Baptism – Henry Lloyd Angus

August 14, 2021 – Windsor Park United Church

We are here to praise God for the life of Henry, our young friend, who in such a short time has brought so much joy. Through Henry we have experienced birth again in a new and more conscious way; in him, God has created the world again, opening us to wonder and possibility that we had forgotten. We live not for ourselves alone, but toward God and for each other. Our lives are bound in a covenant of love with Henry. We baptize Henry with our desire to show him a way of life that naturally displays love, respect, and justice. We baptize him with our intention to witness the unfolding of God’s creation as he grows and changes. We baptize him with our desire to be in God’s presence as we are in his presence. We baptize Henry with our desire to see him grow in spiritual maturity, in wisdom, and in soulful service to others, following in the spiritual footsteps of all the great mystics and spiritual teachers of the world.

Questions of the Parent

Each of us here has a unique role in raising this beautiful child. Do you, April and John, Henry’s parents, commit yourself to raising him in a manner that inspires faithfulness, compassion, and spiritual growth? If so, please answer, we do. **WE DO**

Will you work, as best as you are able, to raise Henry in a family of love, compassion, acceptance, and hope, qualities that we understand to be gifts from God and lived out in Jesus? If so, please answer, we will! **WE WILL**

Will you, as best as you are able, raise Henry in a community of love, nurture, and encouragement, a Christian community, that will help him to be all that he was made by God to be? If so, please answer, we will! **WE WILL**

Questions of the Godparent

Will you as Henry’s godparents, be a loving, caring support for Henry’s family as they work to fulfill the vows that they have made today? If so, please answer, I will! **I WILL**

Will you, as Henry’s godparents, be a loving supportive presence in Henry’s life encouraging and challenging him to grow into all that God created him to be? If so, please answer, I will. **I WILL**

Congregational Commitment

You, representing the Church here, do you receive this child in the name of Christ?

**Yes, I do.**

Will you surround him and his family with love and look for ways of being Christ to them?

**Yes, we will, we gladly welcome this child into our fellowship and we commit ourselves to deeper love and better service for the sake of all people.**

Let us reaffirm our own faith as we recite our

New Creed

**We are not alone,**

**We live in God’s world.**

**We believe in God:**

**Who had 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.**

Baptism

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**

Let us give our thanks to God. **It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

Water is a precious commodity...water is everything. Water is life.

We claim the joy of water and the way it sustains and nourishes us.

**Let it flow and pour and sprinkle for all people.**

**That all may know each day the gift of God in water.**

The biblical stories also talk of the preciousness of water. These stories remind us that water is a blessing and the source and strength of life. Without it humanity and all that is created could not survive. And our stories remind us that God’s way is the way of compassion and love.

God's love, like a shower of rain in drought, awakens the sleeping seed within the soul and lures it to blossom. God's love, like a paddling pool, inspires the responsive love of children, jumping, splashing each other, shivering with wet delight. God's love, like a hot shower after a long day's work, cleanses us, reawakens us. God's love, like waves crashing on the shore, breaks in on us and enfolds us, leaving us feeling vital and refreshed.

Let us prayerfully focus on this water, as we pour it into the bowl, and as we do, let each of us infuse it with our commitments to share with Henry the unique gifts that God has given us, gifts he will need from us as he goes along life’s way.

To paraphrase the scripture: The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the most high will overshadow you; therefore this child shall be called holy, a child of God.

Henry Lloyd Angus, with this water we baptize you, in the name of and with the love that is the Father, God the Creator, in the name of and love of Jesus the son, in the name of the with the love of the Holy Spirit who sustains us now and always.

Henry may the presence of the Spirit of Love in you, be nurtured and constantly affirmed by your family, your friends, and by your church community. This candle represents the light of God found in all of creation and so may the sun and the stars and all creation delight and touch your heart with fire and so may you find passion to be creative in all that you do and may you know the joy of God’s blessing every day of your life.

“I present to you Henry, God’s gift to his family, and to the world! Amen!”

**Prayer after Baptism**

**We stand as witnesses to the commitment this family has made this day. And we pledge ourselves to their support and care as they discover the ways that the Spirit unfolds for them. Amen.**