

Sunday January 10, 2016

Theme: *God calls us with a voice of flames to be God's people, faithful and courageous. As Jesus embraced his mission in the waters of baptism, let us be inspired with the fire of God's Spirit to join in God's transforming work.*

Prelude	
Welcome	
Opening songs	STS 26 Helpless and hungry STJ 54 Longing for light
Call to worship	Psalm 29
Prayer of Confession	
Words of Assurance	
Congregational songs	HWB 511 God who touches earth STS 45 Calm me, Lord STS 39 Will you come and follow me
Scripture reading	Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Sermon	Esther
Sharing and prayer	
Offering	
Announcements	
Closing song	STS 49 I will come to you in the silence
Benediction	

Worship Leader: Rudy
Song leader: Ron
Accompanist: Deb

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- **Food Bank** - Next meets on Jan. 23 and Feb 6.
- **Sunday, Jan. 17** – Congregational meeting
- **Jan. 24** - Aberdeen Church retreat at Camp Assiniboia



Birthday This Week Heather on Jan. 11

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- We will continue our Sunday School series “Monday to Friday Faith Stories” after the worship service today.



Coffee for Jan. 17 – Jeremy and Teresa
Upcoming coffee for Jan. 31 – Ron and Shirley

Prayer of Confession

(Inspired by Isaiah 43, Psalm 29, Luke 3)

Creator of the universe,
we stand amazed at your power and glory.
We are eager to worship you and offer our praise,
but we are often reluctant to answer
when we hear you calling our name.
We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary,
but shy away from the river,
lest we be baptized
with the fire of the Holy Spirit.
Forgive us when we forget your promise
to be with us always, O God.
Renew us with the power of your ever-present love,
and strengthen us to proclaim your justice
throughout the world. Amen.

PRAYER REQUESTS – for the next few Sundays we will be requesting prayers for EMC missionaries:

Len Harms (Fort Garry EMC University Ministry):

- Many university students begin their studies in January rather than in September. It is challenging to enter the university community in the middle of the academic year. Two daytime conversational English classes (Tuesday and Friday mornings) have been added to the church schedule to meet the needs and schedules of international people (especially immigrants and refugees). Pray that meaningful connections will be made with people in the neighbourhood.
- Because of their lack of knowledge and experience with Canadian culture, international people are vulnerable to scams in regards to housing arrangements, financial transactions, educational accreditation and work place relationships. Pray that they will adapt to Canadian culture with wisdom.

Stephanie Unger and Jenifer Kornelsen

(Many Rooms Church Community):

- Pray for unity in MRCC as they anticipate multiplying their three house churches to several more in 2016.
 - Pray for leadership development. Pray that God will help MRCC develop new, neighbourhood-grown house church leaders.
 - Pray for the housing challenges that some people in MRCC experience, particularly the issue of bed bugs. This can affect home-based worship a great deal
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Acts 8:14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.

The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Luke 3:15-17; 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Call to Worship Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendour.

**The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over mighty waters.
The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

**The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, 'Glory!'

**The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king for ever.
May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!**