

Welcome to Worship
St. John's (Hain's) United Church of Christ
The Baptism of Christ
January 9, 2022

*Please stand as you are able. You are invited to remain seated during the remainder of the worship service. Masks Recommended

MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Noel Louis Claude d'Aquin
Pastorale Arcangelo Corelli

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

Helmut Walcha

INVOCATION

God of the past and present, we've turned the calendar page. With our whole selves – mind, body, and soul – we thank you for your presence with us and among all peoples. Sprinkle us with your grace; renew again our connections with one another and with your Spirit. Speak clearly so we do not mistake your affirmation with the “sweet talk” of our culture. **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sisters and brothers, today we recall: Jesus Himself came to the waters of baptism.

In baptism, our Creator claims us and frees us from the power of hatred and death.

In baptism we are joined to Christ and we are joined together in unity, recalling
“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry and makes us signs of divine love. It is the mark of acceptance into the church and the beginning of our growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

Therefore, on this day, the whole church, the Body of Christ, remembers and celebrates.

Let us worship God!

HYMN #559

"Here I Am, Lord"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Baptism is our commitment to a life of faith in a community of faith. Through this sacrament, we receive the Holy Spirit, as Jesus did. Through our participation in a faith community, we are further strengthened by supporting one another in following the example of Jesus. But we are still human and will sometimes struggle to live faithfully. For this reason, we come to God and one another in the confession of our failings.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we confess that too often we live as though we are fearful, not faithful. When we encounter the waters of chaos and confusion, we don't easily pass through them, but we obsess about the height of the water instead of the sight of the other side. You promised to walk through the rivers with us. Help us believe. And help our unbelief.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Thus says the God who created us and formed us in God's image:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine."
This is the good news!
I belong to God.

***SIGN OF PEACE**

***HYMN # 679**

"Baptized in Water"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR THE WORLD

Opening Prayer

Take a few minutes to reflect on the following:

Dependable God – our mortality greets us as we prepare for sleep and as we wake; our fragility shows up when disease clobbers us. We long to feel your healing presence; we yearn for reassurance that this life is not all there is.

We look for signs of your work among us; we make time to be still and to be aware that you are sustaining holiness in the clamor of earning our keep in society.

Thank you for the rituals that take us through each day.

God of Tomorrow – time dangles before us and still peace has not come to this universe. The year is young and we pray for peace among adults so the children can grow up to know gentleness, sanity, collaboration and compromise. We pray for peace among nations whose places in the world are dependent upon all other nations.

Let wisdom come to leaders and followers in dreams and in lucid conversations.

Let the wishes of Christmas be realized in our homes and in the world.

God of Stillness and Motion – we do our almost continuous whirling activity and feel the dizziness of your divinity completing our humanity. When our pace seems to slow down, you greet us in good food, in beautiful pictures, in stimulating conversations, in bright babies, and in our own mirrors. In the quiet and fierceness of our days and relationships, you breathe, “It is good,” reminding us that we co-create with you the possibilities of Christ walking here in our communities and on our street corners. Thank you for the variety in our thoughts and activities, on the land, in the waters and in the sky.

Closing Prayer

THE LORD’S PRAYER

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Throughout nature we see the imagination of the creating God.

In Jesus the Christ, we learn how to be in relationship with the Holy.

With the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to embody divine love and mercy.

In community, we experience belonging and receive the encouragement to live as faithful disciples of Jesus and to struggle for justice and peace for all creatures. Together, we have an insistent voice, proclaiming that there is a “kingdom of heaven.”

CALL TO OFFERING

When we give our tithes and offerings, we are witnesses to the transforming love of God in Christ. I invite you to give as generously as you have received.

***DOXOLOGY HYMN #34** *“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

Prayer of Dedication

Accept these gifts, we humbly pray, O God.

Let them give you honor and glory as we serve the needs of your people.

And let the called and redeemed of God say, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Pastor Dan Clark

SCRIPTURE READING

Cindy Clark: *Isaiah 43:1-7*

Rev. Dan Clark: *Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*

ANTHEM

“All That Dwell Below the Skies”

Chancel Choir

Gordon Young

From all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator’s praise arise:
Let the Redeemer’s Name be sung
Through every land, by every tongue.
Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;
Eternal truth attends Thy word:
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,
Till suns shall rise and set no more.

SERMON

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be a disciple,
to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, to resist oppression, to show love and justice,
and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ, as best you are able?

And do you promise, according to the grace given to you,
to grow in your faith and to be a faithful member of the church,
celebrating Christ's presence and furthering God's mission in all the world?

