ORDER OF WORSHIP First Sunday After Ephiphany Baptism of Christ

January 10, 2021

Second Congregational Church in Wilton, United Church of Christ

Welcome to the worship of God at the Second Congregational Church in Wilton, United Church of Christ. We are glad you are here today!

Bold print means congregational participation.

An asterisk (*) indicates to please stand, if you are able.

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Adagio" L. Beethoven

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 29

One: Give to our God, O heavenly beings,

Give to our GOD glory and strength.

Reader Give to our GoD a glorious name;

worship our GoD in holy splendor.

The voice of our GoD is over the waters:

the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters.

Reader The voice of our GoD is powerful;

the voice of our GoD is full of majesty.

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; Our Gop breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

Reader God makes Lebanon skip like a calf,

and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of our Gop flashes forth flames of fire.

Reader The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;

Our God shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of our GoD causes the oaks to whirl,

and strips the forest bare;

and in God's temple all say, "Glory!"

Reader The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;

Our GoD sits enthroned as ruler forever.

May our GoD give strength to the people!
May the LORD bless the people with peace!

*HYMN

NO. 239 Vocalist: Dana Dahl

When John baptized by Jordan's river in faith and hope the People came, that John and Jordan might deliver
Their troubled souls from sin and shame. They came to seek a new Beginning, the human spirit's ageless quest, repentance
And an end of sinning, renouncing every wrong confessed.

There as the Lord, baptized and praying, rose from the stream the Sinless One, a voice was heard from heaven saying, "This is my own beloved Son." There as the Father's word was Spoken, not in the power of wind and flame, but of his Love and peace the token, seen as a dove, the Spirit came.

O Son of Man, our nature sharing, in whose obedience All are blest, Savior, our sins and sorrows bearing, Hear us and grant us this request: daily to grow, by grace Defended, filled with the Spirit from above; in Christ Baptized, beloved, befriended, children of God in peace and love.

INVOCATION

Creating, Calling, and Faithful God, we come to this time and place to be with you, to worship you, and to learn from you.

May our time together be like your creation of light in the darkness that you called good. May it be that you would call us good while we respond to your call and as we listen to you. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

People of God, we desire to be refreshed, renewed and changed. Let us listen again to God's calling our names to encourage us and strengthen our resolve be God's people in faithfulness and peace-loving justice.

Let us Confess together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Reader

O God, we hear your voice and we see the way of Jesus set before us. But it's hard, dear God, to try again and again To live up to our baptismal vows and maintain our resolve to be your people in the world. In repentance we ask you to forgive us. Set us once again on a holy path that leads to you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S CALL

Friends, God hears our prayers and sets before us the way of Jesus. God calls us and gives us enough grace and mercy to follow the way. Thanks be to God.

*GLORIA PATRI TUNE: GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM "Jesus, Walked into the Stream" S. Borwick

READING FROM SCRIPTURE Mark 1:4-11

SERMON "Seeking Higher Ground"

*HYMN "When Jesus Came to Jordan" NO. 241

Vocalist: Darcy Bartsch

When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John, He did not come for pardon but as the sinless one. He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins, To speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.

He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss, For us and our salvation to die upon the cross. So when the dove descended on him, the Son of Man, The hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

VOCAL RESPONSE "In The Spirit Of The Lord" Vocalists: Deb and Mike Degan

BAPTISM AND RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

At home: Have a small bowl of water to use in blessing yourselves at the appropriate time.

INTRODUCTION

Our GOD created new life forms and brought them up from the waters of chaos, embraced them, and called them good.

Jesus, baptized in the river Jordan by John the Baptist,

became living water for us and embraces all of us.

Jesus embraces those who are poor, oppressed, marginalized

and all others who come seeking.

We follow Jesus with our Baptism,

marking a starting place for new life and new ways of being.

We join Jesus in love and service.

Let us prepare our hearts and minds to see, feel, and hear again the vows of Baptism.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Do you renew and affirm the promises made at your Baptism?

Reader I do.

Do you recognize the call of God to be God's people always?

I do.

Do you embrace the way of Jesus in faith and ministry?

I do

Do you accept the nurture of the Holy Spirit who renews your spirit each day? I do.

Do you accept and embrace others who seek a liberating faith in God? I do.

In renewing your baptismal vows, remember your Baptism as a mark of acceptance and welcome into the care of Christ's church where you may begin again your Christian faith and life.

