

The Baptism of Christ

The First Sunday after Epiphany



Sunday, January 10, 2021
10 o'clock in the morning

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS, and CONCERNS

Additional announcements can be found in the Weekly Word e-mail sent out on Friday mornings.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Passing of the Peace is the oldest part of the Christian liturgy and is a special way we welcome each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. You are invited to participate in this ritual by adding in the comment section.

CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River

[Hymnal #723; Robert Lowry]

*Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod;
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?*

Refrain:

*Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.*

*On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray, we will
walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. Refrain*

*Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown.*

Refrain

*Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will
cease; soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of
peace. Refrain*

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COTUIT FEDERATED CHURCH

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

Wade in the Water

[The Faith We Sing #2107]

Refrain: *Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water.
God's a-gonna trouble the water.*

*See that host all dressed in white, God's a-gonna trouble the water. The leader looks like the Israelite. God's a-gonna trouble the water. **Refrain***

*See that band all dressed in red, God's a-gonna trouble the water. Looks like the band that Moses led. God's a-gonna trouble the water. **Refrain***

*If you don't believe I've been redeemed, God's a-gonna trouble the water. Just follow me down to Jordan's stream. God's a-gonna trouble the water. **Refrain***

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HEBREW BIBLE LESSON

Psalms 51:6-17

6 Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

9 Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.

14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

15 Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

17 My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 3:1-22

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Tracónitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God’s salvation.’”

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

“What should we do then?” the crowd asked. John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share

with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?"

"Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. 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 barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done, Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

MEDITATION

Beloved

Rev. Angela Menke-Ballou

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

Introduction:

Our God created new life forms and brought them up from the waters of chaos, embraced them, and called them good. Jesus, baptized in the river Jordan by John the Baptist, became living water for us and embraces all of us. Jesus embraces those who are poor, oppressed, marginalized and all others who come seeking. We follow Jesus with our Baptism, marking a starting place for new life and new ways of being. We join Jesus in love and service. Let us prepare our hearts and minds to see, feel, and hear again the vows of Baptism.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises:

Do you renew and affirm the promises made at your Baptism? **I do.**

Do you recognize the call of God to be God's people always? **I do.**

Do you embrace the way of Jesus in faith and ministry? **I do.**

Do you accept the nurture of the Holy Spirit who renews your spirit each day? **I do.**

Do you accept and embrace others who seek a liberating faith in God? **I do.**

In renewing your baptismal vows, remember your Baptism as a mark of acceptance and welcome into the care of Christ's church where you may begin again your Christian faith and life.

Remembering our Baptism:

As you are touched by the holy water, may you receive the blessing of the remembrance of your baptism and/or renewal in God.

A Unison Prayer:

O God, we rejoice in your grace, given and received. We thank you that you claim us, that you wash us, strengthen us, and guide us, that you empower us to live a life worthy of our calling. In the way of Jesus, make us as water in a dry and thirsty world. Establish us to be places of refreshment. Root us and nurture us in love, that with all your people we may rightly and justly serve you. Fill us with your fullness that our lives may overflow in service and love. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Borning Cry

Vickie Vieira and Tedi Marsh

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

Prayer in Song

*Water, River, Spirit, Grace,
Sweep over me, sweep over me!
Recarve the depths
Your fingers traced
In sculpting me
In sculpting me*

Gathering of the Prayers

Prayer in Song

Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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 and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer in Song

OFFERTORY

***Doxology:**

*Praise God from whom all blessing flow,
Praise God all creature here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

CLOSING HYMN

In the Midst of New Dimensions

[The Faith We Sing #2238; Julian B. Rush]

*In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of
changing ways, who will lead the pilgrim peoples
wandering in their separate ways?*

Refrain:

*God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the
eagles soar, we your people, ours the journey
now and ever, now and ever, now and
evermore.*

*Through the flood of starving people, warring
factions and despair, who will lift the olive
branches? Who will light the flame of care? Refrain*

*As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking
schemes, grant that we, your global village, might
envision wider dreams. Refrain*

*We are man and we are woman, all persuasions,
old and young, each a gift in your creation, each a
love song to be sung. Refrain*

*Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to
withdraw in pain, may your blazing phoenix spirit
resurrect the church again. Refrain*

BENEDICTION

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