

Welcome and Acknowledgements

Welcome to Roxboro United Church.

Before we can begin our worship,

we need to acknowledge that the land we live on is God's land.

Called Turtle Island for thousands of years by the people in this region:

Abenakis, Algonquin, Eeyou, Huron-Wendat, Innu, Kanien'kehá:ka, Mi'kmaq
and others, who were and are faithful stewards to the Creator's land.

We worship together today seeking reconciliation, justice and well being
for all the beings, flora and fauna, who live here.

We also acknowledge that the Church has made itself the gate keeper of the faith,
excluding many for their gender, sexuality and ability.

Roxboro United is an Affirming Ministry of The United Church of Canada
and has made public declaration of the past and ongoing sin of the Church
in denying membership and participation, and openly seeking to dehumanize
those who identify with the 2SLGBTQ+ communities.

At Roxboro you find a place of welcome, sacredness, affirmation and community.
All are welcome here.

Now we can worship God.

Centring Music

Let Them Be Little by *Billy Dean and Ritchie McDonald* ©Mike Curb Music 2004
performed by Janet & Francois

Call for Awareness

Loosely based on Psalm 78,1-4, 12-16 by Rev. Darryl Macdonald

Awake my body, awake my soul!

Awaken to the story of our faith; the light and the dark, the good and the bad.

We will tell of everything God has done;

all the glorious deeds, the might and wonders.

God worked marvels in the eyes of our ancestors.

Awake my sacred being.

Song

O God, Our Help In Ages Past **VU806**

Candle Lighting

Baptism

Friends Stephanie and James have some good news to share with us.

What's the good news?

We have a daughter.

Praise God! We have another life in our world.

Let all the people say, "Amen."

Amen!

What's her name?

Her name is Ines Di Ielsi Maccullie St-Pierre

Why do you bring her here?

We are bringing her here because we love our child
and recognize that she has been blessed by God
and we would like her to be included in Roxboro's Faith Community.

We rejoice with you in the gift of your child
and we promise to be a Community of Faith where you will find
a circle of belonging in which Ines will have a place.
As friends, we will offer a home to worship God and learn the Sacred Story.

Steph and James, with Ines and Joseph and Valerie move to the front.

Affirmations and Questions

And now we have a new life among us.
So, Ines, welcome to this world, this amazing and scary world.
Welcome to light and dark, hot and cold, evil and good.
Welcome to hate and love, lies and truth, bad times and good times.
Welcome to the long human pilgrimage from birth to death.
Anything can happen here; everything is possible.
Some things must be chosen; others left behind.
Welcome to the real world and this circle of friends.
Here we turn to God for help in making the choices that lead to life.

Ines, for you Jesus Christ was born; for you he passed through the waters of baptism;
for you he broke bread with sinners and outcasts; for you he endured the agony of the cross;
for you he triumphed over death.

You, little child, know nothing of this.

How will you ever know? Who will ever tell you?

We will!

Ines, this is too big a job for your parents alone. Who is going to help them?

We will!

(Joseph and Valerie: And so will we!)

Ines, who will protect and nourish you

and answer your questions about faith, life, compassion, justice, and peace?

We will!

Who is going to help them?

We will!

(Joseph and Valerie: And so will we!)

Prayer

Spirit of God, you brooded over the waters at creation's birth.

Be with us now.

We confess that: we have lived in darkness, be our dawn;

we have lived in error, be our truth; we have lived in indecision, be our resolve.

Attend to this child, this family, and this household.

Forgive us and send your Spirit to guide us as we struggle to make the right choices.

Act of Baptism

Ines, the Holy One who created you has made this promise:

“Don't be afraid; I have rescued you.

I have called you by name; now you belong to me.

I am your God, the One who saves you.” *(Is. 43.1,2)*

Ines Di Ielsi Maccullie St-Pierre

I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, mother of all.

Ines, know that you are now in the care of all who surround you.

Know that you belong to God and to this household.

Welcome

Friends, this is Ines a daughter of God!

Welcome, Ines!

Ines, I have a little poem for you. It goes like this:

Here's the Cross where Jesus bled.

Here's the Book where the story is read.

Here's the Table where we are fed.

Here's the Light by which we are led.

Ines, this is the light of Christ passed to you by Church and family.

May this light be yours.

Blessing

The Lord Bless Thee And Keep Thee **VU965**

Scripture

Philippians 2.1-13 New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition.

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If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, 2 make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. 5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
7 but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,
8 he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

9 Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
10 so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

12 Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Reflection

Flourishing Together

Offering Time

Statement of Hope

Every child is a child of God!

Every child may be God's new Messiah!

The prophet Isaiah wrote at the birth of his own child,

"The spirit of God will give this child wisdom, the skill and knowledge
to lead God's people, and the joy that comes with serving God.

This little child will lead them!" (Isaiah 11.2-4)

As we follow Ines into the world,

may God make safe for us each steep,

may Christ make open to us each pass,

may the Spirit make clear to us each road,

and may we travel hand in hand with God.

Song

Sent Out In Jesus' Name **MV212**