

First United Church of Christ, Northfield

**An Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Creation Justice,
Immigrant-Welcoming Congregation**

Baptism of Jesus – January 12, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.

Good morning! Welcome to First United Church of Christ, Northfield. Welcome to you if you are young or old or a little bit of both. Welcome to you if you are male or female or a little bit of both or neither. Welcome to you if you are gay or straight or a little bit of both or neither. Welcome to you if you are neurodivergent or differently abled, if you have faith that can move mountains or you make mountains out of molehills! No matter who you are, who you love, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [Virtual Visitor Card](#).

Prelude *Shall We Gather At the River* John Ferguson (1941-2025)
This morning's prelude honors St. Olaf Professor Emeritus John Ferguson, who died last week. "Ferg" was a consummate church musician whose legacy will live on in his compositions and through his many students.

Welcome

Gathering Music *My Heart*
(join in as directed)
**My heart and my voice and my spirit belong to God.
My heart and my voice and my spirit have work to do.
My heart and my voice and my spirit will lead me on.**

Call to Worship

One: God is with us always
Many: and calls us each by name.
One: When we pass through difficulties and stress,
Many: God is with us and calls us by name.
One: When we are discouraged and feel lost and alone,
Many: God is with us and calls us by name.
One: Blessed be God who knows us and calls us by name.

Opening Hymn *Crashing Waters at Creation* #326 (Stuttgart)

V1. Crashing waters at creation ordered by the Spirit's breath,

First to witness day's beginning
from the brightness of night's death.

V2. Parting water stood and trembled
as the captives passed on through,
Washing off the chains of bondage –
channel to a life made new.

V3. Cleansing water once at Jordan

closed around the One foretold,
Opened to reveal the glory
ever new and ever old.

V4. Living water, never ending,
quench the thirst and flood the soul.
Well-spring, Source of life eternal,
drench our dryness, make us whole.

Time with Children



Let the child-ren come un-to me, for theirs is the realm of God.



All who be-lieve must be - come like a child; theirs is the realm of God.

Passing of the Peace

Passing of the Peace is a chance to acknowledge each other's presence in a sacred space of community. During this winter season we invite you to pass the peace without touching.

Anthem

Eternal Source of Every Joy

Alice Parker (2008)

Eternal source of every joy! Well may your praise our lips employ,
While in your temple we appear to hail you sovereign of the year.
Wide as the wheels of nature roll, your hand supports and guides the whole;
The sun is taught by you to rise, and darkness when to veil the skies.

Seasons and months and weeks and days demand successive songs of praise,
And be the grateful homage paid with morning light and evening shade.
Here in your house let incense rise and circling sabbaths bless our eyes
Till to those lofty heights we soar where days and years revolve no more

—John Rippon (1781-1836)

Scripture

Isaiah 43:1-2, Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Fred Blaisdell

