



Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

January 10, 2020
BAPTISM OF JESUS



*We respond to God's call by welcoming everyone
regardless of ability, age, ethnicity, race, gender identity,
sexual orientation or socio-economic background.*

*To proclaim in word and deed the love of Christ, we affirm that
all may share in the full life, ministry, fellowship, responsibilities
and blessing of our congregation.*

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.*

Order of Worship

PRELUDE *First movement from Violin Concerto* P. Tchaikovsky
(Vera Parkin - Piano and *Charlie Hamilton – Violin)

WELCOME Jane Porchey

TOLLING THE BELL AND LIGHTING THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Leader; **People**) from Psalm 29

Ascribe to Yahweh, O heavenly beings.

Ascribe to Yahweh, glory and strength.

Ascribe to Yahweh, the glory of God's name.

Worship Yahweh in holy splendor.

Yahweh's voice is over the waters; the God of glory thunders.

Yahweh, over mighty waters!

Yahweh's voice is powerful.

Yahweh's voice is full of majesty.

Yahweh's voice breaks the cedars, breaks the cedars of Lebanon, making Lebanon skip like a calf and Sirion like a young wild ox.

Yahweh's voice flashes forth flames of fire.

Yahweh's voice causes the oaks to whirl and strips the forest bare.

And in God's temple all say, "GLORY!"

Yahweh's voice sits enthroned over the flood.

Our God is enthroned forever.

May Yahweh give strength to us!

May Yahweh bless us with peace!

RAISING THE COVENANT (Unison) *Covenant of 1977*

**We who are called of God into this Christian community covenant together:
to seek to know the will of God, to experience the joy and struggle of
discipleship, to proclaim in word and deed the love of Christ, and to work for
peace and justice among all people. We trust God's promise of grace and
forgiveness and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our trials and rejoicing.**

HYMN *Crashing Waters at Creation* Sylvia G. Dunstan

Crashing waters at creation
ordered by the Spirit's breath,
First to witness day's beginning
from the brightness of night's death.

Cleansing water once at Jordan
closed around the One foretold,
Opened to reveal the glory
ever new and ever old.

Living water, never-ending,
quench the thirst and flood the soul.

Wellspring, Source of life eternal,
drench our dryness, make us whole.

PRAYER OF APPROACH (Unison)

Merrimon Boyd, *Student Pastor*

O Holy Spirit, giver of light and life, breath of God, we know that we are often more inclined to live in the shadows and to focus on death. Forgive us, we pray, and help us forgive ourselves. Bring us out from our morbidness; show us again the brilliance of the life you give. Grant to us thoughts higher than our own thoughts, prayers better than our own prayers, and powers stronger than our own powers. For we long to know the ways of love and goodness and to live in ways that reflect the image of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

THE WORD SHARED

Merrimon Boyd

From the Hebrew Scriptures

Genesis 1:1-5

New Revised Standard Version, ad.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, and the earth was formless and void and darkness covered the face of the deep, a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness God called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

From the Gospels

Mark 1:4-11

NRSV

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 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.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 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. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

Response.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

What Ruler Wades Through Murky Streams

Thomas Troeger

What ruler wades through murky streams
and bows beneath the wave,
Ignoring how the world esteems
the powerful and brave?

Refrain.

Water, River, Spirit, Grace,
sweep over me, sweep over me!
Recarve the depths your fingers traced
in sculpting me.

Christ gleams with water brown with clay
from land the prophets trod.
Above while heaven's clouds give way
descends the dove of God. *Refrain.*

Come, bow beneath the flowing wave.
Christ stands here at your side
and raises you as from the grave
God raised the crucified. *Refrain.*

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Wild Water"

Rev. Denoon

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns

- Our residents in assisted living and skilled care
- People we love who are living with cancer
- All those the world regards as disabled
- People with mental illness, as well as their family, friends, caregivers, and roommates
- People living with dementia, and their caregivers
- People who are lonely or alone
- Those whose employment and businesses are at risk
- COVID-19 patients
- Front line workers and their loved ones; with a special prayer for medical personnel who are working with COVID patients
- Thanksgiving for our incoming Pastoral Assistant (who will be introduced to the Congregation in a few weeks)
- Healing for our country and all its people
- Peace with justice

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior (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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the

power, and the glory forever. Amen.

WE SHARE OUR GIFTS WITH OTHERS

Jane Porchey

Invitation

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

All good gifts around us come from you, O God. You have given us life and new life in Christ through your Spirit. As you have given us these gifts, so we offer our own gifts and pledge that we will be gifts to one another and to the world. This is the Way that Jesus taught and lived. Amen.

BENEDICTION (Pastor; People; Student Pastor)

Renew in us, O God, all the gifts of baptism —

Strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life;

Through Jesus Christ who makes us one.

ALL: SEND US IN YOUR NAME, HOLY ONE. AMEN.

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL

* Violinist, Charlie Hamilton, 20, a Kirkwood HS graduate. Presently a sophomore at Oberlin



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Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

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