

204.256.8792 windsorparkunitedchurch.com 1062 Autumnwood Drive, Wpg, MB, R2J 1C7

March 19, 2017

Baptism

Third Sunday in Lent – "A New Life"

(Portions of the service that are in **BOLD** are to be said by all. All points marked \* those who are able are invited to stand.)

## **Approach**

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Hymn MV #4 – "All Who Are Thirsty"

**Opening Reflections** 

Sung Response

Come and journey, with a Savior Who has called us from our birth, Who has washed us in the waters, And who loved us on the earth.

Come and journey, come and journey, With a Savior who has come. We are all God's sons and daughters. In the Spirit we are one.

Call to Worship

One: God: Meet us at the wells, where we are lonely,

All: Where we are forgotten, where we are hurt by others

One: And give us something to drink.

All: Water of Life, Water of Grace, that brings life again

One: God: Speak to us in the most private of places,

All: Where the sinners gather, where the prejudices are made known,

One: Where our histories are broadcast,

All: And give us to drink of the forgiveness that brings peace again.

One: God: Renew all that we are and have been,

All: Fill us with a new future, inspire us with recreation,

One: Pull us into resurrection.

All: And as we worship, give us to drink from the promise of heaven.

\* Opening Hymn – "Healing River of the Spirit"

Healing river of the Spirit, Bathe the wounds that living brings. Plunge our pain, our sin, our sadness Deep beneath your sacred springs. Weary from the restless searching That has lured us from your side, We discover in your presence Peace the world cannot provide.

Wellspring of the healing Spirit stream That flows to bring release, As we gain ourselves, our senses, May our lives reflect your peace. Grateful for the flood that heals us, May your church enact your grace As we meet both friend and stranger May we see our Saviour's face.

Living stream that heals the nations, Make us channels of your power. All the world is torn by conflict; Wars are raging at this hour. Saving Spirit, move among us, Guide our winding human course. Till we find our way together, Flowing homeward to our Source.

Prayer of Approach and Confession

God of Living Water, you call us to come and drink. So why do we sit here and complain that there is not enough water? You call us to strike the rocks of our world and let your Living Water flow. But we do not trust enough that the spring is there. We want to find the water on our own, using our own wisdom. You call us to share the Water of Life with the world around us. But we believe that the water is limited, not abundant and so we are tempted to save it for ourselves. For all the times we turn away from your Water, for all the times we sully the Water by misusing it, for all the times we let others go thirsty instead of offering a drink, Forgive us we pray. If we look deep within we know that the Water of Life flows with abundance to fill us with hope, to cleanse us of our guilt, to float us to a new life. Washed in the Living Water, we are forgiven and set free to live abundant life. Thanks and praise to God. AMEN

Assurance of Pardon

**Baptismal Liturgy** 

\* Hymn MV #117 – "By the Well, A Thirsty Woman"

## The Word

Scripture Reading – Exodus 17: 1-7
Psalm 95 (sung VU #815)
John 4: 5-42

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

## **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

Meditation

(a quiet time for your personal reflection and prayer)

Anthem - "Living Water"

## The Response

\* Offering / Response

Let the cross be our glory, and the Lord be our song, By mercy made holy, by the Spirit made strong. Let the cross be glory, and the Lord be our song, Til the likeness of Jesus be through us made known. Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song.

Pastoral Prayer

- \* Closing Hymn MV #142 "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"
- \* Benediction / Response

Grace alone which God supplies, Strength unknown He will provide. Christ in us, our Cornerstone, We will go forth in grace alone.

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Patrick Woodbeck, Student Minister Luci Toews, Office Administrator Peter Czehryn, Liturgist Laura Steidl, Music Director Myrna Hagues, Organist Gina Grant, Custodian

Ushers: Irene Hill and Jane Hares Greeters: Bob & Sylvia Mann