

*Baptism  
of  
James Robert Murray*

December 24, 2017  
St. Paul's United Church

**Blessing**

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. **Amen**

**Declaration and Congregational Welcome**

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:  
by one Spirit, we are all baptized into one body.  
We are children of the one God,  
Mother and Father of us all.

***Into the household of faith,  
we welcome you with joy and thanksgiving.  
We are members of the Body of Christ.  
We are inheritors of God's promise.  
In the name of Christ, we welcome you.***

**Presentation of the Baptized to the Congregation**

**Blessing**

The grace of Christ attend us,  
***the love of God surround us,***  
the Holy Spirit keep us,  
***today and always, Amen***

**Statement of Purpose**

Sisters and Brothers, the sacrament of baptism proclaims and celebrates the Grace of God.

**By water and the Spirit,  
we are called claimed and commissioned:  
we are called God's own,  
welcomed as children of God;  
we are claimed by Christ, united with Christ,  
united with one another and the Christian community  
of every time and place;  
we are commissioned to Christ's ministry of love,  
Peace, and justice, and strengthened by the Holy Spirit  
for the work of the church in the world.**

**Presentation of Candidate**

On behalf of the congregation of St. Paul's United Church, I present for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism **James Robert Murray** son of Jordan La Perriere Murray and Jill Katherine (Seymour) Murray for initiation into the body of Christ.

**Profession of Faith and Promises of Parents**

Do you believe in God, source of Love, in Jesus Christ, love incarnate and the Holy Spirit, love's power?

***I do, by the grace of God***

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

***I will, God being my helper***

Will you share your faith with James, showing him the way in words and action, that you grow together in faith, hope and love?

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

Will you join with your brothers and sisters in faith, where you live and with this faith community when you are able, to share in the life work and ministry of Jesus Christ?

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

### **\*Congregational Commitment**

As St. Paul's United Church, do you commit yourselves to welcoming James as one who belongs to the household of faith in Christ, to support and nurture this family while they are in our midst, that they may experience your love through this community?

***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 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.***

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Life up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give our thanks to God.

**It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

Gracious and Holy God,  
we bless you for the gift of life  
and within it, the gift of water.

Over its unshaped promise your Spirit hovered at creation.  
By water, comes the growth of the earth.

Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom.  
In the waters of the Jordan your Child Jesus was baptized.

Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do,  
that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ,  
in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

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Listen to the free-flowing powers;  
listen to its releasing powers;  
listen to its welcoming power.

### **The Act of Baptism**

#### **Baptism in the Name of the Triune God**

**James Robert Murray** I baptize you,  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

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, Amen.

#### **Marking with the Sign of the Cross**

**James**, beloved child of God, from this day forward, you bear  
the sign of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

#### **Laying On of Hands**

**James**, the power of the Holy Spirit work within you,  
That being born of the water and the Spirit,  
you may be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

#### **Lighting of a Candle**

**James**, let your light shine before others, that they may see the  
love of God reflected in your heart and give glory to God. **Amen**