



## **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! Please let us know you are here by filling out the welcome pad.  
We especially welcome those visiting! The congregation is invited to say the words in **bold**.

**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)

### **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.*

**Prayer Response**

*I Will Do a New Thing in You*

"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)

### 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. First UCC is also looking for a volunteer to serve as the Coffee Hour coordinator. If you are interested, please contact [church@firstucc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:isaiah@firstucc.org).

# 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](http://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](http://firstucc.org), and find First UCC on Facebook and Instagram. Past issues of The Chronicle are available at [firstucc.org](http://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>.

## **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