

SUMMIT CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY JANUARY 9, 2022

WORSHIP SERVICE with HOLY COMMUNION

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WORDS OF WELCOME

INTROIT: #168 v.v. 1 & 2 *“O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word”* (Sung to the Tune for *“The Gift of Love”*)

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CALL TO WORSHIP: *

L: Sisters and brothers, today we recall: Jesus came to the waters of baptism.

C: *In baptism, our Creator claims us and frees us from the power of hatred and death.*

L: In baptism we are joined to Christ and we are joined together in unity, recalling

C: *“There is no longer Jew or Greek there is no longer slave or free there is no longer male or female for all are one in Christ Jesus.”*

L: In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry and makes us signs of divine love. It is the mark of acceptance into the church and the beginning of our growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

C: *Therefore on this day, the whole church, the Body of Christ, remembers and celebrates.*

L: Let us worship God in both remembrance and celebration.

PSALM 29 (GNT) Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition) © 1992 American Bible Society. All rights reserved.

L: Praise the Lord, you heavenly beings; praise his glory and power.

Praise the Lord's glorious name; bow down before the Holy One when he appears.

C: *The voice of the Lord is heard on the seas; the glorious God thunders, and his voice echoes over the ocean. The voice of the Lord is heard in all its might and majesty.*

L: The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars, even the cedars of Lebanon.

C: *He makes the mountains of Lebanon jump like calves and makes Mount Hermon leap like a young bull.*

L: The voice of the Lord makes the lightning flash. His voice makes the desert shake;

he shakes the desert of Kadesh. The Lord's voice shakes the oaks and strips the leaves from the trees while everyone in his Temple shouts,

All: *“Glory to God!”*

L: The Lord rules over the deep waters; he rules as king forever.

The Lord gives strength to his people and blesses them with peace.

HYMN: #168 v.v. 3 & 4 *“O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word”* (Sung to the Tune for *“The Gift of Love”*)

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION: * (IS 43:1-4a)

L: But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. ... ⁴Because you are precious in my sight,

All: *Gracious God, hearing these words, we confess that too often we live as though we are fearful, not faithful. When we encounter the waters of chaos and confusion, we don't easily pass through them, but we obsess about the height of the water instead of the sight of the other side.*

You promised to walk through the rivers with us. Help us believe. And help our unbelief.

Moment of Silent Confession and Reflection

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: *

L: Thus says the God who created you and formed us in God's image:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." This is the good news!

All: God has redeemed me and called me by name. This truly is good news! Thanks be to God!

SCRIPTURE:

Acts 8:14–17

¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Baptism of Jesus

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

A TIME OF REFLECTION:

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Introduction:

L: 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 also you who are the poor, the oppressed, the 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 once again the vows of baptism.

P: Do you intend, by the grace of God, to be Christ' disciple,
to follow in the way of Christ's teachings, to resist oppression & show love & justice,
in doing so witness to the work and word of Jesus as best as you are able?

C: I do, with the help of God.

P: Will you, according to the grace given you, continue to grow in the faith and teachings of Christ,
and be in covenant with the church to further Christ's teachings and mission in the world?

C: I will, with the help of God.

AFFIRMATION OF COVENANTAL FAITH

All: We the members and friends of Summit Congregational United Church of Christ seek, first and foremost, to live out the message of Jesus Christ in both our words and in our actions. Being led by the Holy Spirit, we invite others to join us as we endeavor to respond to God's vision of a world where all people experience love, justice, and peace.

As members and friends of the Summit Congregational United Church of Christ, we do solemnly covenant and affirm that we are called to live in a loving covenantal relationship with all humanity. We further assert that we embrace diversity in our congregation and community and affirm the dignity and worth of each person as a unique creation made in the image of God. We honor as the most basic of our founding principles that discrimination, in any form, is incompatible with Christ's Gospel message of unconditional love. We recognize and accept the responsibility given to us by God, to care for one another, to hold in prayer this church and the church universal, and to seek equality and justice, love, and peace in all our relationships.

Prayer:

P: Almighty God, who in baptism received your servants into the church, forgave sin, and promised eternal life, increase in us the gifts of your Holy Spirit.

Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in times of hate, injustice and oppression, faithfulness in times of temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things.

All: In doing so may we be strengthened for our ministry in the world; through Jesus our Savior. Amen.

P: Eternal God, we praise you for calling us to be your servant people and for calling us into this covenantal relationship.

All: Help us to work together in serving the needs of others.

Confirm in us the power of your covenant that we may live in your Spirit, share regularly in worship, and so love each other that we may have among us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, to whom be all honor and glory. Amen.

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 renew and invigorate your Christian faith and life.

Above all, remember who and whose you are; a beloved child of God.

HYMN OF RESPONSE: #327 v.v. 1 & 3 "Jesus Loves Me"

Song #117797 Text: St. 1, Anna B. Warner, 1860; st. 2, 3, David R. McGuire, c. 1970. Music: William B. Bradbury, 1862. Reprinted & Streamed under One License #A-611234

A TIME OF PRAYER –

LIFTING UP PRAYER REQUESTS –

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

***COMMUNION HYMN: "One Bread, One Body"**

Song #80673 Text: Based on 1 Corinthians 10:16–17; 12:4, 12–13, 20; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 4:4–6; The Didache 9. Text and music © 1978, 1996, 2003, John B. Foley, SJ, and OCP. All rights reserved. Reprinted & streamed under One License #A-611234

Refrain:

One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.

And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more. (Refrain)
2. Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all. (Refrain)
3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one, for all. (Refrain)

***Invitation**

***Communion Prayer**

Pastor: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

C: We freely give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: Holy God, you created a planet full of life. You created humans in your image.

You taught our ancestors how to live in your world by giving them challenges as well as hope.

You brought our forebears out of captivity in Egypt into fullness of life.

You sent prophets to teach us.

Most of all, you sent to us your child Jesus, who showed us through his loving example how you love us.

You call us to follow in the path of Jesus, carrying your message of hope and justice to the world.

Creating us in your image, you offered to us the challenges of living in your complex world.

And so we join with all creation to praise you:

All: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Wine

(Words of Institution)

Blessing

Pastor: Holy God, descend your Spirit upon these gifts of grain and grape that they might be for us the presence of the living Christ and pour out your Spirit upon us so that we might be reflections of your likeness in a hurting world so that others might know the blessings of living in communion with you, one another and all of creation. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

Sharing in the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: Gracious God, you have once again shown us your love by bringing us to this meal. We go from here renewed in faith, renewed in courage, and strengthened by your presence. Thank you for loving us so tenderly. Thank you for challenging us to know you better and to receive you more fully and to walk in your ways. Amen

CALL FOR OFFERING: ☪ *

L: Our offering is a faith statement.

By offering our treasure and our very selves to God, we witness to the transforming love of God
Let us give generously and joyfully as the Spirit guides.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: ☪ *

L: God of all creation,

All: Accept these gifts, we humbly pray.

Let them give you honor and glory as we serve the needs of your people.

And let the called and redeemed of God say, Amen

SUMM-IT UP:

SENDING HYMN: #351 “*Borning Cry*”

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CHARGE & BENEDICTION:

Let us go forth from here empowered by the Holy Spirit
to be God’s instruments rooted in love to further the work of Jesus
and to move us closer to God’s reign of peace.

As we do that may God bless and keep you.

May God’s face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May God look upon you kindly and give you the peace God alone can give. Amen.

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POSTLUDE: