***We acknowledge these lands upon which we worship as the ancestral, cultural, traditional and unceded lands***

***of the Musqueam***, *Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.*

♦ Please stand where indicated, as you are able & comfortable

Congregational responses are in **bold**

**West Point Grey United Church: Vancouver, BC**

**A Celebration of Worship**

**7th Sunday After Epiphany - A**

**February 19th, 2017**

♪ **Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Preparing Our Hearts For Worship**

**Gathered In The Light**

**Acknowledging The Territory / Lighting the Christ Candle**

*We recognize the lands upon which we worship as the ancestral, traditional and unceded lands of the Musqueam people, and light a candle for the ongoing work of reconciliation with all our First Nations sisters and brothers.*

*And we light our Christ candle, remembering the one who walked*

*among us and is with us still – the Light of the World.*

**Words of Gathering**

We are called to celebrate and worship, not just by words spoken,

but also by miracles recalled:

**a baby's first cry, the petals of a rose, mist-covered hills,**

**the restless tides of the seas, a family’s love, a community of belonging and fellowship, sacred faith, human hope.**

And we respond:

**with gratitude, with joy, and with wonder - at life's boundless possibilities and the amazing love of our Creator God.**

Let us worship God ….

-2-

**♦**♪ **Hymn:**  ‘Part Of The Family’ *(1, 2 & 4)* ***VU 395***

**Opening Prayer:**

From our first breath to our last sigh, You hold us in Your tender care, Loving Creator. May the words we say, the songs we sing, and

the prayers we offer this day be filled with our gratitude for life,

and remind us that You journey with us each step of the way.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, joining our voices in the prayer

he taught: ‘*Our Father* ….” ***VU 921***

**Celebrating The Joy Of Baptism**

*Evan Morrison Lyster*

*beloved son of Sherri Morrison & Stuart Lyster*

**Scripture:** Mark 10: 14 - 16

*Jesus said to them, “Let the little children come unto me, and do not try to hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.” And Jesus put his arms around them, laid his hands upon them, and blessed them.”*

**Introduction to Baptism:**

† Baptism acknowledges the spiritual journey that begins at our birth.

Each of us is born with the spark of the Divine within, and surrounded

always by the love of God.

† Through Baptism, God claims us as God’s own, and invites us into

life’s journey of love following the teachings and way of Jesus the

Christ.

† Baptism celebrates and gives thanks for the wonderful uniqueness

and possibility of each person – created in God’s image – blessed to be

a blessing to the world.

**The Blessing of the Water**:

May this water be a sign for us of the outpouring of God’s love and Spirit upon Evan, who is being baptized today – and a reminder of

the blessing we all receive in abundance as God’s beloved children.

*(water is poured in the baptismal bowl)*

-3-

**The Consecration of the Oil of Baptism**

Throughout the Bible, oil was used at special times to anoint

royalty, priests and prophets – as well as others who were set apart

for God’s service. Today, as we use the oil to make the sign of the

Cross on Evan’s forehead, we are affirming for him the ancient

blessing of God’s people: *“You are important and precious in our eyes,*

*and in the eyes of God. Receive this blessing with the prayer that you,*

*in turn, may make your life a blessing to others.”*

*(oil is poured in the bowl)*

♪ **Hymn:**  ‘Jesus Loves Me’ *(1 & 2)* ***VU # 365***

**Introduction of the Family:** *congregational rep: Sheila Carnahan*

**Promises of the Parents:**

**Sherri and Stuart**, by bringing Evan here for baptism, you are reminded that, as parents, we do not own our children, but rather hold them in trust for God, who gives them into our care. This is a sacred trust – one which lasts a lifetime. There is no greater responsibility

and calling. And so I ask you:

Will you do your best to provide a home in which love resides, and will you give Evan the opportunity to seek a relationship with the God who created him, Jesus who loves him beyond measure, and the Spirit who walks with him every step of his journey through life?

**Answer: We will, with the help of God.**

**Promises of the Godparents** *Kelly Suffron & Ronald Emerson*

Kelly and Ronald, being a godparent is a very important and sacred task. You have been asked by Stuart and Sherri to be a special part of Evan’s life. As a godparent, you promise to support this family with love, and to encourage Evan in his spiritual journey. Will you accept

this important role and responsibility in Evan’s life?

**Answer: I will, God being my helper.**

**From Sherri and Stuart**: *their dreams, hopes, and prayers for Evan*

**And From Presley**  *(Evan’s sister)*

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**Pass Blessing Stone Around for Hopes & Prayers for Evan**

**Naming & Introduction of Evan**

**Congregational Blessing:** *given by Billie Williamson*

**The Baptism and Blessing with Oil**

**Presentation of the Baptismal Candle:**

Receive the light of Christ on behalf of Evan. It is entrusted to youto be kept burning brightly, so that he may always walk as a child of the light, with the flame of faith alive in his heart.

**Baptismal Certificate, Blessing Stone & Gift from Congregation**

**♦** **Welcome and Affirmation of Support by the Family of Faith:**

The church is the family of Christ, the community in which we grow in faith and commitment.