A UNISON PRAYER:

Reader

O God, we rejoice in your grace, given and received.
We thank you that you claim us, that you wash us, strengthen us, and guide us, that you empower us to live a life worthy of our calling.
In the way of Jesus, make us as water in a dry and thirsty world.
Establish us to be places of refreshment. Root us and nurture us in love, that with all your people, that we may rightly and justly serve you.
Fill us with your fullness that our lives may overflow in service and love. Amen.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*OFFERING AND DEDICATION:

Faithful God,

Bless us in our baptismal calling to be in ministry of showing hospitality to others. We offer the gifts that we have been given to be used not for conquest and dominance, but for use in liberating the poor and hurting people who pray for our liberation as well as their own.

Receive and multiply our gifts for life-giving ministry. Amen.

*OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Beautiful Light"

L. Schackley

*DOXOLOGY Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

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

GOING WITH THE WORD

BENEDICTION

Thank you, God, for blessing us with memories of Jesus' baptism and ours. Thank you for removing our reluctance, doubt, and fears, for replacing them with courage and commission.

We go forth with your calling, direction, and blessing. Amen.

*POSTLUDE

Please stay muted during the Postlude and join our Virtual Coffee Hour immediately following the service



- Senior Book Club, January 11, 10:00 AM
- Deacon's Meeting, January 17, Following Worship
- Church Council, January 19, 7:00 PM
- Annual Meeting- January 24, Following Worship

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music
Darcy Bartsch, Dana Dahl,
Deb & Mike Degan, Vocalists
Dana Dahl, Liturgist
All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

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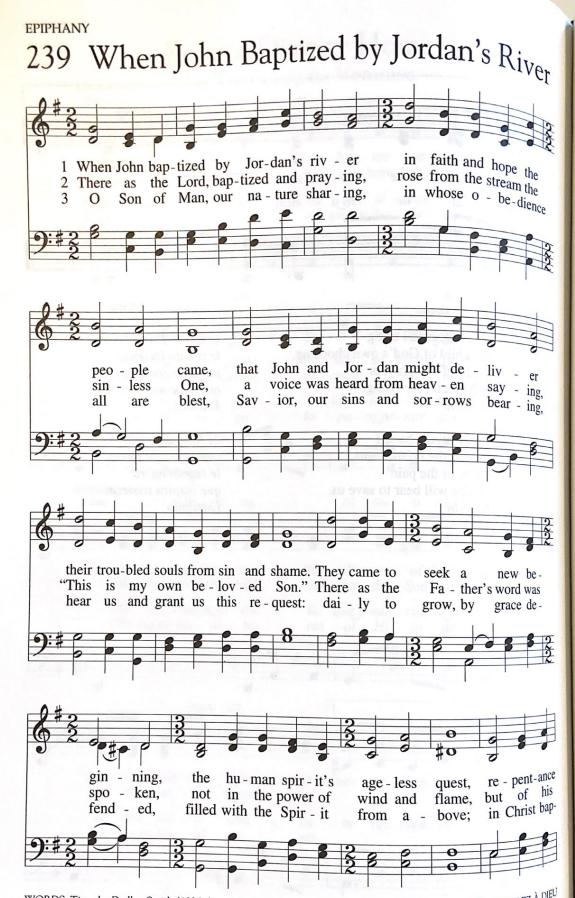
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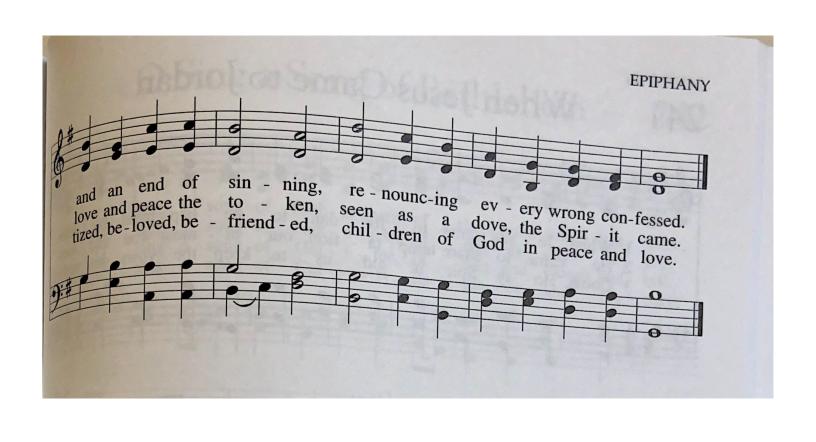
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RENDEZ À DIEU 9.8.9.8.D.



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When Jesus Came to Jordan

