

Hope United Church of Christ



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THE CHURCH GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

First Sunday after Epiphany

The Baptism of Christ

January 8, 2012

10:30 AM

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS AND RINGING THE BELL

PRELUDE Chorale Prelude on the tune "Bevan," by John Goss -Healey Willan
(* *Indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*)

*WORDS OF GATHERING

One: Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one;

All: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,

Men and boys: and with all your soul,

Women and girls: and with all your mind,

All: and with all your strength.

*OPENING HYMN #13 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" (*The Hymnal—red*)
First verse sung by soloist, congregation invited to join in remaining two verses.

13

AURELIUS CLEMENS PRUDENTIUS, 348-413
 Tr. JOHN MASON NEALE, 1854
 and HENRY W. BAKER, 1859

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Twelfth century plain song (Mode V)
 Arr. CHARLES WINFRED DOUGLAS

To be sung in unison with graceful rhythm

1. Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be - gan to be,
 2. O ye heights of heaven a - dore Him, An - gel hosts, His prais - es, sing;
 3. Christ, to Thee with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly Ghost, to Thee,

He is Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the Source, the End - ing He
 Powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him, And ex - tol our God and King;
 Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing And un - wea - ried prais - es be:

Of the things that are, that have . . . been, And that fu - ture
 Let no tongue on earth be si - - - lent, Ev - ery voice in
 Hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion, And e - ter - nal

years shall see, Ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 con - cert ring, Ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 vic - to - ry, Ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - - MEN,

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy One, Holy Three,
in our baptism you declare your love for us,
drawing us to yourself, and marking us as your own forever.
Yet we have forgotten your declaration of love.
Imagining that we belong to ourselves, we walk away from you,
and we turn our backs on our neighbors in need.

**Holy Three, Holy One,
have mercy on us.**

**Turn us again to you, and bind us together in your Spirit,
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
through Jesus Christ, our brother, savior, and Lord. Amen**

(moments of silent confession)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*** RESPONSE OF PRAISE #160 Refrain (*New Century Hymnal*)**

**We will follow the light, beautiful light,
Come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright,
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus the light of the world.**

***PASSING THE PEACE**

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

Ed Zumwinkel III

CHORAL ANTHEM "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

-Robert Lau

THE CHURCH LISTENS FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:4-11

Pew Bible p.812

SERMON

Sarah Fredriksen McCann

THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO GOD'S WORD

INSTALLATION OF NEW COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

INVITATION

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin
and renounce evil and its power in the world?

I do.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior,
trusting in his grace and love?

I do.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple,
Obeying his Word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

Do you believe in God our Creator?

I believe in God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;

**He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of God the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

CHORAL ANTHEM "Take Me to the Water" -African-American Spiritual

During the singing of the Choral Anthem, you are invited to come to the water and remember your baptism.

NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER

God be with you.

And also with you.

As we pray.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY "Deep River"

-Colin Mawby

*DOXOLOGY (#782 *New Century Hymnal*)

To God, all glorious heavenly Light,

To Christ revealed in earthly night,

To God the Spirit now we raise

Our joyful songs of thankful praise.

Crashing Waters at Creation

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Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1991

Gen. 1:1–5; Exod. 14:21–22; Mark 1:9–11; John 4:13–14

- 1 Crash-ing wa-ters at cre-a-tion
or-dered by the Spir-it's breath,
First to wit-ness day's be-gin-ning
from the bright-ness of night's death.
- 2 Part-ing wa-ter stood and trem-bled
as the cap-tives passed on through,
Wash-ing off the chains of bond-age—
chan-nel to a life made new.
- 3 Cleans-ing wa-ter once at Jor-dan
closed a-round the One fore-told,
O-pened to re-veal the glo-ry
ev-er new and ev-er old.
- 4 Liv-ing wa-ter, nev-er end-ing,
quench the thirst and flood the soul.
Well-spring, Source of life e-ter-nal,
drench our dry-ness, make us whole.

Hymnwriter Sylvia Dunstan wrote this text to accompany a prayer for blessing the water in the United Church of Canada baptismal rites. She has credited the work of Miriam Therese Winter as her inspiration for some of the imagery in the last stanza.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
*Atrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660–1716), in
Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715*

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*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

May God's gracious law be in your hand;
May God's gracious law be in your mind;
May God's gracious law be in your heart.

With hand, mind, and heart, we give thanks to God!

Go forth with the blessing of God our Creator, Jesus Christ our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our sustainer
With you now and always.

Amen!

*POSTLUDE "In Thee Is Gladness" -J. S. Bach

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

*Liturgy for this service adapted from the renewal of baptism service on Monday, June 20, 2011 at Montreat
Worship and Music Conference, Montreat, NC.*



SERMON REFLECTIONS

What images, thoughts, connections or questions, arose for you as you experienced worship today? Use the space below to write or draw or “doodle” those reflections.