(Let us pause and answer silently to ourselves)

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Let those who choose recall the promises of your baptism—
made either by you or on your behalf by your parents/guardians.
If you have never been baptized, consider whether this is the day
you would like to start the journey toward your formal commitment.

You are invited to touch your forehead and say,
“I am God's beloved!”

PRAYER OF RECOMMITMENT

**By your Spirit, Almighty God,
grant us love for others, joy in serving you,
peace in disagreement, patience in suffering,
kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times,
faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition,
self-control in all things.**

Then strengthen us for ministry in your name.

Amen.

***HYMN # 248**

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

***BENEDICTION**

Remember this week whose you are. And remember,
“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.”

Go in the peace of Christ.

POSTLUDE

He is Born the Divine Christ Child (Ill Est Né)

Richard Hudson

Service and prayers adapted from:
Epiphany 1 C-January 9 - United Church of Christ (ucc.org);
“Lectionary Worship Workbook, Soul Motion, Series IV,
Cycle C”, CSS Publishing Co., Inc.

**Pastor Dan Clark and Pastor Ann Bolek can be contacted
if you are in need of pastoral care.
At this time, home visits can be made if you feel comfortable.**

Go forth

*Serving Together in Faith, Hope and Love
Work for reconciliation and the unity of the Body of Christ.
Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly before God
“Together Serving in Faith, Hope and Love”*

MEET & GREET

Please join us in the chapel following the worship service
to welcome our new Director of Music Ministry, Marie Miller.
Refreshments will be served.

PARTICIPANTS

Wyatt Koller, *Acolyte*
Cindy Clark, *Lector*

Here I Am, Lord

Unison

G Am D7 C
G G G

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my
2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my
3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the

G D G Em Am7 C

peo - ple cry. All who dwell in dark and sin
peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them,
poor and lame. I will set a feast for them,

Am D7 D D G Am D7
G G F# C G G G

my hand will save. I who made the stars of night,
they turn a - way. I will break their hearts of stone,
my hand will save. Fin-est bread I will pro-vide

C G G D G Em
G G G G Em

I will make their dark - ness bright. Who will bear my
give them hearts for love a - lone. I will speak my
till their hearts be sat - is - fied. I will give my

#559 continued

Refrain

Am7 C Am G/B C6 *slowing* D D7/F#

light to them? Whom shall I send?
 Word to them. Whom shall I send? Here I
 life to them. Whom shall I send?

a tempo G Gsus G D7/A C/E D7 G

am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have

Cmaj7 G Am G/B C6 D D/F# D

heard you call - ing in the night. I will

G Gsus G C/G G C/E D7 G

go, Lord, if you lead me. I will

Am7 C/D D G C/G G

hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Baptized in Water

679

Unison
C

G7
D

C
E

Dm
F

G7

Am

G

1 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it,
2 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it,
3 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it,

Am

G
F

C
E

Dm7

G7
B

C

C
E

Gsus

G

cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;
marked with the sign of Christ, our King;

C
E

G7
D

C

Fmaj7

C
E

F
A

C7
G

Dm7

G7
D

heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his prom - ise,
one with his ris - ing, freed and for - giv - en,
born of one Fa - ther, we are his chil - dren,

C

G
B

Am

Dm7
F

G7

C

faith - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
thank - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

WORDS: Michael Seward (1932-)
MUSIC: Gaelic melody; harm. David Evans (1874-1948)

Words © 1982 Jubilate Hymns (Admin. Hope Publishing Company)
Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

BUNESSAN
5.5.5.4.D.

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 34

G D Em Bm Em D G D Em C G D

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;

Em D/F# G D G/B C F#dim A G Em D Am G/B D7 G

praise him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.

WORDS: *Doxology*, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)
 MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois (ca. 1510-1561), *Genevan Psalter*, 1551

OLD 100th
 L.M.

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light 248

Db Gb/Db Ab Db/F Gb Db/F Ebm7 Ab Db Bbm Gb Db/F Fm

1 I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to fol-low
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God; I want to look at
 3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ; I want to be with

Ebm/Gb Ab7 Bbm Gb Db Ab7/Eb Fm Fm7 Gb Ab Gb/Bb Ab

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world; the
 Je - sus. Clear Sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my path, and
 Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Refrain
 Db Gb/Db Db Ab/C Ab Bbm Eb Ab Db Fm Gb Ab/Gb Db/F Gb

star of my life is Je - sus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Db Ab Bbm Ab/C Dbsus Db Ab/C Bbm Gb/Bb Ab Ebm Ab/Gb

all; the night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

Db/F Fm Ebm/Bbm Bbm Eb Ab Db Bbm Gb/Bb Ab Bbm Gb Ab7 Db

light of the cit - y of God: Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.