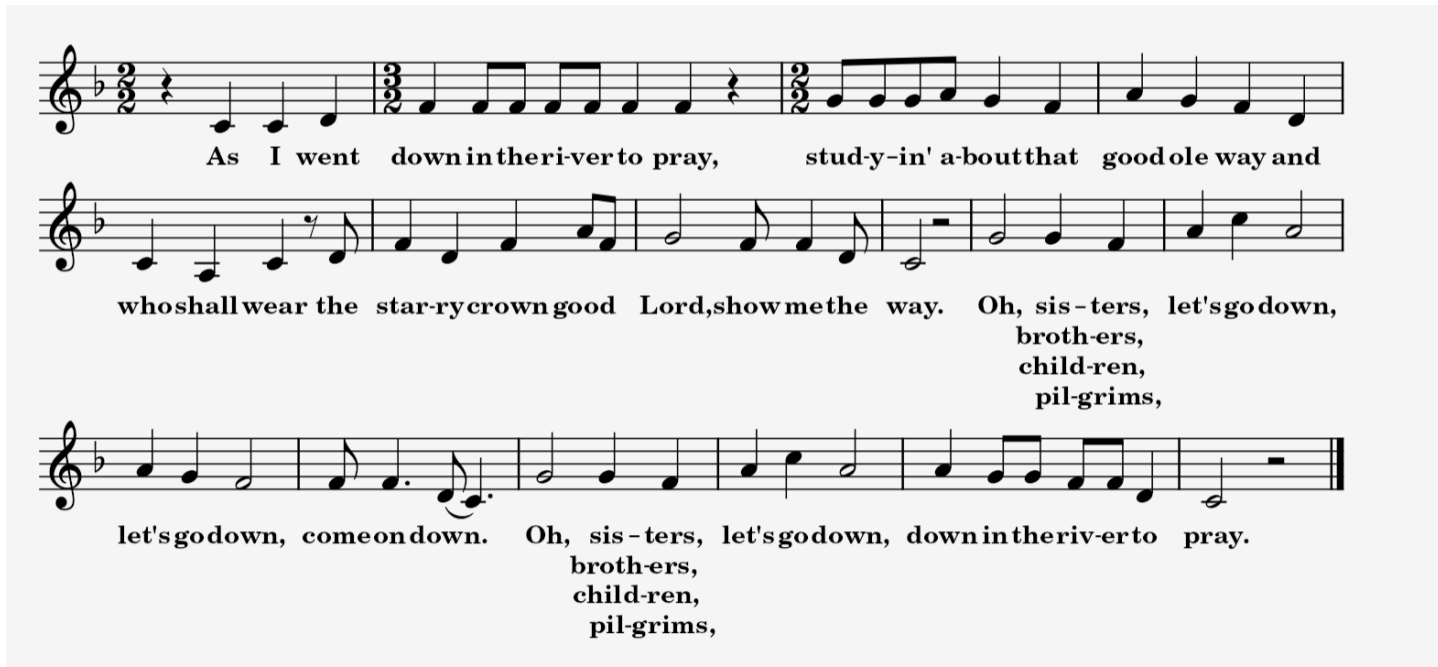
Sermon

Rev. Cindy Maddox

Ritual of Blessing

Prayer Hymn

As I Went Down in the River to Pray



As I went down in the river to pray, study-in' a-bout that good ole way and
whos shall wear the star-ry crown good Lord, show me the way. Oh, sis-ters, let's go down,
broth-ers,
child-ren,
pil-grims,
let's go down, come on down. Oh, sis-ters, let's go down, down in the river to pray.
broth-ers,
child-ren,
pil-grims,

The Prayers

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



One: My heart is full, God.
All: My heart is full, my heart is full.

Prayer of Jesus

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

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

Please pass the offering plates even if you give online, giving your blessing as it passes. The hearts in the plates are for the Children's Offering, which supports the Community Action Center Food Shelf.

Offertory

Shall We Gather at the River?

arr. Dan Kallman (2003)

Kay Sahlin, flute

Join in on the third verse:

**Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver and provide a robe and crown.
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.**

Prayer of Thanks

Giver and Sustainer of Life, pour out your blessing upon these gifts and upon all who give from their hearts. Multiply them so they reach farther than our imaginations can carry them. In the blessed name of our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.

Announcements

Hymn of Sending

Jesus, the Light of the World

#160 (Elderkin)

Refrain: We will follow the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright, Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the light of the world.

V1. Hark! The herald angels sing,
Jesus, the light of the world;
Glory to the Christ-child bring,
Jesus the light of the world. (Refrain)

V2. Joyful, all you saints arise,
Jesus, the light of the world;
Join the triumph of the skies,
Jesus, the light of the world. (Refrain)

V3. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Jesus, the light of the world;
Christ, the everlasting Word,
Jesus, the light of the world. (Refrain)

V4. Hail the Bearer of God's peace!
Jesus, the light of the world;
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Jesus, the light of the world. (Refrain)

Benediction

Venice Williams

Postlude

Lob sei dem allmächtigen Gott

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

We're so glad you worshiped here today!

Please join us for a coffee hour in the Assembly Room after worship!

