

Baptism of Christ

January 15, 2023

9:00 a.m.

+ Indicates those times when all who are able may stand.
Bold indicates congregational response.

Ringing of the Bell

Pastor's Welcome

Prelude "Fantasia on 'Forest Green'" Smith

Call to Worship (*Inspired by Psalm 29*)

Give glory to the Creator and bow in holy splendor!

The voice of the Creator renews and rebirths.

Give glory to the Holy One and bow in holy splendor!

The voice of the Holy One redeems and restores.

Give glory to the Living Water and bow in holy splendor!

The voice of the Living Water refreshes and revives. Glory to God!

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray:

Voice, Body, and Spirit, You make your presence among us. We receive your love and affirmation. We cherish your guidance and direction. We follow your path and example. Remind us of our connection to you and your covenantal relationship with us. Wash us in the baptized life for renewal and revitalization. Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

Isaiah 42:1-9 CEB

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

Thanks be to God!

Litany of Consecration

It is no small thing to follow in the way of Jesus. Following in the way of truth, the way of justice, righteousness, and peace requires so much. It can be overwhelming to imagine all the work it will take to make the realm of God appear for us. And yet, we are not alone. We have been called to this beloved community. Here at Zion United Church of Christ, we live out our faith not only in worship but in every act of service, every committee, every cup of coffee poured, every visit, every handshake, and every prayer. The pledges we honor and dedicate today, reflect our financial commitment and will help guide our congregation this year. Let us pray...

Holy and Gracious God, bless the time, talent, and treasure we offer to your church as we live out our faith. May these pledges set the intention in our hearts to invest in your realm. May we give throughout the year, not out of guilt or compulsion, but with generosity and excitement. Be our guide O God, not only in our giving but in our spending. May we become cosigners with you, Christ Jesus, in the building of your church. Bless this church in our decisions. O Spirit, may our actions sustain your work of justice, righteousness, and equity, in all the world. Continue to bless us O God, that we may be a blessing for you and the world you love so much. And may it be so, Amen.

+ Opening Hymn No. 113 "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, we confess our need for grace and mercy. We seek forgiveness for the ways in which we have drawn away from you and our neighbors. We express remorse for our participation in the systems of the world that are actively opposed to your kin-dom. Transform us to be carriers and promoters of your good news of new life, liberation, and hope in the world. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Grace

The God of peace is faithful to offer forgiveness and new life in Christ. Receive the good news of new mercies with each new day and a future with hope. You are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Announcements

Giving from Our Hearts



It is the generosity of the friends and members of this church which supports this ministry. Over 95% of our budget is directly supported through our offering. While the ministry at Zion is sustained by more than dollars and cents, the monetary giving is vital to the work we do. We give thanks for all who have supported Zion over the years. For those contributing financially: There is an offering plate just outside the sanctuary or you can donate online through the online giving button at zionunion.org.

+ Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host: praise Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

+ Prayer of Dedication

Giver of Gifts, we thank you for providing in abundance and allowing us to participate as co-givers with you. We dedicate our offerings in your many names. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Matthew 3:13-17 CEB

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

“I Love to Tell the Story”
Chancel Choir

Harlan

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith *(adapted From A Reading From The Second National Meeting of United Church of Christ Women)*

O God, because you are the source of all life and love and being, we call you Creator.

Because we know the history of your presence among your covenanted people and honor their tradition, we call you Lord.

Because our Savior, Jesus Christ, you obedient child, knew you intimately and spoke of you so, we call you Father.

Because you are present in each act of birth; and because you shelter, nurture and care for us, we call you Mother.

Because you hold us up and give us strength and courage when we are weak and in need, we call you Sustainer.

Because we have known you in our pain and suffering, we call you Comforter.

Because beyond pain lies your promise of all things made new, we call you Hope.

Because you are the means of liberation and the way to freedom, we call you Deliverer.

Because you have chosen to come among us and share our common lot, making the hard choices, suffering and dying; because you rose victorious, bringing new life, we call you Redeemer.

Confident that you will hear, we call upon you with all the names that make you real to us, the names which create an image in our minds and hearts, an image which our souls can understand and touch. And yet we know that you are more than all of these. Blessing and power, glory and honor be unto you, our God.

Amen.

Baptismal Renewal

Do you believe in the One of Many Names, God, Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit?

We believe in the God of Many Names.

Do you reject the powers of oppression in this world, the systems that marginalize and degrade human beings and communities created by God, and the norms of the world at odds with the way of the kingdom?

We do, with the help of God.

Do you embrace grace as God's gift, to be freely given and freely received?

We do, with the help of God.

Do you recommit to the covenantal and baptized life, the cost and joy of discipleship, and the community of belonging as a member of the Body of Christ?

We do, with the help of God.

Prayer of the Baptized

Let us pray:

Voice, Body, Spirit, we give thanks for the gathering of your people into a beloved community of belonging. By our baptism, we accept the invitation to public and faithful witness to the ministry of Jesus Christ in the world and to be instruments to that work. May we live the baptized life in the Spirit as caring companions of one another, with accountability, support, and grace. Shelter us in your love, nourish us in your truth, and uphold us in your word. May it be so. Amen.

+ Closing Hymn No. 680 *"Borning Cry"*

+ Benediction

Postlude *"Great Is the Lord"* Moore

Today's Liturgy was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

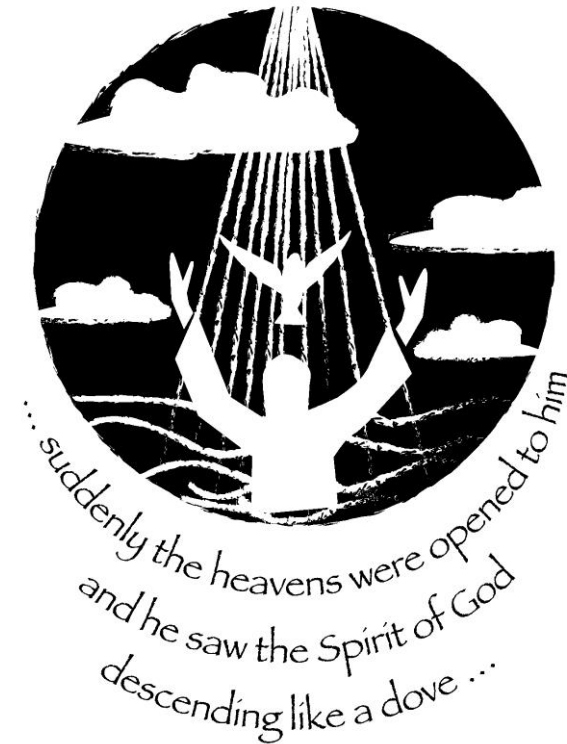
We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

We care as Christ cares.



Matthew 3:16, NRSV

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January 15, 2023 9:00 a.m.
Zion United Church of Christ
Union, Missouri