

Worship Transcript Sept 13th, 2026

Worship leaders: Simba at SUC Eric at NUC Pianist: Lori at SUC

PRELUDE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT *projected*

WELCOME

Simba

Welcome here! Whoever you are, wherever you are coming from, & whatever your concerns are; you are welcome. Come in & sit down, you are a part of the family. Let us worship together.

CREATE SACRED SPACE *with candle lighting*

NUC-Eric

We gather in this space, sacred, holy, & sanctified. This space, located on these prairies, where many have lived before us; This land has sustained many generations, providing harvests and water. May we live in respect with this land and build right relations among ourselves.

We light the Christ candle, symbolizing the centrality of Christ in all we do, and the other candles to remind us of our commitment to sound relationships among ourselves.

SONG: MV18 Lord, Prepare Me *Remain seated*

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Lord*, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy tried and true;
with thanksgiving,
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

LIFE & WORK

Eric/Simba

SONG: VU644 I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

Words and Music copyright © 1985 John Ylvisaker

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
To see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,
With faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off
To find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word,
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
To whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time
And you join your hearts as one,

I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
From dusk to rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
Not too old, no longer young.
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
With just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
To see your life unfold.

PRAYER

Creator God, sustainer and Fountain of life. We approach your name in humility, trusting in your grace; that you hear us. We come as who we are, with a song of praise for all the good things. With thanksgiving for your blessings, yet also with anxiety and maybe fear for the unknown. Quiet our spirits, calm our anxiety and assure us of your love in everything we do and need. Bless our song of praise, accept our prayers and inspire our fellowship. Through Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, our wisdom. Amen.

CELEBRATING CHILD BAPTISM

Statement of Purpose

Simba & Congregation

Friends, we are called now to celebrate the gift of grace that is given to us in Baptism.

Out of the water of baptism, we rise with new life, one with Christ, members of Christ's body.

Simba:

The Christian tradition has always emphasized the importance and the place of children in and outside the church. It is therefore, our responsibility to pass on the faith and the wisdom we have gathered to them.

Mark 10:13-16

Hear how Jesus welcomed little children:

"People were bringing children to Jesus that he might bless them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was angry and said to them; "Let the children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such that the realm of God belongs. Truly, I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will not enter it." And Jesus took them in His arms, laid his hands and blessed them."

Presentation of Those Seeking Baptism

Pat

Congregational Representative

On behalf of **Steinbach United Church**, I present **Scarlett Amy Rose Pitura**, child of **Justine Nepinak**, for initiation into the Christian church through Baptism. Let us renew our own Baptismal vows as, together, we affirm our faith:

Affirmation of our Faith *(New Creed VU 918)*

All: We are not alone; we live in god's world, 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 to 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.

Introduction

Simba & Congregation

This morning we gather at this font to proclaim God's love for **Scarlett Amy Rose Pitura**, and to celebrate her welcome into the family of faith. What can we affirm about her?

Scarlett is made in the image of God and is loved by God.

What do we hope for her?

We hope and pray that as Scarlett grows to know herself as a beloved child of God, to claim for herself her place in the Christian community, and she will hear the call to seek justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God.

Promises of Parent

Justine Nepinak, you have brought **Scarlett Pitura** here for Baptism. Do you believe in God, Source of Love; in Jesus, God's Word Made Flesh; and in the Holy Spirit, Love's power?

Yes, I do.

As a parent, will you share your faith and your wonderings with **Scarlett**, encouraging her by your words and your actions and growing with her in faith, hope and love?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you join with other people of faith, introducing **Scarlett** to the Christian community of your choice, and sharing in the life, work and ministry of the church?

I will, God being my helper.

Promises of Godparents

Jennifer Gerardy & Stephanie Tetreault, you have been asked to be spiritual friends to **Scarlett**, to offer support and care by your presence, wisdom and your prayers. Do you accept this serious and joyful responsibility?

I do, God being my helper.

Promises of the Congregation

As a baptized and baptizing community, do you receive **Scarlett Amy Rose Pitura** into the Christian church?

We receive Scarlett with joy, and we commit ourselves anew to the ministry which claims us all.

Pouring & Blessing of the Water

Eternal and present God, we thank you for the water with which you bless us. We pray that the one who is baptized may live in your grace.

Pour out, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon this water, that this font may become your womb of new birth, our fount of blessing and source of grace. All Glory, praise, honor be to you, now and forever. Amen.

