



Artwork by Judy Huff

Baptism of Christ Sunday
January 7, 2024 10:30 AM

GATHERING

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

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "Deep River" Colin Mawby

(Indicates that all are invited to stand)*

*CALL TO WORSHIP (1)

One: We come as God's beloved children, from different families and lives.

All: We come to the Living Waters and find a home.

One: We come across oceans of loneliness, sailing seas of anxiety.

All: We come to the Living Waters and find peace.

One: We come through fearful storms, through deep lakes of loss.

All: We come to the Living Waters and find love.

One: Come, let us worship God!

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN “Crashing Waters at Creation” #326 (vv.1-3)
New Century Hymnal

(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)

**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)

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE (2)

Hear the good news! Our loving God, who calls us Beloved, breaks into our lives and
surprises us with endless grace!

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 “Children of the Heavenly Father” Arr. Dan Forrest

LISTENING

God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SERMON

RESPONDING

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

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

INVITATION

VOWS OF RENEWAL

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!**

In renewing your baptismal vows, remember your baptism as a mark of acceptance and welcome into the care of Christ's church where you are receivers and bearers of the grace of God. **Amen!**

(During the singing of the following 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 "I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry" #351

New Century Hymnal

(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)

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.

NAMING OUR 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 "Meditation in F" Healey Willan
Offer to God and then use this time for prayer. A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving).

*DOXOLOGY #780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing...

...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. He was born to dwell among us, full of grace and truth...

...When he ascended, he promised to be with us always, even to the end of the world.

And so, in remembrance of these mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

(All are welcome to share in the Sacrament of Communion! Elements will be served by ushers, and you are invited to hold the elements until we commune together. Wine trays contain white grape juice and red wine. A tray of gluten-free bread is available from usher in center aisle.)

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(unison)*

Eternal God, whose faithful love lasts forever, you have nurtured us in this meal with bread and wine. We look to the coming year in faith that you will nurture us each day with your everlasting grace. Now strengthen and uphold us to walk each day in your ways and to greet all of our days in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, in whom we live and in whom all things are made new. Amen.

SENDING

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

* COMMISSIONING HYMN “Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling” #59 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)

**Holy Spirit, ever dwelling in the holiest realms of light;
Holy Spirit, ever brooding o'er a world of gloom and blight;
Holy Spirit, ever raising earth-bound souls to glory high;
Living, life-imparting Spirit; you we praise and magnify.**

**Holy Spirit, ever breathing on the church the breath of life;
Holy Spirit, ever striving through your people's ceaseless strife;
Holy Spirit, ever forming in the church the mind of Christ:
In our worship we will praise you for your fruit and gifts unpriced.**

**Holy Spirit, ever working through the church's ministry—
Quickening, strengthening, and absolving, setting captive sinners free;
Holy Spirit, ever binding age to age and soul to soul,
In community unending you we worship and extol.**

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "God of Grace"

Paul Manz

*Thanks to God, we at Hope United Church of Christ have good news to share.
And we should feel compelled to share it, because there are people in St. Louis
who are looking for a progressive and loving faith community.
When we share Hope, we make it easier for them to find us!*

Worship Endnotes

- (1) Adapted from Iona Abbey Worship Book, Iona Community, 2001
- (2) Adapted from Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year B

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January 7, 2024 Worship Leaders

Pastor: Sarah Fredriksen McCann

Organist: Jim Threlkeld

Liturgist: Tiffany Beardslee

Soloist: Ian McCann

Ushers: Representatives from Hope UCC Council

YouTube: Andy Karcher

Tech team: Jim Richmann, Jack Jennings, and Ron Geisel

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the ministries of Hope UCC!*