



1st Sunday after Epiphany / The Baptism of Christ

**First United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace,
Immigrant Welcoming Congregation
January 8, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.**

Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [virtual visitor card](#).

Prelude

Pastorale

Alberto Ginastera (1916-1983)

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Music

Where Two or Three Are Gathered

Bruce Harding (2002)

Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there, I am there.

Call to Worship

One: Your love, O God, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.

All: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep.

One: Earth's children take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

All: We feast on the abundance of your house; you give us drink from your river of delights.

One: For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

All: Glory be to God, our life and our light.

Opening Hymn

Come O Fount of Every Blessing

#459 (Nettleton)

Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
Come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.

Time with Children

Let the children come unto me, for theirs is the realm of God.

All who believe must become like a child; theirs is the realm of God.

Statement of Commitment: Immigrant Welcoming Congregation Covenant

Our scriptures, our experiences, and our hearts all tell us that, as people of faith, we must commit ourselves to a just world for all. Therefore: We covenant with God and each other to

seek out, welcome, and deepen relationships with our immigrant neighbors and to work together with them to see that immigrant justice is done.

Anthem

The Baptism of Jesus

Paul Stetsenko (2000)

Now when all the people had been baptized, and when Jesus had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him as a dove, and a voice came from heaven: "Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased."

Scripture

Matthew 3:13-17

Sarah Entenmann

Sermon

Baptized Why

Rev. Cindy Maddox

(A Sermon in Spoken Word Poetry)

Prayer Hymn

As I Went Down to the River to Pray

As I went down to the ri-ver to pray, stud-y - in' a-bout that
4 good ole way and who shall wear the star - ry crown good Lord, show me the
8 way. Oh, sis - ters, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.
broth - ers,
child - ren,
pil - grims,
13 Oh, sis - ters, let's go down, down to the riv - er to pray.
broth - ers,
child - ren,
pil - grims,

Ritual of Blessing

The Prayers

We will join in prayer aloud and in silence. All joining worship online are invited to share prayers with the congregation by using the chat function at any point during this time.

Prayer Response

I Will Do a New Thing in You

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are: "I will do a new thing in you; I will do a new thing in you; What - ev - er you ask for, what - ev - er you pray for, noth - ing shall be de - nied," sa-ith the Lord; sa-ith the Lord! Lord!

Prayer of Jesus

You are invited to speak the words most meaningful to you, or follow with the version here:

Our God, 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.

Sharing Our Gifts

Offertory

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

arr. Alice Parker (2009)

Brethren, we have met to worship
And adore the Lord our God.
Will you pray with all your power
While we try to preach the Word?
All is vain unless the spirit
Of the Holy One comes down;
Brethren, pray, and holy manna
Will be showered all around.

Sisters, will you join and help us?
Moses' sisters aided him;
Will you help the trembling mourners
Who are struggling hard with sin?
Tell them all about the Savior,
Tell them that he will be found;
Sisters, pray, and holy manna
Will be showered all around.

Let us love our God supremely,
Let us love each other, too.
Let us, love and pray for sinners
Till our God makes all things new.
Then he'll call us home to heaven,
At his table we'll sit down;
Christ will gird himself and serve us
With sweet manna all around.

Prayer of Thanks

Eternal Spirit, we thank you for baptizing us into one body in Jesus the Christ. Wash over us with your Spirit, that we may serve you in serving humanity. Accept these gifts as a small portion of our service, we pray. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

Shall We Gather at the River

#597 (Hanson Place)

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever, flowing by the throne of God?

Chorus: Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

One the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. *Chorus.*

As we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. *Chorus.*

Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. *Chorus.*

Benediction

Postlude

Morning Has Broken

arr. David Evan Thomas (2020)

We're so glad you worshiped here today!

Thanks to this week's leaders:

Ushers: Anne Meyer-Ruppel, Nancy Barbour, Linda Larson, Jeffrey Latterell, Gina Washburn

Digital Greeter: Margit Johnson

This Week at First UCC:

Sunday, January 8

- 9:15 a.m. Faith Formation
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 6:00 p.m. Evening Gathering Worship

Tuesday, January 10

- 10:00 a.m. Women's Group (Zoom)

Wednesday, January 11

- 5:30 p.m. WFFF
- 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal
- 8:00 p.m. Spirit Voices Rehearsal

Thursday, January 12

- 10:00 a.m. Care Team Meeting
- 11:00 a.m. Creation Care Meeting

Sunday, January 15

- 9:15 a.m. Faith Formation
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 6:00 p.m. Evening Gathering Worship

Coffee Hour Volunteers and Coordinator Needed

Volunteer hosts are needed for Coffee Hour! We have open dates in November and December. Volunteering is easy to do, and orientation will be provided for those who are new to Coffee Hour hosting. Interested? [Sign up to host here](#). First UCC is also looking for a volunteer to serve as the Coffee Hour coordinator. If you are interested, please contact church@firstucc.org.

New Office Manager & Director of Communications Needed

We once again find ourselves in need of a new Office Manager and Director of Communications. If you know anyone interested in this important part-time position, please have them contact Cindy Maddox at seniorminister@firstucc.org.

First UCC Women's Group Meeting to be held Tuesday January 10th

The 1st-UCC Women's Group meeting will be held via ZOOM Tuesday, January 10 at 10:00 a.m. The Women's Group provides an opportunity for a time of sharing and forming new friendships. We share our stories and discuss current issues as we draw support from each other. All ladies are invited to join the Women's Group. If you wish to be added to the list to receive the Zoom link, please contact Judy Kinstad at 507-412-7861 (call/text).

Safety & Security Task Force to Begin Soon

The Council has approved the formation of a Safety & Security Task Force to begin its work in the new year. This group will focus on creating all sorts of emergency plans and may suggest changes to the building and to standard practices to keep our building and our members and friends safe. We are looking for people with a wide variety of experience and skills to serve on this task force, including those with experience in mental health, public health, fire safety, public safety and security. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Gary Carlson to be considered.

Annual Congregational Meeting Scheduled for January 29.

Our annual congregational meeting to vote on the budget and to approve the slate of officers and committee members will be held after worship on Sunday, January 29. As is our custom, we will hold a meeting after church the previous Sunday (January 22) to review the budget in detail and to answer any questions. The meetings will take place in person but will be live-streamed via Zoom for those wishing to participate from home.

Meals on Wheels: One last call for drivers!

We need two volunteers to drive on **Saturday January 21**, one for the Purple Route and one for the Grey Route. If you are interested, please email anniekramer@charter.net.

ISAIAH Update

ISAIAH's chief MN state legislative priorities with the new session that started Jan. 3 are: driver's licenses for all; paid family & medical leave for all; adequate child care funding for all families & providers; 100% clean energy by 2040 to fight climate change; making sure all of age can vote through automatic voter registration and the vote for those who have finished their jail time. Join us in pressing for these and other matters to live out our faith value of seeing the importance of everyone in God's eyes. Questions about putting your faith into action through social justice and advocacy? Email isaiah@firstucc.org.

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Zelenka, Dave. Baptism of Christ, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56385> [retrieved January 5, 2023]. Original source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Baptism-of-Christ.jpg>.

Welcome to Worship at First UCC!

We are an Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Immigrant Welcoming Congregation.
Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here!

We especially welcome all who are visiting this morning. Please let us know you're here by sharing your information in a welcome pad.

Worship Information

First UCC worships at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. Worship is also live streamed each week on Zoom and YouTube. Whether you are joining us in person or online, we are glad to have you here!

Giving to the Church

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministry. Give online by visiting firstucc.org and clicking "Donate Online Now!" under the "Giving" tab, place your gift in the offering plate, or send in your gifts via mail.

News & Announcements

Keep up to date with all of the latest news and upcoming events! Subscribe to The Chronicle, First UCC's weekly e-newsletter, at firstucc.org, and find First UCC on Facebook and Instagram. Past issues of The Chronicle are available at firstucc.org.

First UCC Leadership & Staff

Ministers: All the people

Moderator: Deb Gottfried

Senior Minister: Rev. Cindy Maddox

Associate Minister: Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Director of Music: Chris Brunelle

Organist: Theo Wee

Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator: Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

Audio Visual Technician: Brynn Artley

Office Manager & Director of Communications: Position Open

Finance Manager: Pippa Younger

Sexton: Mark Fischer