The Act of Baptism & Blessing **Presentation of Certificates**

Simba
Pat

SONG: MV214 May God's Sheltering Wings

Words and music: Judith Snowdon Words and music copyright © 2004 by Judith Snowdon

May God's sheltering wings,
her gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms,
her cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love,
and hold you in her love.

SPIRITUAL READINGS:

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1: 1-8

SUC-Stephanie

I do stay singled-minded, in Christ Jesus. After all, those serving in national service don't get involved in business affairs – not if they want to keep their supervisors happy. Or take athletes – they can't accept the winner's crown unless they play by the rules. And it is the hardworking farmer who has the first share of the crops. Reflect on what I'm saying, and our God will give you complete understanding in this matter.

Remember that Jesus Christ, a descendent of David, was raised from the dead. This is the Gospel I preach; in preaching it I suffer as a criminal – even to the point of being thrown into chains- but there is no chaining the word of God. Therefore, I bear with all this for the sake of those whom God is chosen, in order that they may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus, and with-it eternal glory: You can depend on this: If we have died with Christ, we will also live with Christ; if we hold out to the end, we will also reign with Christ. If we deny Christ, Christ will deny us.

REFLECTION

Paul, in his introduction, describes himself as a prisoner, suffering for the sake of the gospel. He identified with the audience first. Identifying your relations with your audience helps, much as defining who you are. That helps the community to understand why you view certain things in the way you do.

That is called, social location. Paul uses his social location to speak to young Timothy about faith, not only as his new way of life, but a result of a long heritage established by those that lived before him. Paul writes from a position of knowing Timothy and his family. He identifies himself as someone who knew Timothy's mother & Grandmother (Lois & Eunice). He knew their faith and now trusts that Timothy has the same type of faith. He claims that there was a fire already, just fan it into flames. You are not the inventor of this faith. Your own family were established in it. Keep the fire burning.

What this means is that; seeds are sown regardless of their size. Sometimes they are too small to be seen. Seeds are put into the ground before they look good, yet they carry the promise. Hear me friends; bring your kids to Church. They may not understand anything today, they may not say anything or articulate their faith now, but that seed will grow. Faith is a seed that is planted with hope. Timothy's faith has gotten to a place where everyone was seeing it. Paul is now acknowledging the roles played by the community.

We are here, witnessing the beautiful story unfolding, where a mother is passing on her faith to the child. We hope that this faith shall live & endure the challenges the modern world may create. We believe that both, Justine & Scarlett will help each other to fan the new flames that were ignited in you. That the warmth of the Spirit of God will keep you going. Paul says; "for we are not given the

spirit of fear, but of love, power, & self-control.” Leave this place in power, in love and with the ability to regulate your emotions.

Faith is Nurtured

In theological terms, the Church is the mother to the body of Christ. The same thing said about Lois & Eunice can be said about the Church. The metaphorical parent/s/mother (the Church) has a great responsibility of ensuring the faith of those born among them is genuine faith, one that will endure and last. Faith that is resilient and productive. That means, the parents have the responsibility of nurturing the faith of those joining the group. Paul himself claims to be praying for Timothy (3-4). Thus, Timothy’s faith thrived because of support from the families, biological & spiritual. Nurturing faith is a collective responsibility, requiring substantial commitment. Friends, people around us have lasting influence on our faith. In the same way, we have significant influence to those around us as well. We need to receive encouragement and in response, encourage others along the journey of faith.

Faith Comes with Responsibility

Paul encourages Timothy to fan into flames, the gift of God he received when hands were laid upon him. It is expected of the believers to keep the faith but especially, to recognize that this faith is a calling, to serve others. God gives gifts to us all, so we can serve and nurture one another in ministry. We are gifted so we can play our part in ministering to this family of faith and the community at large. Our gifts are meant to benefit others, making the body of Christ healthy. All the children of God, born through faith in Christ, are called to fan into the flames, the gifts of God in them.

One gift that Paul mentions is “the Spirit, not of fear, but of power, love & self-control.” Paul recognizes the fear in the young man, and in many others, because he himself was writing from prison cells. He knew that people were facing possible arrests, so he needed to embolden them. The Spirit we have is not of fear, but of power. Love and self-control are not common traits. Do you know that self-control is associated with high levels of intelligence, courage and focus? Every great lawyer is calm, controls themselves, and cannot allow emotions to carry them away. Thus, Paul recognizes the need to stay calm, conscious and alert. Danger is/could be there but we should not live in fear.

Folks, as we celebrate this sacrament, let us nurture one another, keep fanning into flames the gifts of God in us, that we can offer effective ministry to one another. Let us leave a legacy of sound faith in this congregation and sound faith to our families. **Let us build a community that seeks courageous faithfulness all the time.** Amen.

