



Kent United Church of Christ

*AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING, ACCESSIBLE TO ALL, W.I.S.E.,
and CREATION JUSTICE CONGREGATION*

BAPTISM OF CHRIST

January 11, 2026

10am

BELLS

PRELUDE

I Love Thee, My Lord

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

GREETING

Rev. Amy Gopp, senior minister

INTROIT

This is the Day the Lord has Made

Marty Haugen

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Brenda Schneider, liturgist

Come to the waters where God waits for us.

**We come with dry places in our souls,
seeking renewal.**

In the Jordan River, Jesus stepped into the flow of human life,
and heaven opened.

The Spirit descended.

The voice of love was heard.

That same Spirit moves among and within us now.

We gather to remember:

**we are God's children,
claimed by Grace,
held forever in Love.**

*OPENING HYMN (Insert)

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

*INVOCATION

Brenda Schneider

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST
The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

Pastor Amy

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Emily

"Jesus Loves the Little Children" is sung to bless the children.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW
Here ends the reading from God's word.
Thanks be to God, who is still speaking.

Matthew 3:13-17

SERMON

"Before Anything Else"

Pastor Amy

ANTHEM

Come to the Water
Chancel Choir

John Foley, S.J., arr. Hasseler

O let all who thirst,
let them come to the
water.

And let all who have
nothing,
let them come to the

Lord:
without money, without
price.

Why should you pay the
price,
except for the Lord?

And let all who seek,
let them come to the
water.

And let all who have
nothing,
let them come to the

Lord:
without money, without
strife.

Why should you spend
your life,
except for the Lord?

And let all who toil,
let them come to the
water.

And let all who are
weary,
let them come to the

Lord:
all who labor, without
rest.

How can your soul
find rest,
except for the Lord?

And let all the poor,
let them come to the
water,

Bring the ones who are
laden,

bring them all to the Lord:
bring the children without
might.

Easy the load and light:
come to the Lord.

REMEMBRANCE AND REAFFIRMATION OF OUR BAPTISMS

We gather today to affirm our faith and renew our commitments as followers of Jesus.

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Silence

Almighty God, the life you birthed in us
by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die.
Your justice never fails.

Your mercy is everlasting.

Your healing river flows.

Your Spirit blows where you will.

We cannot stop you, God!

But sometimes we try.

We block the flow,

we redirect the winds of the Spirit,

or we walk so far away from the life-giving Stream

that we do not hear its sound,
and we forget its power.

We are often dry and thirsty, O God.

Come, refresh us!

Renew us, Holy Spirit!

Come upon these waters!

Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.

Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.

Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.

Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.

Eternal God, Most Holy One,

All glory is yours, now and forever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

You are welcome to come forward for the mark of baptism.

All are welcome—including those who have not yet been baptized—to receive the sign of the cross.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT #322 *Take Me to the Water* African-American Spiritual

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY Brenda Schneider

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Pastor Amy

*CLOSING HYMN #115 *The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore* WINCHESTER NEW

*BENEDICTION Pastor Amy

*POSTLUDE *Fanfare all Rondo* A.F. Schultz

***Our service has ended. Now our service begins.
You are the Body of Christ, and the whole world awaits you.***



Baptized in Water



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,



Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King:
Dead in the tomb with Christ our King:
Marked with the sign of Christ our King:



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,



Faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
Thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
Joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Seward, b.1932, © 1982, Hope Publishing Co.
Tune: BUNESSAN, 5 5 8 D; Gaelic melody; acc. by Robert J. Batastini, b.1942