

CENTRAL

United Church of Christ
GROW FAITH • SHARE LOVE • REACH OUT

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January 10, 2021
THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Once He Came in Blessing"

- Manz

OPENING HYMN "As With Gladness Men of Old"

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious God, may we
Evermore be led to Thee.

In the heavenly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,
Thou its Sun which goes not down,
There forever may we sing
Hallelujah to our King.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Speaking words of love, God creates us, calls to us, and claims us as God's own.
Speaking words of love, we too can create, call, and claim God's beauty and glory in the world.

GATHERING PRAYER

Word of God, speak, for your servants are listening. Hover over our gathering this day, as you hovered over creation on that first day. Enter into our hearts and our lives, as you did at the day of our baptism. Descend on us like a dove, as you did on Jesus's day of baptism, that we may hear again your words of love and adoption. Speak from the heavens into our minds, that we may perceive your words of guidance and wisdom. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 1:1-5

Mark 1:1-11

SPECIAL MUSIC

"I Love To Tell The Story"

- Roger Hager

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Judith Scott

THE NUNC DIMITTIS CREED

"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel." KJV

The well-known “Nunc Dimittis” was spoken as an answer to the personal message delivered by the Holy Spirit to Simeon. Simeon was a devout, but otherwise ordinary man, not a priest or a prophet. He was promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not taste death until after he had seen the infant Jesus, and was led to the Temple at the exact time, on the same day, that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus appeared for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of the Levitical law. Simeon thus fulfilled his own prophesized event as well as being one of two witnesses to fulfillment of the law by the Holy Family. This passage often is read just before interment at funerals.

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 SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 9:6 “...The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

CLOSING HYMN “O God Above the Drifting Years”

O God, above the drifting years
The shrines our fathers founded stand,
And where the higher gain appears,
We trace the working of Thy hand.

Fill Thou our hearts with faith like theirs,
Who served the days they could not see;
And give us grace, through ampler years,
To build the Kingdom yet to be.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“In Thee is Gladness”

- Manz

(All Hymns and Songs reprinted under CCLI)

Our WORSHIP is ended...our SERVICE now begins.

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Pastor – Rev. Dr. Judith Scott

Young Youth Director/Bell Choir Director – Rene Miserez

Organist – Shirley Klein

Please keep each other in prayer, particularly those for whom God's healing touch is of special comfort.