SONG: MV178 Who Is My Mother? vs 1-4

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1992 copyright © Hope Publishing Company Music copyright © 2005 Ron Klusmeier

Who is my mother, who is my brother?
All those who gather round Jesus Christ:
Spirit-blown people born from the Gospel
sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.

Differently abled, differently labeled,
widen the circle round Jesus Christ:
crutches and stigmas, culture’s enigmas,
all come together round Jesus Christ.

Love will relate us - colour or status
can't segregate us, round Jesus Christ:
family failings, human derailings—
all are accepted, round Jesus Christ.

Bound by one vision, met for one mission
we claim each other, round Jesus Christ:
here is my mother, here is my brother,
kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ.

OFFERING INVITATION

As we celebrate this baptism, let us also present our offerings that represent a wide variety of God's gifts that we received. Let us fan into flames the gifts of God in us as we present our offerings.

SONG: MV191 What Can I Do?

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What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share. X2

OFFERING PRAYER

God of many gifts and blessings; we give thanks for these and many other gifts you gave us. We return some of these gifts, as our response to your call to support your ministry. Accept what we offer and bless the generous hearts. Through Jesus, our Christ we pray. Amen.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Mission & Service Stories

“Food4 Fun”

NUC-Eric

Westminster United Church in Orangeville, ON is helping children discover the joy of cooking, gardening, and being part of a welcoming community. Here is the Mission and Service Story for September 13, 2026.

PA Days can be difficult for working parents who are looking for affordable, safe, and engaging activities for their children. For families of children on the autism spectrum, finding programs that are welcoming with appropriate support can be an even greater challenge. Westminster United Church saw the need, and responded by offering FOOD4FUN, a series of gardening and cooking camps for children ages four to twelve. The program gave children a place to spend their PA Days while learning about food, gardening, and community. FOOD4FUN brought children into Westminster's garden, where they could experience food growing at its source. They planted, harvested, explored the garden, and took part in mindful walks. In the kitchen, they prepared food, learned new skills, and shared meals together. Lunch and snacks were provided, and sometimes food was sent home with campers. The program welcomed children with a wide range of interests, abilities, and needs. Volunteers provided additional support as required, helping create a barrierfree environment where everyone could participate. Some children who didn't regularly spend time outdoors became especially enthusiastic about the garden. Impact could be seen in things campers said. When a camper, referred to as "M," returned for a second camping session, their first question was: "When are we going outside? I need to visit my special tree." Other campers were already asking when the next PA Day camp would be held. Campers "S" and "B" were eager to know if they would be growing potatoes again and if they could help with the harvest. These experiences build more than gardening and cooking skills. Children develop confidence in the kitchen, become more comfortable in groups, build relationships with other campers, and develop a healthy relationship with food. They also have

opportunities to build a lasting connection with the land. FOOD4FUN has also helped Westminster learn more about what is needed to provide accessible and welcoming programming. The congregation is exploring relationships with autism services in Orangeville and is developing plans for a weeklong summer camp for food-insecure families in 2027. Our gifts through Mission and Service make this work possible. Our support helps congregations respond to needs in their communities and create opportunities for people, especially children, to learn, connect, and thrive. Let's give generously so children can continue discovering confidence, skills, and connections that grow.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of many generations, in your name we pray. We give thanks for the gift of family, community and growth. We celebrate this day with gratitude and thanksgiving. We pray that those that come to you may find assurance and experience the blessing of their faith.

Yet even in our joy, our hearts whisper the names of colleagues, friends and family that are going through difficult times. Some need your healing, other are seeking comfort. may you grant peace to those in conflicts and wars, hope to the hopeless. Give us courage to seek justice and equip us with your Spirit that we may live out your love. We pray for all generations, that they may be nurtured by the ministry inspired by your Spirit. Bless our church community, our ministry, and our wider church ministry. May we find peace, hope and love.

We pray for our country, world and all creation. Let your will be done. These things we as, through Jesus our Christ; who taught us to pray;

Our Father, who Art in heaven,

SONG: MV161 I Have Called You by Your Name vs 1-4

Words and music: Daniel Charles Damon copyright © 1995 Hope Publishing Company

I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.

You are gifted, called and chosen;
you are mine.

I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name,
speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out,
choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul,
make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

BLESSING

Now may the Grace of our Christ, Jesus, the love of God & the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you, keep you and sustain your faith. Now & forever. Amen.