

Sunday January 11, 2026
Baptism of Jesus

We Gather In God's Presence

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

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation

Lighting the Christ Candle:

Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Call to Worship

All who thirst, come to the water
and drink deeply of these living streams.

We come, we who are weary;
we come, we who yearn for forgiveness.

As the waters of the Jordan washed over Jesus,
so the Holy Spirit washed over you and me.

Our gracious God beckons and blesses us.

Let us give praise for new life in Christ.

Hymn VU 389 "God Is Here" Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1978. Music: William P. Rowlands, ca. 1905.

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God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.

Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.

Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us, as of old.

Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

God of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Holy One, you descended like a dove, alighting on Jesus as he rose from the waters of the Jordan; you continue to swirl around the world today, and blow where you will blow, and rest upon whom you will rest upon. You do not distinguish between people, but we persist in dividing one another by class or race or age or whatever. You offer us a new heaven, a new earth, and a new life, but we cling stubbornly to the past. You want us to share what we have learned from Jesus, but all others see is hypocrisy. Forgive us, Ever Creating and Re-Creating God. In our baptism you called us by name and told us how loved we are. Remind us again of the promises you made to heal, restore, forgive, free, and transform us through those living waters. Remind us again of the promises we made to love and serve you, and our neighbours as you love us; unconditionally. May we, and all people rise to new life, and learn to live together in grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Anthem:

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 MV 135 "Called by Earth and Sky" Words and Music: © Pat Mayberry, 2005.
Arrangement: © Margaret Stubington, 2005.
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Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

Precious these waters, endless seas, deep ocean's dream,
waters of healing, rivers of rain, the wash of love again.

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

Precious this gift, the air we breathe; wind born and free.
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place, our gathering and our grace.
Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

Precious these mountains, ancient sands; vast fragile land.
Seed of our wakening, rooted and strong, Creation's faithful song.
Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

Precious the fire that lights our way, bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone, our faith and justice one.
Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

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: Matthew 3:13-17 The Baptism of Jesus

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The other lectionary readings for this week are: Isaiah 42:1-9; Acts 10:34-43

Sermon: "GOKASHTMY"

Hymn VU 453 “Out of Deep, Unordered Water” Words: Fred Kaan, 1965. Music: Ron Klusmeier, 1974.

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Out of deep, unordered water
God created land and life;
world of bird and beast, and later,
twosome people, husband, wife.

There is water in the river
bringing life to tree and plant.
Let creation praise its giver:
there is water in the font.

Water on the human forehead,
birthmark of the love of God,
is the sign of death and rising;
through the sea there runs a road.

There is water in the river
bringing life to tree and plant.
Let creation praise its giver:
there is water in the font.

Standing round the font reminds us
of the Hebrew's climb ashore.
Life is hallowed by the knowledge:
God has been this way before.

There is water in the river
bringing life to tree and plant.
Let creation praise its giver:
there is water in the font.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

In his first letter, Peter writes, “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” This coming week a small group will gather to explore their Christian faith. At the end of the month a community will gather to remember a loved one who has died. Through your tithes and offerings, you were there. You made possible the space to gather and the leadership necessary. Our tithes and offerings will be received.

Offertory Hymn: “Star of Wonder” Words: unknown. Music: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1857; in the Public Domain.

Star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Grant us God, the grace of giving
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Prayer of Dedication

Receive our gifts, O God. May they be used to produce justice that would roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. We ask this in the name of the Living Water, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

God eternal, our times are held within your hands, our lives are shaped by your design from before our birth. You take hold of what has happened and nurture within it what you wish to be. Like a wise mother, you give us both freedom and guidance. How wise and caring you are, most blessed God; we praise you and thank you.

Holy One, fountain of loving care, wellspring of blessing and source of our hope: help us to break through the dry surface of our parched lives to find the love that flows beneath, quietly, deeply, cool with refreshment – that living water for our souls which is the Spirit of Christ your Son. We ask for these your gifts:
for your church, spiritual renewal;
for all in hospital or nursing home, healing and encouragement;
for all who are lonely, some human contact;
for all who are anxious about their job, or who are looking for work, fortitude;
for all who are wondering what path in life to take,

a sense of being able to trust that you, God, will guide them.

for all who mourn, ease of heart; especially we think of the friends and family of Maxine Hart, Bill Tipping, and Barbara Thompson;

for all who are ill or dying, all awaiting medical intervention, all recovering from medical treatment, patience and endurance; especially we remember Arnold, Butch, Cindy, Gloria, Julie, Rob, and their loved ones and their caregivers and those known only in the silence of our own hearts...

Finally, we think of our own individual lives.

We give you thanks for the blessings you have given us, and to ask for the needs that weigh most upon us. God of mercy, eternal source of life renewed and abundant, rise up and flood with loving care every withered life and every heart that thirsts for you. This we pray in the name of the One 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,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn VU 644 "I Was There to Hear Your Burning Cry" Words and Music: John Ylvisaker, 1985.

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

Commissioning and Benediction

May God, who created the waters of the world,
Christ, the living water,
And the Holy Spirit

who hovers over the waters of healing and rebirth,
be with us, this day and always.

May it be so.

Amen.

Sung Response: VU 886 “Arise, Shine” Refrain Music: Lawrence M. Probes, 1980.

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Arise, be clothed in the light.

Arise, be clothed in the light.

Your light has come.

Your light has come.

Hallelujah.

Postlude: “O Zion, Haste” James Watch. Arr. by Cindy Berry

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Committee meets Wednesday, January 14 at 1:00 p.m.

Spiritual Formation Group meets Wednesday January 14 at 2:00 p.m.

Congregational Dinner noon Sunday, January 18

Central Board meets Monday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Study: As we journey toward Lent, the new Lenten devotional [Bless, Break, Share: Recipes for Faithful Living](#) invites you to a spiritual practice of reflecting on food and hunger. What do you hunger for? How do you feed others? What feeds your soul? Whether reflecting individually or in a group, this resource helps us discover how every meal provides an opportunity to grow in faith. To deepen your experience, join Rev. Dr. Christine Jerrett for a six-week [online study on CHURCHx](#), on Tuesdays (2:00–3:00 p.m. ET), beginning February 24, focusing on themes of invitation, justice, and solidarity.

Participants receive a 15% discount on the book, with additional bulk savings available for congregational study groups. [Visit the United Church Bookstore to order your copy](#) or head to [CHURCHx to register for the series](#) today!

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Lectionary Readings:

Sunday, January 18, Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42