

Sunday January 12, 2025
Baptism of Jesus

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Come, Holy Spirit Dove Divine" H. Perry Smith. Arr. by Cindy Berry

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation

Lighting the Christ Candle

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Call to Worship

All you who thirst, come and drink deeply of the Living Water.

We who are weary and yearn for forgiveness come.

Just as the waters of the Jordan washed over Jesus,
so the Holy Spirit washes over you and me.

Our gracious God beckons and blesses us.

Let us give thanks for new life in Christ.

Hymn VU 415 "God We Praise You for the Morning" Words: Jim and Jean Strathdee., 1984.

Music: Jim Strathdee, 1984. Words and Music © 1985 Desert Flower Music.
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God we praise you for the morning;
hope springs forth with each new day,
new beginning, prayer, and promise,
joy in work and in play.

God we praise you for creation,
mountains, seas, and prairie land.
Waking souls find joy and healing,
in your bountiful hand.

God we praise you for compassion,
all the loving that you show;
human touching, tears, and laughter,
help your children to grow.

God we praise you for your Spirit,
Comforter and daily friend,
restless searcher, gentle teacher,
strength and courage you send.

God we praise you for the Saviour,
come that we may know your ways.
In his loving, dying, rising,
Christ is Lord of our days.

Hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Christ is Lord of our days!

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Holy One, you are the Living Water that quenches our thirst, bathes our wounds, and refreshes our souls. May you ever be for us a fountain of life, and for the world a river of hope, springing up in the midst of the deserts of despair. All too often we act as though our baptism was one of repentance only, never expecting nor wanting the power that comes with forgiveness and your Spirit. Help us to lay claim to the new life that Christ offers us. Help us move through repentance to rebirth. Let your glory thunder through our lives like a voice over mighty waters. Let the call of your Beloved echo in our souls. May it be so. Amen.

Ministry of Music: “

A 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.

Hymn VU 220 “Praise To The Lord, The Almighty” Words: Joachim Neander, 1680.

English Translation Catherine Winkworth, 1863. Music: Stralsund Gesangbuch, 1665.

Words, English Translation, and Music in the Public Domain.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation;

O my soul praise him, at all times your health and salvation.

Come, all who hear: brothers and sisters draw near, joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning,
keeping us safe at his side, and so gently sustaining.
Have you not seen how all you needed has been met by God's gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy will daily attend us:
ponder anew what the Almighty can do, who out of love will befriend us.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen sound from God's people again: gladly with praise we adore him.

We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings

Responsive Reading: Psalm 29

Glory, glory, glory to our God!

Ascribe to God, you powers of the heaven,
ascribe to God all glory and strength!

**Ascribe due honour to God's holy name,
and worship in the beauty of holiness.**

Glory, glory, glory to our God!

God's voice is over the waters –
God's glory thundering across the great waters.

**God's voice is power,
God's voice is full of majesty.**

God's voice shatters the cedars,
splinters the cedars of Lebanon.

**God's voice makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
Mount Hermon stampede like a wild young bull.**

God's voice forks into tongues of fire,
God's voice shakes the wilderness,
sets trembling the wilderness of Kadesh.

**God's voice causes the oaks to whirl,
stripping the forest bare;
and in the temple all cry: Glory!**

Glory, glory, glory to our God!

God sits enthroned above the waters,
God is enthroned as sovereign forever.
You give strength to your people, O God.

**Now give to your people
the blessing of peace.**

Glory, glory, glory to our God!

Scripture: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

*The other readings for this week are: **Isaiah 43:1-7; Acts 8:14-17***

Meditation: "Great Expectations"

Hymn VU 99 "Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized" (*to tune St. Peter – VU 344*) Words: F. Bland Tucker, 1977.

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Christ, when for us you were baptized,
God's Spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove and yet
as urgent as a flame.

God called you, "My beloved Son,"
called you, "My servant true,"
sent you God's kingdom to proclaim,
God's holy will to do.

Straight way and steadfast until death
you then obeyed the call
freely as Son of Man to serve
and give your life for all.

Baptize us with your Spirit now,
your cross on us be signed,
that likewise in God's service we
may perfect freedom find.

We Respond To God's Grace**Invitation to Invest in God's Mission**

From the moment of his baptism, Jesus knew he was following God's call. Through our baptisms, we also accept the call to follow Jesus and to share our gifts. Our tithes and offerings will be received.

