

**November 3 Worship**  
**Communion Sunday/Baptism- Amelia Jane Robichaud**

**Announcements/Joys-**

**Time Of Quiet Meditation-** *“Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 19:14*

**Opening Scripture-** Psalm 119:1-8(page 532)

**Opening Chorus-** 413- More To Thee, O Christ

**Responsive Call To Worship-**

Leader: Happy are those whose way is blameless.

**People: Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord.**

Leader: Happy are those who keep God's decrees.

**People: Blessed are those who seek God with their whole heart.**

Leader: God has commanded that his precepts be kept diligently.

**People: We pray that we may we be faithful in keeping all his statutes.**

Leader: If we pay attention to all his commands we will not be put to shame.

**People: As we learn God's righteous judgments, we will praise God with an upright heart.**

**Hymn-** 631- I'd Rather Have Jesus

**Unison Prayer-** Most Loving and Gracious God, we praise you and we thank you for the guidance that you give us from day to day in your Word and by your Spirit. We thank you for choosing to dwell among us and praise you for calling us to be your faithful people. Bless this time of worship and of prayer, that those who need comfort may be comforted, those who need challenge may be challenged, and that all of us may grow closer together as your children, as members of the body of Christ Jesus our Risen Lord, who taught to pray, saying...*Lord's Prayer*

**Gloria Patri-** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen, Amen.

**Old Testament Scripture-** Deuteronomy 6:1-9(page 157)

**Special Music-**

**Gospel Scripture-** Mark 12: 28-34(page 881)

**Children's Time/Echo Prayer/Passing of the Peace-** Baptism of Amelia Jane Robichaud

**Hymn-** 419- Children Of The Heavenly Father

## **New Testament Scripture- Hebrews 9:11-14(page 1049)**

### **Message**

#### *“Teach Your Children”*

There has been a lot of discussion through the past 40 or 50 years about the damage done when prayer and any other religious observations were removed from the public school systems. I am sure that there are still a few of us who remember saying the Lord's Prayer before class began along with the Pledge of Allegiance. More than a few people over the years have stated removing prayer was the ruination of the youth of America. While I understand the implications of these decisions, I strongly disagree that this is why our youth today don't have faith.

There was a time in this nation when most children learned how to read from the Holy Bible. In many homes, the Bible may have been the only book available. Unless a family lived in a town or city, there were very few schools that were available. Education may have only been accessible through church or from someone in the family who could read the Bible. Somehow, the time came when schools were available and the education of our children was turned over to the professionals. Mother and Father no longer were responsible for the education of their offspring. The attitude soon became one of not paying attention to what was being taught as long as they were learning the basics. It did not take that many years for religious teaching to go out of style. Perhaps if you were involved with a church, the children were given religious training in Sunday School but as church attendance became less and less popular so went religious education. Belief in God is not instinctive behavior.

There seems to be an attitude in America, and this is not new, that says; I don't think I should influence my child in something as personal as faith. I think that they should make up their own minds when they get old enough to decide for themselves. How in the world is a child supposed to make a decision on something as important as faith if they have no foundation to build on? I am not sure that any decision can be made on any topic without a basic understanding or some kind of knowledge in that topic. We teach behavioural skills to children as soon as they are able to understand. Like it or not, it is the responsibility of every parent to instill certain kinds of knowledge in their offspring.

Teaching is a necessary and valuable part of life. We come into this world ignorant, and we must be taught: language proficiency, motor skills, cultural norms, social customs, manners, moral values, all these and more are the product of the learning process of childhood. Since teaching is a key element in acquiring information and developing knowledge, it is not surprising that the Bible has much to say about teaching. Teaching is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. “We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift . . . is teaching, then teach” (Romans 12:6-7). In this context, teaching refers to the God-given ability to explain God’s Word; the teacher has the supernatural ability to clearly instruct and communicate knowledge, specifically the doctrines of the faith and truths of the Bible. “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?” (1 Corinthians 12:27-29)

It is a fact that the sooner a person starts learning about anything, the easier it is to teach them. Of course, the subject matter and method of teaching is directly related to the age of the

one being taught, but good teaching has no age limit. We all know that there are some things that, when taught early on, will tend to stay with us as years go by. Topics such as faith, if not acquired early in life, will not be received as well when a person has already made up their mind because of exposure to environments that dismiss or disparage ideas regarding belief in God or religion. This is not only regarding Christianity but any and all faiths. If the foundations of faith are not developed early, they are so much more difficult to build when the foundation is shaky.

Today, here in this church, we all watched as Amelia Jane Robichaud was baptized into our faith. From my perspective and understanding, baptism is perhaps the wrong word to us. In years past, infants and young children were not baptized, they were Christened. What is the difference? Baptism is when a person professes their faith and acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Christening is when we dedicate a child to God and promise to see that the child is brought up in a Christian environment. True baptism requires that a person have the maturity and knowledge of what they are doing. Since a child cannot make these decisions on their own, we, as a congregation and the parents and family dedicate ourselves to teach the child all about our faith. When the child reaches the age of reason, they may affirm their baptism or Christening in the service of Confirmation.

I think that the important thing to remember is, we cannot, should not, or expect someone else to educate our children about faith. It is up to each individual parent, family member, or member of a church congregation, to guarantee that our children learn about our relationship with God so that they may grow in the faith that we find so important. Expecting people that you don't really know to explain God to your child may be easier but you lose the experience of introducing your child to the one who loves them as much if not more than you do. It does take some time and dedication but it will pay off in our children's lives. As Crosby Stills and Nash sang; "Teach Your Children." Praise Be to God. Amen.

**Prayers of People/Prayer-** What a heritage we have, O God. Generations before us have experienced Your love, and passed that knowledge to us. Great-great-grandfathers and grandmothers lived and prayed and sang their hymns to You. Now we enjoy that rich legacy and acknowledge the deep responsibility to pass it on once more. Help us share Your truth with our children. May they clearly see You and feel Your presence in their hearts. Let us use words and actions that lift You up as the one who conquers all by Your holy name. Enable us to teach our children that only You bring lasting victory. The world offers so many false heroes who promise quick success or easy remedies. May our children cherish the priceless gift of triumph that's theirs through Your dear Son's death and treasure all the more the faith You have given them. When they fear defeat, when others taunt their faith or threaten to destroy them, then, O God, remind them how You fought for Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and how You still redeem Your sons and daughters. Rise up and help them in their time of need. Let them know the force of Your unfailing love. In Christ's name, Amen.

**Communion Hymn-** 377- Let us Break Bread Together

**Thanksgiving Prayer-** Merciful and loving God, we give thanks and praise for the gift you have given us this day. We thank you for the blessing of young children like Amelia, who we had the pleasure of dedicating to you this morning. We thank you for the Holy Communion

where we took of the bread and wine, the body and blood, of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Help us to live up to the promises you have made to us. In Jesus Holy Name we pray. Amen

**Closing Hymn-** 260- Because He Lives

**Benediction-** Hear this: the Lord our God is the one and only Lord. Therefore go out into the world and love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and love others as you love yourself. And may God give you justice and freedom; May Christ Jesus set you free for love; and may the Holy Spirit go where you go and protect you on your way. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.

**Congregational assent and affirmation of faith**

*Congregation will rise*

**\*Deacon:** Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the ones about to be baptized?

**Congregation: We promise our love, support and care.**

**Deacon:** let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God?

**Congregation: I believe in God.**

**Deacon:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**Congregation: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

**Deacon:** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**Congregation: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

**Deacon:** Please be seated.