



**Baptist of Christ Sunday**  
**January 11, 2025 10:30 a.m.**



*Artwork by Judy Huff*

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "Shall We Gather at the River" June Nixon

*(\*) Indicates that all are invited to stand*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>(1)</sup>**

One: In the beginning, the Spirit of God moved over the primordial waters,

**All: as God spoke Creation into being.**

One: At the Jordan, as Jesus emerged from the water, the Spirit descended as a dove,

**All: as God affirmed Jesus as Beloved, as one to whom we should listen.**

One: Here, in this place, God's Spirit invites us to gather,

**All: that we would be renewed, filled with the Holy Spirit,  
as God reminds us who and whose we are.**

One: Let us sing and pray together as God moves within this community!

\*GATHERING HYMN “Crashing Waters at Creation” #326 (vv.1-3)

*New Century Hymnal*

**Crashing waters at creation ordered by the Spirit’s breath,  
First to witness day’s beginning from the brightness of night’s death.**

**Parting water stood and trembled as the captives passed on through,  
Washing off the chains of bondage—channel to a life made new.**

**Cleansing water once at Jordan closed around the One foretold,  
Opened to reveal the glory ever new and ever old.**

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (2)

Loving God, giver of all gifts, when we do not recognize the gifts that lie within us,  
**forgive us.**

When we do not recognize the gifts you have granted to others,  
**forgive us.**

When we are reluctant to hear your voice calling us by name,  
for fear of where that voice might lead us,  
**forgive us.**

When we fear wherever tomorrow might take us, remind us that you are always there.  
*(silent confession)*

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Loving God, who calls us Beloved, breaks into our lives and surprises us with a wondrous  
presence that can calm all fears.

**Thanks be to God!**

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “Crashing Waters at Creation” (v.4)

**Living water, never ending, quench the thirst and flood the soul.  
Wellspring, source of life eternal, drench our dryness, make us whole.**

\*PASSING THE PEACE

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM “Come to the Water” John B. Foley; Setting by Jack Schrader

### **LISTENING**

*God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 3:13–17

Pew Bible pp.784-785

A Word of God that is still speaking, **Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

### RESPONDING

*We respond to God's Word through our prayers and our gifts.*

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: RENEWAL OF BAPTISM

#### INVITATION

#### VOWS OF RENEWAL (3)

Do you renew and affirm the promises made at your baptism? **We do.**

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

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

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

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

#### COVENANT PRAYER (*unison*)

**O God, we rejoice in your grace, given and received. We thank you that you have claimed us, that you wash us, strengthen us, and guide us, and that you empower us to live a life worthy of our calling. We know that you are faithful to the covenant you made with us in our baptism, and so we reaffirm our covenant with you, to be your people, your servants, in Christ's name. Amen.**

*During the singing of the hymn, you are invited to come to the baptismal font, taking a glass stone from the bowl of water as a reminder of your own baptism.*

#### HYMN OF RENEWAL "Christ Be Beside Me" #702 *Glory to God Hymnal*

**Christ be beside me; Christ be before me; Christ be behind me, King of my heart.**

**Christ be within me; Christ be below me; Christ be above me, never to part.**

**Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me, shield in the strife.**

**Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, Light of my life.**

**Christ be in all hearts thinking about me; Christ be on all tongues telling of me.**

**Christ be the vision in eyes that see me; in ears that hear me Christ ever be.**

#### JOYS AND CONCERNS

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### 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  
(A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)

**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE: "We Give You But Your Own" #785 *New Century Hymnal***  
**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;**  
**All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

### **SENDING**

*With God's blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.*

**\*COMMISSIONING HYMN: "I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry" #351 (*NC Hymnal*)**  
**I was there to hear your borning 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;**  
**I'll be there in case you wander off and find where demons dwell.**

**When you found the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on;**  
**You were raised to praise the living God, to whom you now belong.**  
**Should 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 borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.**  
**I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.**

**\*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Postlude in C" Alexandre Guilmant

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#### Worship Endnotes

- (1) Adapted from Iona Abbey Worship Book, Iona Community, 2001
- (2) Adapted from Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1; Kimberly Bracken Long, editor.
- (3) Adapted from UCC Book of Worship.

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