



*Then Jesus went from Galilee to the
Jordan River to be baptized by John.
— Matthew 3:13*

*January 8, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
Baptism of the Lord*

Order of Worship

(*Please rise in body or in spirit.)

PRELUDE “An Epiphany Prelude for Flute and Organ” (Callahan)
Henry Repp, organ — Melinda McCoy-Miller, flute

CHORAL INTROIT Chancel Choir
“Saw You Never in the Twilight” (Friedell)

GREETING Kathleen Meredith

*CALL TO WORSHIP Anne Demeritt

The voice of God calls over the waters:

“Beloved, receive the Holy Spirit.”

The Son of God beckons:

“Beloved, be born of water and the Spirit.”

The Spirit of God proclaims:

“Beloved, be born anew this day.”

The voice of God calls through our baptism. Come! Let us worship.

*OPENING HYMN “When Jesus Came to Jordan” UMH 252

*OPENING PRAYER (unison) Anne Demeritt

Spirit of righteousness, God of power and might, help us be light to the nations and a reflection of your glorious salvation. Work in our lives and in our ministries, that the world might know the power of your love and grace. As you alighted upon Jesus at his baptism, descend upon us this day, that we may be a people of hope and possibility. Wash us clean and renew our spirits, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM “The Shepherd’s Farewell” (Berlioz) Chancel Choir

COMMUNITY PRAYER Kathleen Meredith

CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING Anne Demeritt

Matthew 3:1-17

¹In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, ²“Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.” ³The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said,

“He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the LORD’s coming!

Clear the road for him!’”

⁴John’s clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁵People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see

and hear John. ⁶ And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize, he denounced them. “You brood of snakes!” he exclaimed. “Who warned you to flee the coming wrath? ⁸ Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. ⁹ Don’t just say to each other, ‘We’re safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.’ That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones. ¹⁰ Even now the ax of God’s judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹² He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.”

¹³ Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to talk him out of it. “I am the one who needs to be baptized by you,” he said, “so why are you coming to me?”

¹⁵ But Jesus said, “It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.” So John agreed to baptize him.

¹⁶ After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.”

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God for this Word.

ANTHEM “Were You There on That Christmas Night?” Chancel Choir

SERMON “Remember Your Baptism” Kathleen Meredith

REAFFIRMATION OF OUR BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Let us pray responsively:

The voice of God calls:

“Come to healing waters and be made whole.”

Make us whole, O God.

The Son of God beckons:

“Receive the fire of the Spirit and be reborn.”

Renew us once more, Great Spirit.

The Spirit of God summons:

“Come into the presence of Love.”

At this time, you may approach the baptismal font, dip your fingers in the water, and make the sign of the cross on your forehead or the back of your hand. Feel free to kneel at the altar rail to pray if you wish.

OFFERTORY

Chancel Choir

“A New Year Dawns With Grace and Hope” (arr. Paige and Nix)

You may leave your offering in the plate in the narthex or scan one of the QR codes on the back of this bulletin to make your offering electronically.

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Anne Demeritt

Be in the gifts we bring before you, O God, as you are ever in the gift of our baptism. Renew your people through this offering, as you have renewed us with your presence this day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN “Be Thou My Vision”

UMH 451

*BENEDICTION

Kathleen Meredith

POSTLUDE “Toccata on ‘Regent Square’” (Lani Smith) Henry Repp

Today’s Worship Leaders

Certified Lay Servant
Liturgist
Organist/Music Director
Greeter
Camera Operator
Soundboard Operator

Kathleen Meredith
Anne Christiansen Demeritt
Henry Repp
Fred Fox
Jen Phlegar
Jay Morrison

Tithe.ly



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