**We rejoice to welcome Evan in our midst and to celebrate his baptism as one of God’s beloved children. As a family of faith, we seek God’s grace to be a community which is open and inclusive, and one in which the gospel is truly proclaimed in word and deed. We promise to support this child and his family with love and concern and to nurture all children under our care, that they may come to know the beauty and wonder of God’s great love for each of us, and for all creation.**

In this Baptism, we are called to dedicate ourselves anew to God. And so we proclaim together with one heart and voice:

**I believe in God .... Source and Sustainer of the universe,**

**my Creator.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ ... the Way, the Truth and the Life,**

**my Saviour and teacher;**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit ... the breath of God within me,**

**my Comforter and Guide;**

**I believe in people .. their aspirations, ideals and dreams,**

**my sisters and brothers;**

**I believe in myself ... what I am, what I hope to be,**

**and what by God’s grace I shall be – my best self. Amen!**

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♪ **Baptismal Response:** ‘I Have Called You By Your Name’ (1) ***MV 161***

*I have called you by your name, you are Mine;*

*I have gifted you and asked you now to shine.*

*I will not abandon you; all My promises are true.*

*You are gifted, called, and chosen – you are Mine.*

**♦ Sharing The Peace of Christ:**

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Namaste!

*(As we are in flu season, instead of shaking hands, you are invited to use*

*the traditional Indian greeting ‘Namaste’ which means ‘I bow to the*

*Divine I see in you’. It is usually accompanied by putting your hands*

*together near your heart and offering a slight bow. This reinforces*

*our baptism vows which acknowledge that each of us is born with the*

*spark of the Divine within.)*

**Hosting The Word**

*Whether you take what is written in the Bible*

*as fact, metaphor, myth or story – listen to these words*

*for the meaning they hold for you today.*

**♪ Prayer for Illumination: *MV 172***

*God says, “Be still so you may hear the words I whisper in your ear.*

*If you will listen, you will know I’m with you always where you go.”*

**Hebrew Scripture:** Leviticus 19: 1-3, 9-18 *‘Living the Good Life’*

**Congregational Reading**: Psalm 119 *(Nan Merrill paraphrase)*

Blessed are those who follow You with their whole heart, who enfold

the world with love, and walk on peaceful paths!

**You have shown us the way of Truth, the way that leads to**

**freedom. O, that we might ever reflect the Light!**

over ….

*Congreg. Reading con’t …..* -6-

How can the young keep to the straight path? Only by learning to

listen to the Voice within.

**With all my heart I seek You; let me not wander far from**

**Your teachings!**

Your love in an imprint upon our hearts, that we may walk in Your

light.

**Guide us in all that we do, that we our lips we may bear witness to the truth of Your way of love.**

You ever enfold us in the power of Your boundless love, according

to Your Promises to us; You have implanted the Divine Seed in

every heart – a Treasure beyond words.

**Teach us to nurture that Seed so it might blossom into fullness and maturity.**

O Giver of Life, may we recognize the Divine Seed in every person.

**May we be sensitive to all we meet along the way – blessing**

**and encouraging one another. May we know that who we are**

**is a reflection of You – the Divine Seed we bear.**

You are the Sunlight of our heart – the Water that gives us life!

**Praise be to You, O Holy One!**

**Gospel:** Matthew 5: 38-45a *‘Jesus – Sermon on the Mount’*

***May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder,***

***as we ponder the meaning of these words for our lives.***

**Hosting The Word**

**Our Response of Gratitude**

**♪** **Offertory**

**♦♪ Presentation of Our Gifts: *VU 575***

I’m gonna live so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I’m gonna live so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I’m gonna pray so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I’m gonna pray so God can use me, anywhere, Lord, anytime!

-7-

**Offertory Prayer:** *(together)*

In this time of conflict and uncertainty, O God, You ask us to be

peace-makers and justice-bearers – allowing our lives to bless

the world around us. Accept the gifts we offer of heart and hand,

we pray, following the example of Jesus. Amen

**Prayers of Concern and Celebration**

**♦♪ Hymn:** ‘I Was There To Hear Your Borning Cry’ ***VU 644***

**♦Blessing As We Go Forth** :

As we go forth into this week - one thing we ask of you, Mothering God:

that when we are afraid, You would bring us into your heart;  
 that when we lose our way, You would give us gentle guides;  
 that when we cry out to You,

you would grace us with Your presence.  
 One thing we ask of you, Sheltering Christ:  
 that you surround our fears  
 and transform them into faithfulness;  
 that you pick up our broken lives  
 and transform us into your body.  
 One thing we ask of you, Spirit of Light:  
 that You hold so fast to us, we can stand firm in times of trial;  
 that You stick by us so we can wait in trust

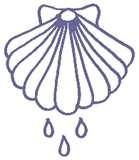
through the long hours of life;  
 that you fill us with your gifts,

so we can see goodness all around and live lives of gratitude.

And so, in trust, let continue the journey,

enfolded always in the presence of God. Amen

**♪ Postlude**



***Welcome to West Point Grey United Church***

*May you find here a warm community of Christian friends, a place of encounter with the Sacred, and encouragement for the journey. In the entry to the church, you will find copies of the worship service bulletin – in regular and large print, as well as large-print hymns. There are also copies of the sermon translated into Mandarin. Activity tables for the children are available in the west transept and a changing table for infants is available in the women’s washroom. Please feel at home, and among friends. Children are invited to go out for JAM (Sunday School) after the passing of the peace where nursery care is also provided. Everyone is invited to stay for refreshments following the service.*

*Minister: Rev. Valerie Taylor*

*Musicians: Eileen Padgett*

*Lisa Ni, J Huo, Alice Fang*

*Children & Youth Lauren Brown / Debra Dawes*

*Intercultural Coordinator Linda Liang*

*Projectionist: Norm Henderson*

*Office Administrator Janis Terrien*

*Bookkeeper: Sue Parker (office – Monday am)*

*Scripture Reader: Jan Tennant*

*Greeters: J*ean Leach and Verna Kloster

The bulletins this morning are dedicated to Evan

who is baptised this morning

as a member of the family of faith