

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 10, 2020

The Baptism of Jesus

First Sunday after the Epiphany

PRELUDE

“Wade in the Water”
An African American Spiritual

Joyce Harris

WELCOME

LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Sister and brothers, today we recall:
Jesus came to the waters of baptism.

PEOPLE: **In baptism, our Creator claims us
and frees us from the power of hatred and death.**

LEADER: In baptism we are joined to Christ
and we are joined together in unity, recalling

PEOPLE: **“There is no longer Jew or Greek,
there is no longer slave or free
there is no longer male or female
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus”**

LEADER: In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry
and makes us signs of divine love.
It is the mark of acceptance into the church
and the beginning of our growth
into full Christian faith and discipleship.

PEOPLE: **Therefore on this day,
the whole church, the Body of Christ
remembers and celebrates.**

LEADER: Let us worship God!

GATHERING PRAYER

**Holy God, when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan
the heavens opened, the Spirit descended,
and your voice affirmed your love in Jesus
for the healing of the human race and all creation.**

**By water and word you lovingly invite us into the same life-giving mission.
May your Spirit, moving like a stream of water flowing from its source,
work in us this day to realise your vision of the world
made new in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

“Down to the River to Pray”

*As I went down to the river to pray,
studying about that good old way
and who shall wear the starry crown.
Good Lord, show me the way.*

*O sisters, lets go down,
lets go down, come on down,
O sisters, lets go down,
down to the river to pray.*

*As I went down to the river to pray,
studying about that good old way
and who shall wear the starry crown.
Good Lord, show me the way.*

*O brothers, lets go down,
lets go down, come on down,
O brothers, lets go down,
down to the river to pray.*

*As I went down to the river to pray,
studying about that good old way
and who shall wear the starry crown.
Good Lord, show me the way.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

HYMN #326

“Crashing Waters at Creation”

*Crash-ing wa-ters at cre-a-tion
Or-dered by the Spir-it's breath,
First to wit-ness day's be-gin-ning
from the bright-ness of night's death.*

*Cleansing water once at Jordan
closed a-round the
One fore-told,
O-pened to reveal the glo-ry
Ev-er new and ev-er old.*

*Liv-ing wa-ter, nev-er end-ing,
quench the thirst and flood the soul.
Well-spring, Source of life e-ter-nal,
drench our dryness, make us whole.*

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1: 4-11

⁴ John the baptizer appeared[□] in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ 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. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ 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. ⁸ I have baptized you with[□] water; but he will baptize you with[□] the Holy Spirit."

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved;[□] with you I am well pleased."

SERMON

“God's A-Going to Trouble the Water”

Rev. Merlyn Lawrence

HYMN #371CH

“Wade in the Water”

*Wade in the water,
Wade in the water, children,
Wade in the water,
God's a-going to trouble the water.*

*See that host all dressed in white,
God's a-going to trouble the water;
The leader looks like the Isrealite,*

*God's a-going to trouble the water,
Wade in the water,
Wade in the water, children,
Wade in the water,
God's a-going to trouble the water.*

*See that band all dressed in red,
God's a-going to trouble the water;
Looks like the band that Moses led,
God's a-going to trouble the water.*

*Wade in the water,
Wade in the water, children,
Wade in the water,
God's a-going to trouble the water.*

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory Hymn #322 “Take Me to the Water” verse 1

*Take me to the water, take me to the water,
Take me to the water to be baptized.*

Prayer of Dedication

Accept these gifts, we humbly pray O God.

Let them give you honor and glory as we serve the needs of your people.

May they be used to plant seeds, heal wounds, and build up your world.

May they multiply and prosper all ministries in Christ's name. Amen

HYMN #308

“At the Font We Start Our Journey”

*At the font we start our journey,
in the Easter faith baptized;
doubts and fears no longer blind us,
by the light of Christ surprised.
Alleluia. Alleluia!*

*Hope held out and realized.
At the pulpit we are fashioned,
by the Easter tale retold
into witnesses and prophets
by the power of Christ made bold.
Alleluia. Alleluia!
Faith proclaimed, yet still untold.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Herr Christ, der einig Gottes Sohn”
(From God's Heart Sprang Christ, the Only Son of God)
by J.G. Walther

Joyce Harris

Special Thanks to All the Participants in Today's Service

Joyce Harris
Dr. Oliver Lawrence
Rev. Merlyn Lawrence

Organist
Videographer
Senior Pastor