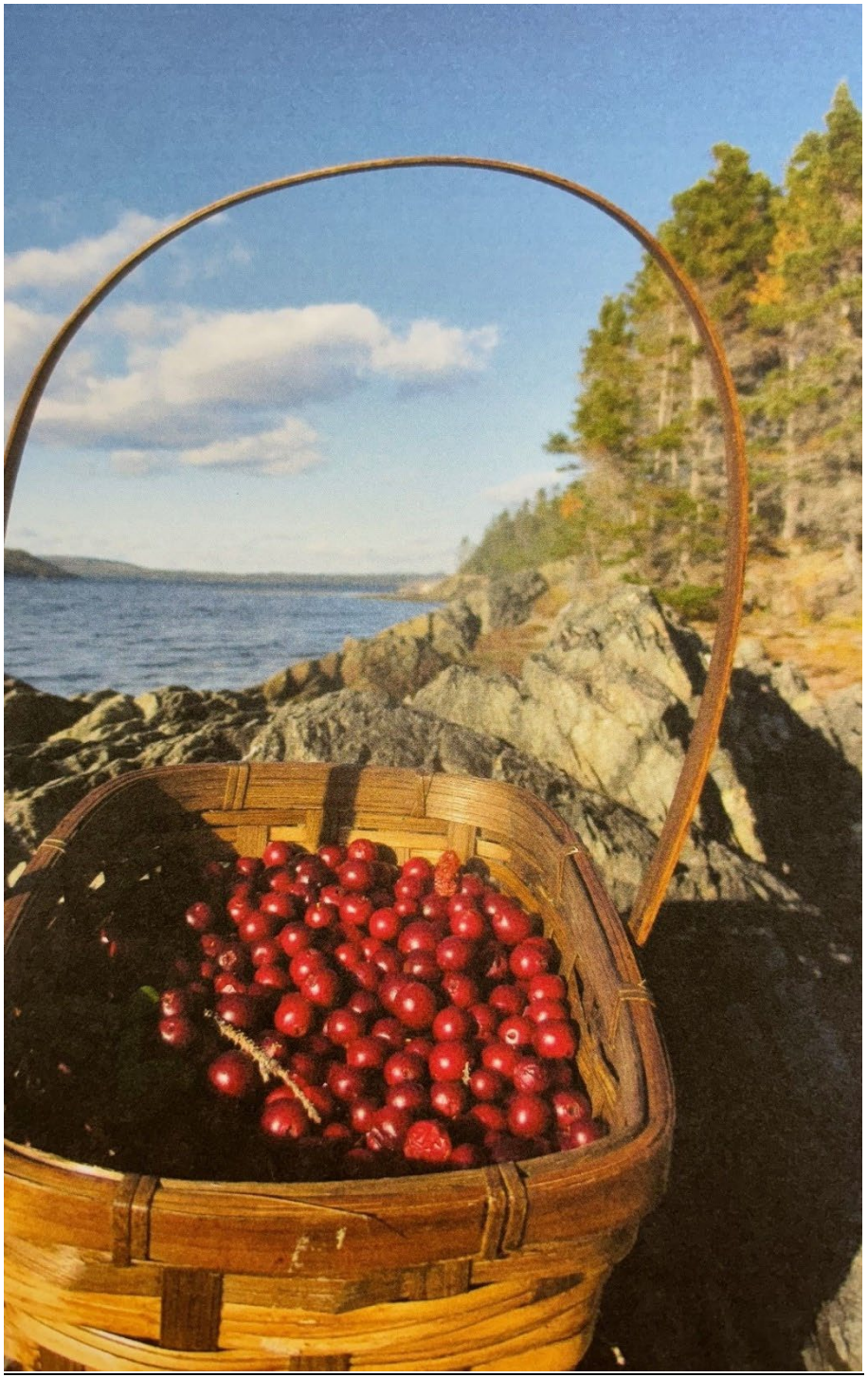

RIVERBEND UNITED CHURCH

Edmonton, AB

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

August 11, 2024

Introduction

Presentation of the Children:

Mya Rae Smulski
Amei Celine Smulski
Children of Jay Smulski and Ayanna Rocke

Questions and Promises of the Parents:

Will you share the stories and traditions of the Christian faith with your children, even if alongside other faiths, teaching them the value of compassion, of living for a whole that is greater than any of us?

We will.

Will you help them learn the value of loving and serving our neighbours, lifting up Jesus as a guide for our lives, by the grace of God?

We will.

Will you by your love and example, help them to always grow in their spiritual lives, grounding them in love?

We will.

Promise of the Congregation:

Will you, the people of God in this place, offer your loving, prayerful care for this family, doing all you can to nurture them in the Christian life and support them on the journey of faith?

Congregational Response:

With God's help, we will share in caring for these children and for all God's children, encouraging them that they may grow in love and be confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

Pouring of the Water:

In the beginning, God's Spirit swept over the waters
bringing forth life; and God said, "It is good."

The waters of the Red Sea parted for the sake of freedom,
flowed from a rock in the wilderness to give life,
enfolded Jesus in the River Jordan at his baptism.

Water is vital to our faith, to the earth, to our lives.
Today we use water to bless these children,
symbolizing joyous welcome into the body of Christ.

Prayer of the People:

Loving God, your blessing of life is evident in these precious children being baptized today. By your Holy Spirit, the water that touches them calls forth your eternal love. May this family know such love as they grow together by your grace. Amen.

The Baptisms

Welcoming the Children **Mya and Amei**

*Hymn of Blessing: *I Was There* VU 644

Ministers: Rev. Valerie Oden (and Rev. Paul Walfall in absentia)
Congregational Sponsors: Joanne Little and Annika Schoenhardt