

**Visions United Spirit Gathering  
October 8, 2023  
Thanksgiving Sunday & Welcoming by Baptism**

\* *Stand as able*

**Our Community Gathers**

**Gathering Music / Prelude**

**Welcome**

*God's Doors Are Open to All!*  
*Open Doors · Open Minds · Open Hands · Open Hearts*  
Visions United seeks to be a safe place for people of all  
races, creeds, ages, abilities, cultural backgrounds,  
sexual orientations and gender identities to worship.

**Acknowledgement of Place**

One: We remember with gratitude  
that we live and worship on lands that are, by law,  
the unceded territories of the Mi'kmaq.

**All: May we live with respect on this land,  
and in peace and friendship with its peoples.**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle & Kindling a Flame for Peace**

**Sharing the Peace**

One: Peace of Christ be with you

**All: And also with you!**

**Sharing Our WOW Moments**

**\*Song** (*standing*)    VU#820 Make a Joyful Noise    Words/Music: Linnea Good ©1991 arr. David Kai ©1994  
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**Litany of Thanks**

*\*adapted from lyrics of "Grateful" by Nimesh "Nimo" Patel and Daniel Nahmod*  
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**All:** All that I am. All that I see.  
All that I've been and all that I'll ever be.  
It's a blessing. It's so amazng.  
And I'm grateful for it all – for it all.

**Right side:** It's blessing!

**Left side:** And we're grateful for it all!

**Gathering Prayer of Gratitude** (*unison*)

When I wake up each day  
let gratitude  
stir and strengthen me.  
Let it draw me to goodness  
and hold me there...

There, where your Spirit sings,  
*"Go define love today,"*  
 and my heart chooses  
 to rise to the occasion.  
 May it be so.

### **Gratitude Inspiration Video**

Grateful: A Love Song to the World

*Music video by Nimo Patel & Daniel Nahmod* [www.emptyhandsmusic.org](http://www.emptyhandsmusic.org)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sO2o98Zpzg8&list=RDsO2o98Zpzg8&index=1>

### **Sacrament of Baptism**

#### **Gathering around the Font**

#### **Presentation of Candidates for Baptism**

Alexi Julien Landry

*Child of Megan Smith-Landry & Justin Landry*

Warren Frederick Allan Richard

*Child of Melanie (Wells) Richard & Rory Richard*

#### **Profession of Faith and Promises by the Parents**

#### **Congregational Commitment** (*standing*)

With joy we witness the baptism of Alexi and Warren.  
 We welcome them as a members of the worldwide Christian Church  
 and as a part of Visions United.  
 We will continue to support all children  
 and grow with them on the journey of faith.  
 With the Spirit's help, we will live out our baptism in Jesus Christ,  
 and our mission as a community of faith:

We are a spiritual community  
 Welcoming a diversity of people  
 Celebrating and exploring in faith together  
 Reaching out in love  
 Daring to make a difference  
 One act of kindness at a time.  
 May it Be So.

#### **Affirmation of Faith**      The New Creed (*VU#918*)

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 Pouring of Water**

### **The Baptism – Sign of the Cross – Blessing – Welcome**

### **Presentation of Baptismal Candle & Certificate**

**\*Song** (*standing*) MV#157 I Am a Child of God (vs. 1, 4, 5) Words/Music: Cheryl & Bruce Harding ©2002  
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(*Children Leave for Programming*)

### **We Listen for Wisdom**

**Wisdom Readings** Matthew 18:1-5  
Colossians 3:9b-17

**Special Music** Sing a Grateful Alleluia Words/Music: Joseph M. Martin ©1993 Alfred Publishing Co. Inc.  
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**Reflection** A Letter to Alexi & Warren and all God's Beloved

### **Wondering & Pondering**

What are some of the 'lessons of love' that your community of faith has taught you?  
When have you tried to know someone as Jesus would? What difference did it make?  
Think of someone (*or groups of people*) that you have trouble loving.  
Consider how Jesus sees them...

### **We Respond with Gratitude and Prayer**

**Song** MV#176 Three Things I Promise (vs. 1-4) Words: Brian Wren ©1997;  
Music: David Charles Damon ©1999  
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### **Our Community at Prayer**

## Invitation to Generosity & Sharing of Our Gifts

**\*Sung Dedication** (*standing*) MV#182 Grateful (*Refrain, v.2, ref.*) Words/Music: Tom Tomaszek ©2003  
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## The Work of the Community – Our Announcements

### We Go Forth to Be a Blessing

**\*Song** (*standing*) VU#242 Let All Things Now Living Words /Desc.: Katherine K. Davis,  
©1939, 1966 E.C. Schirmer Music: Welsh Folk melody.  
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## Changing of the Light & Blessing

## Postlude Music for the Journey

*Thank You for Joining Us!*  
*May Each of Us Carry the Spirit into the world with us.*