

# Nashwaaksis United Church

Sunday, September 7, 2025 - Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Steps: Stepping Into God's Image

**Liturgical Colour: Green**

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## GATHERING TOGETHER

### Hymnsing

### Prayer Requests

### Acknowledgement of Place

### Lighting the Christ Candle

Introit: *Gather us In* MV 7 (X2)  
**Gather us in, ground us in You.**  
**Gather us in, ground us in You.**  
**Gather us in, Gather us in,**  
**ground us, ground us in You.**

### Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### Celebrations & Announcements

### Call to Worship (Responsive):

In the beginning, God took the first step towards us: light breaking through darkness, life springing from chaos, Word shaping all things good.

**We are made in that image, called to carry light, to live God's Word, to take first steps towards God in faith and love.**

Come, people of God, let us walk in the rhythm of creation.

**We come to worship the One whose first words still echo in us today.**

## Centering Prayer

Hymn: *Morning has Broken* VU 409

## LISTENING FOR TRUTH

### Prayer for Guidance (Responsive):

Holy Creator, from the beginning you have called us into life,  
**shaped us in your image, and placed your Word within us.**

We long to walk in your ways,

**but our steps are often uncertain.**

Guide our feet when the path is unclear.

**Steady us when we stumble. Turn us again toward your light.**

Teach us to see your image in every face we meet.

**Teach us to carry your love into every corner of the world.**

Teach us to live as your Word made flesh,

**as signs of your hope and bearers of your grace.**

Walk with us, O God, and lead us onward every step of our journey

**until our journey echoes your very good creation. Amen.**

### Ministry of Music:

### Scripture Reading:

John 1:1-5

Genesis 1:1-2:4a (adapted)

In the beginning, there was nothing but darkness. The deep was waiting. The Spirit was moving. Then God spoke...

**"Let there be light!"**

And light blazed into being! God saw the light: so good! God pulled it apart from the darkness, and gave us day and night.

**Day and night! Light and dark! God's world begins!**

God spoke again: "Waters, make room! Sky, rise up!" And the heavens stretched wide above, the waters flowed below.

**The sky above! The waters below! God's world takes shape!**

Then God called for land, "Earth, come forth! Seas, gather round!" And it was so. Green shoots burst out, trees took root, flowers and fruit covered the ground.

**Land and sea, growing green! God's world is alive!**

Then God lit the heavens with lamps of every kind: a blazing sun, a silver moon, a thousand thousand stars to mark the days and years, the seasons of our lives.

**Sun, moon, and stars! Shining bright! God's world has time and rhythm!**

God spoke to the seas: "Come alive!" And the waters teemed with fish of every size. God spoke to the sky: "Come alive!" And the air filled with beating wings.

**Fish and birds, swimming and soaring! God's world is filled with life!**

God spoke to the earth: "Come alive!" And creatures of every kind appeared: wild and tame, great and small, the crawling and the leaping, the running and the roaring.

**Creatures of earth, great and small! God's world is wild with wonder!**

Then God said: "Now, let us make humanity, our image in their bones, our likeness in their frame, our life in their breath." And so humankind was formed, blessed, and called, to live, to love, to care for creation.

**People of God, made in God's image! Called to love the world that God loves!**

God looked at everything - sky and sea, sun and stars, plants and creatures, humankind - and saw it all, shining together, born of that first holy light.

**Very good! Very good! God's world is very good!**

And on the seventh day, God rested. The work was complete, the blessing full, the day made holy.

**And so we rest, we bless, we praise the Creator!**

This is the Good News.

**Thanks be to God!**

## WELCOMING DAVID EMMANUEL GATT

### Pouring The Water

#### Promises:

*to the parents*

You have brought your son, David (Davey), to be welcomed into our community. Do you promise to continue to nurture him in the faith, to share with him the stories of our tradition, and to raise him in the light of Christ?

**We do, with God's help.**

Do you promise to model a life of love and service, and to seek God's wisdom and guidance as you help him grow?

**We do, with God's help.**

*to god-parents*

You have been chosen by Davey's family as a source of strength for him. Do you promise to walk with him throughout his life, to share your wisdom and love with him, and to offer him encouragement and support?

**We do.**

*to the congregation*

People of God, you have been called to be a source of God's light in the world and to share the love of Christ with all. Do you promise to welcome Davey, to walk with his family, and to share your faith with him as he grows?

**We do, with God's help.**

Do you promise to support him with your prayers, to celebrate with him in joy, and to be a spiritual family to him in times of need?

**We do, with God's help.**

### Remembering Our Baptism

**Proclaiming Our Faith:***A New Creed*

**Lighting Baptismal Candle - Rev. Meg**

*VU 918*

**Blessing Davey - Rev. Meg**

**Hymn:** *I am the Dream* MV 106

**Message:** *Stepping Into God's Image*

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn:** *This Is God's Wondrous World* VU 296

**Dedication Verse:** *Grant us God* VU 540  
**Grant us God the grace of giving  
with a spirit large and free  
That ourselves and all our living,  
we may offer faithfully.**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison):**

**Generous God, from the first light of creation, you have blessed the world with abundance. You shaped us in your image, and gave us hearts made for giving, hands made for serving, lives made for love. We bring our gifts as a sign of our gratitude, our trust, our hope for your kingdom. Bless them, O God, that they may shine with your light, speak your Word of love, and bring life to your world. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

**Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn:** *God of the Sparrow* VU 229

**SENDING FORTH**

**Commissioning (Responsive):**

You were made in the image of God, formed in light, shaped by the Word, blessed with holy purpose.

**We go now to take our first steps again:  
steps toward light, steps toward life, steps toward love.**

Do not be afraid; the Word is in you, the light shines through you, and the Creator walks beside you.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Benediction**

**Choral Closing:** *Wherever You may Go* MV 216 (VS 2)

**Refrain:**

**Wherever you may go, I will follow,  
And your people shall be my people too.  
Wherever you may go, I will follow:  
For I will be faithful, loyal and true.**

**From beginning to the end  
I will always be your friend,  
When you need me, I'll be there,  
You can trust my faithful care. R**

**Closing Music**