

Jan 8th, 2023.

Baptism of Jesus

Congregational responses are in bold. (*) Indicates Standing.

We Come Together

Prelude... (*this is an opportunity for us to appreciate the gift of music and prepare our hearts for worship*)

Greeting

The Light of Christ

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the land upon which we live, work, worship and play is the unceded territory of the Wabanaki people; in this area they are they Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, and Passamaquoddy. As we are witness to the baptism of Jesus, may His Light guide us in restoring relationship with all Indigenous peoples.

Announcements

Minute For Mission

Call to Worship:

One: Come, people of God!

All: We come, called by God to be witnesses to the Light.

One: With John the Baptizer,

All: with the disciples,

One: with all people, our siblings throughout the world.

All: We gather to sing, to pray, and to worship our God!

One: Alleluia!

All: Alleluia, Amen!

Opening Prayer: (*unison*)

Holy One, on this day as we share the story of the baptism of Jesus, You once again call us to gather on the banks of the River Jordan. May we, like John the Baptist, be willing to follow Jesus into those living waters. May we, like John the Baptist, humbly answer Your call to serve. May we, like Jesus, hear Your voice reaching out for us in love; and as the heavens open, may we see You in the unexpected places of life. In the name of Your Son and our friend Jesus, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn:** "Come Touch Our Hearts"

MV#12

Personal Prayer: ("Lord, Listen to Your...") X 2 **VU# 400**
(Concluded as we pray together the Lord's Prayer)

Children's Learning Time

Children's Prayer:

Thank You, God, for making us all purple people, gathered here today underneath Your steeple. As we grow and live and love, may each of us be Your Light, reaching those around us, that everyone's world be bright. As Jesus leads and guides us, help us to understand, that all are precious in Your sight, and guided by Your hand. Amen.

***Hymn:** "A Light is Gleaming"

VU#82

We Listen to the Word

Prayer for Illumination:

Reader: Tracy

Our Ever-Present Hope, in the reading of Your Word, allow us ears that are open and hearts that are receptive to Your voice that speaks out to us from the unexpected edges of this life. As we reflect on Your Word, stir in us a desire to love unconditionally, as You love us unconditionally. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ, Your beloved child, who walks with us in love. Amen.

Scripture Lessons: Luke 3:15-23

Response:

One: This is the life of Christ,

All: **who reaches out to us in love.**

Sermon "God is Speaking"

Anthem "The Song of Twilight"

Grant Blakney

Prayers of the People

We Respond to the Word

Invitation to the Offering:

On this day Jesus wades into the waters of the Jordan River and is baptised. In that moment the heavens were opened, and Jesus heard what His heart needed to hear to live into the fullness of His ministry in this world. May we too receive such a gift and continue living our call as children of God's Grace. In response, we make our offerings now of time, talent, and treasure, praying they be taken and used to the benefit of this community and world.

Offertory Prayer: *(unison)*

Holy One, in baptism, You claim us as Your own. We are a visible symbol of Your ever-present love, called to care for the world You so love. We now offer You symbols of that care. May these gifts we offer enable Your voice to reach our lives and into the lives of those who never expect to hear You. Change us through our giving. In the name of Your Son, in whom You are well pleased, Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn:** "Let There Be Light"

VU#679

***Benediction:**

One: Go forth and proclaim the Good News: God calls us by name and fashions us for glory.

All: **We go as people named and claimed by God in the waters of baptism.**

One: Go forth and live the Good News: the Holy Spirit blesses us and surrounds us in God's Love.

All: **We go into the world held by that love and offer ourselves as a light for others.**

***Choral Benediction** "May God's Sheltering Wings" **MV#214**

Postlude

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Screen operators for the coming weeks:

Jan 8 Elizabeth **Jan 15** Erik

Ushers for the coming weeks:

Jan. 8 Howard & John B.

Jan. 15 Bill S. & John B

This Week's Events

Monday	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall
Tuesday	10:00am	Craft Group	Church Hall
	11:30am	UCW	Boardroom
Wednesday	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall
Thursday	1:00pm	Bridge	Church Hall
	6:15pm	Brownies	Church Hall
Friday	9:30am	Tai Chi	Church Hall
Sunday	3:00pm	Living in Transformative Change	Sanctuary

Food donations - We are collecting non-perishable food items for the Alimentaire Peter McKee food bank.

Grocery Gift Cards - are available! Please contact the office to purchase. Thank you for supporting this important fundraiser.

Lunch With Friends - We are happy to announce that Lunch With Friends will begin on Thurs., Jan. 19th. The sign up sheet will be available at the back of the church and in the office from Sun., Jan. 8 to Mon., Jan. 16th. We will only order the actual number of those who have signed up as we are trying to keep our costs down. If you find that you are unable to attend the lunch after signing up, we encourage you to invite someone to take your place, or, if you are able, please donate the cost as the meal will be wasted. The cost is \$7.00 payable at the lunch. Menu is Potato Bacon Soup (Gluten Free) plus dessert, tea and coffee. A short program will follow. Hope to see you there.....and mark your calendars to reserve the 3rd Thursday of the month this winter!

Far away, Magi from the East saw a bright star rising in the sky. They followed the star until it stopped over the spot where Jesus was.

Matthew 2:1-6

