



*An Open & Affirming, Creation Justice
Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

10 January 2021 – 10:30 AM

The Baptism of Christ

PRELUDE *On Jordan's Stormy Banks* Tom Birchwood
Vlada Valkova-Moran, organist

WELCOME The Rev. David Pattee, pastor

SOUNDING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP from *Psalm 46* Bob Lange, liturgist

One: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

All: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam.

One: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city. It shall not be moved.

All: The God of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

One: Come, behold the works of God; see what desolations God has brought on the earth.

All: God breaks the bow and shatters the spear; God burns the shields with fire.

One: "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in all the earth."

All: The God of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

HYMN 597 *Shall We Gather at the River* tune: HANSON PLACE
led by Sandy Schuller

**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 flow by the throne of God.*

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

PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT OF JESUS

**Earth-Maker, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Source of all that is and all that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God in whom is Heaven:**

May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe.

May your Heavenly will be done by all creatures great and small.

And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need this day, feed us. For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us.

Through times of temptation, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is Love.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:4-11

Bob Lange

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

ANTHEM

Down to the River to Pray

arr. Sheldon Curry

Cheryl & John Anderson, Art & Sandy Schuller, Stephanie Rosenbaum

SERMON

Becoming New

Pastor Dave

MEDITATION

Come All Who Thirst

Luigi Cherubini

Chancel Choir • Cheryl Anderson, conductor

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

The Rev. Bonnie Lange

OFFERTORY

Invitation

www.PeaceUnited.org/Givingwww.PeaceUnited.org/Pledge

Offertory Music

Joy to the World

Gordon Young

COVENANT

We covenant with God and with each other:**to walk together in all God's ways****as the Holy is revealed to us;****to give ourselves freely and without reserve****to Jesus' ministry in this church;****to celebrate through worship God's****amazing gifts of unity and diversity;****to take up Christ's mission around the world,****striving for justice and peace;****to care for the earth and all her creatures,****reconciling ourselves to them in love;****for God gives immeasurable grace****into all life and every life. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Heavens Declare

Benedetto Marcello