Thanks to this week's leaders:

Ushers: Anne Meyer Ruppel, Nancy Barbour, Laura Funke, Cheryl Rempel, Betsy Barrett

Music: Kay Sahlin, flute

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Shall we gather at the river © 2003 Dan Kallman

This Week at First UCC

Sunday, January 12

9:00 a.m. Reading Aloud Book Group
9:15 a.m. Faith Formation
9:15 a.m. Middle School Youth Group
9:15 a.m. Happy Hour Adult Ed
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
11:45 a.m. Budget Meeting
3:00 p.m. Elizabeth O'Sullivan Ordination
6:00 p.m. Evening Service

Monday, January 13

3:30 p.m. Men's Group (Zoom)

Tuesday, January 14

10:00 a.m. Women's Group

Wednesday, January 15

5:30 p.m. WFFF

6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, January 18

10:00 a.m. What Now? Event

Sunday, January 19

9:00 a.m. Reading Aloud Book Group
9:15 a.m. Faith Formation
9:15 a.m. Middle School Youth Group
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour
11:45 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting
6:00 p.m. Evening Service

Budget Meeting Today & Annual Meeting Next Week

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place after worship next Sunday, January 19. To use our time effectively we will present the budget after worship today. You are welcome to attend both meetings. This is one of the ways we are the church together!

Ordination Service Today for Elizabeth O'Sullivan

All are welcome to join us in celebrating the ordination of Elizabeth O'Sullivan today at 3:00!

Volunteers needed for Habitat of Humanity

We have sufficient volunteers for the 1/18 Habitat for Humanity building project in Faribault. However, we could use more food for the workers' lunch. If you'd be willing to make a salad, a fruit salad, or dessert for that day, please reach out to Laura Funke at 507-298-0737 or laurasfunke@gmail.com. Thanks!

What Now? Event – January 18 at 10 a.m. A new year complete with challenges and opportunities. Please join me in a conversation about how we might best use our energies for the possibilities ahead. This is a follow-up to the session last November about the sources of hope and courage. You need not have participated in November to join us now – everyone is welcome! –Jan Mitchell

MLK Day & The Inauguration

On January 20, the annual commemoration of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy will coincide with the inauguration of President Donald Trump's second term. With this symbolic overlap, the UCC and a coalition of interfaith partners are hosting a national Interfaith Service and Moral Mass Meeting to address this critical moment. It is an invitation for people of faith and moral conviction to rise together and respond to deep injustices that exist within the nation. All are invited to gather *For Such a Time as This: A Prophetic Response to America's Defining Moment* on Jan. 20 at 6:00 p.m. CT which can be attended in person and virtually. Continue reading the article by going to firstucc.org/newsletters/ and scan the QR code to register for the event.



Electric Vehicles 101 Presentation - January 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a presentation that provides essential information on EV ownership, including benefits, incentives, vehicle types, maintenance, charging, and local mobility programs. Stay ahead of the curve and make informed decisions about your EV journey. The presentation will be given by Madeleine Polling, a Green Corps member with Great Plains Institute and the Drive Electric Minnesota Collaborative.

Volunteer for Coffee Hour

The team needs you! Consider volunteering for Coffee Hour after worship on Sundays from 11:30-12:30. If you are interested in and available to help, please go to firstucc.org/members-friends/ or scan the QR code to sign up.



The WFFF team could use you!

WFFF dinners take place on Wednesday nights Sept - May. There are many different areas for you to sign up for. If you're interested in volunteering, please scan the QR code, click the link in the Chronicle or go to <https://firstucc.org/members-friends/>.



A Note from ISAIAH

Friday, January 17, 12:00 - 1:45 p.m Take advantage of another virtual Race/Class/Gender narrative training session. It's an empirically tested strategy that neutralizes our opposition's use of dog-whistle racism and fear-based messaging. This training will include an overview of RCN and why it works, will go over some best practices, and will equip participants to inoculate against harmful opposition messaging. Register by scanning the QR code. Questions? Email 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're glad you're here!

Giving to the Church

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministry. You may give online by visiting firstucc.org and clicking on the "Give" button, placing your gift in the offering plate, sending in your gifts via mail, or scanning the QR code!



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: Anne Meyer Ruppel

Senior Minister: Rev. Cindy Maddox

Associate Minister: Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Director of Music: Chris Brunelle

Organist: Catherine Rodland

Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator: Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

Office Manager & Director of Communications: Kate Kvasnak

Finance Manager: Derek Melby

Sexton: Mark Fischer

Audio Visual Technician: Brynn Artley