



Baptism of Christ

Prelude

Star of the East

Gathering—Come, beloved of God, to remember who you are and whose you are. God in Christ, has named us all “Beloved.” Yes, here and now, God’s heaven of love is being poured out anew. May this motion of the Holy One, shape our hearts and minds. May it brighten the Epiphany light in us and the whole creation. And may it shape our words and work into good news for the world!+

****Gathering Songs**

We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise, 651

I Worship You, Almighty God, 69

Be Still, For the Spirit of the Lord, 129

Prayer—Holy One, awaken us again to Your outpouring Spirit of Love. Through this generous gift, stretch our souls wide and form us into channels of your healing grace. Gift us with an ability to recognize You in each other, all imprinted with Your beloved blessing. Clarify our intentions, purify our actions, fill our words with grace and our hearts with hope. Yes, soak our thinking, our praying, our hoping, our everything in You.+

The Lord’s Prayer (unison)—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.

Choir Anthem

We Hear God’s Word

Isaiah 43:1-7 (NRSVUE)

But now thus says the Lord,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name; you are mine.

² 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.

³ For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ Because you are precious in my sight
and honored and I love you,

I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (NRSVUE)

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Meditation

Rev. Linda Frische-Mouri

Hymn

Borning Cry, 680

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—The outpouring of God's spirit described in the baptism of Jesus reminds us that God's very nature is generous, self-giving love. It is the source of our deepest joy. When we open our hearts in generous giving, we give space for God's love and joy to grow in us for the good of others. May our

hearts be stretched wide by this motion of the Holy One, as we joyfully bring our gifts.+

January Benevolence—Zion Emergency Assistance Fund

****Doxology**

****We Give Thanks**—O Gracious God, we thank you for the invitation to grow through giving, made possible by Your outpouring spirit. May these gifts we bring be used to form ever-new blessings in this congregation and around the world. And may our lives be the instruments of love and joy you desire. Amen.

****Hymn**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing, 718

****Benediction**—Remember that your first name is Beloved, given to you by God before any other name. Remember also it is the name given to every human being. May this blessed gift and claim of God grow in your heart and mind. And may it flow through you as a blessing into the life of the world. Blessings on you, Beloved! Amen and Amen.+

Postlude

Postlude in C

+UCC Worship Ways.