Offertory Hymn VU 81 “As with Gladness Men of Old” **vs. 3** Words: William Chatterton Dix, ca. 1858.

Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838. Adapted William H. Monk, 1861.

Words, Music and Adaptation in the Public Domain.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger crude and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

Prayer of Dedication

Just as your Spirit moved over the waters of creation and the waters of the Jordan at Jesus’ baptism, Holy One, so may our offerings today move over the face of the troubled waters of our present world. May they bring new hope, new life, peace and love to each according to their need. In the name of the baptized one, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord’s Prayer

At his Baptism, O God, you proclaimed that Jesus was your Beloved, and you called him to deliver good news to the poor, to proclaim release to all held captive, to restore sight to the blind, and to set the oppressed free. At our baptisms, O God, you declared that we too are your Beloved, and called us to do likewise.

We pray for your church. May we be your voice of justice in this world, may we be your hands that deliver righteousness to the oppressed and the marginalized.

We pray for those who live daily with systemic injustice: the poor, the oppressed, political prisoners, and aboriginal peoples around the world. May we never cease striving for justice until it rolls down like waters; like an ever-flowing stream.

We pray for our leaders, ecclesiastical and political, may they lead with vision, with wisdom and with compassion. We pray for the peoples they govern, especially this week we pray for the people of Iran, Iraq, and Syria.

We pray for all who have been displaced from their homes by violence or by natural disaster.

We pray for all who mourn: especially we think of the friends and family of Leah Barnfather, and Beth Killins.

We pray for all who are ill or dying, those awaiting medical intervention or recovering from treatment. Especially we pray for Christa, Christina, Kurt, Marilyn and their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our hearts.....

All this we pray in the name of your Beloved, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, and who taught us to pray, saying,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn VU 380 "She Comes Sailing on the Wind" Words and Music: Gordon Light, 1985.
Arrangement: Andrew Donaldson, 1994. Words and Music © 1987 Common Cup Company.
Arrangement © Andrew Donaldson. OneLicense.net A620168

She comes sailing on the wind, her wings flashing in the sun;
on a journey just begun, she flies on.
And in the passage of her flight, her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.

Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth,
like an empty cradle waiting to be filled.
And from the heart of God the Spirit moved upon the earth,
like a mother breathing life into her child.

Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight
when the Spirit filled their dreams with life and form.
Deserts turned to gardens, broken hearts found new delight,
and then down the ages still she flew on.

She comes sailing on the wind, her wings flashing in the sun;
on a journey just begun, she flies on.
And in the passage of her flight, her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.

To a gentle girl in Galilee, a gentle breeze she came,
a whisper softly calling in the dark,
the promise of a child of peace whose reign would never end,
Mary sang the Spirit song within her heart.

Flying to the river, she waited circling high
above the child now grown so full of grace.
As he rose up from the water, she swept down from the sky,
and she carried him away in her embrace.

She comes sailing on the wind, her wings flashing in the sun;
on a journey just begun, she flies on.
And in the passage of her flight, her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.

Long after the deep darkness that fell upon the world,
after dawn returned in flame of rising sun,
the Spirit touched the earth again, again her wings unfurled,
bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on.

She comes sailing on the wind, her wings flashing in the sun;
on a journey just begun, she flies on.
And in the passage of her flight, her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light, she flies on.

Commissioning

At his baptism God said to Jesus, "You are my beloved."

At our baptism God declared that we are God's beloved.

Go forth and declare, in word and deed, to all you meet,

that they too are God's beloved.

Amen.

Response: VU 298 "When You Walk from Here" Words & Music: Linnea Good, 1991.

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When you walk from here, when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy, and with God's humble care.

Postlude: "Spirit of God, Descend Upon my Soul" Morcambe. Frederick C. Atkinson. Setting by John Carter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Annual Turkey Dinner will be held at noon on Sunday, January 19th. Tickets are \$30.00 per person and are available until January 12th. For tickets, contact Shannon Wakeling at 519-870-8656 or Jane Busche at 519-268-3360. This event is open to friends and family, other from the wider community.

The **Spiritual Formation Group** meets Wednesday, January 15th and 29th at 2:00 p.m.

The **Worship Committee** meets Wednesday, January 15th at 4:00 p.m.

The **Central Board** meets on Wednesday, January 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

LECTIONARY READINGS:

January 19 – Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11