



**January 12, 2025**

## **St. John's United Church of Christ**

*As believers in Jesus Christ, we strive with unconditional love and selflessness – using our God given gifts – to provide a nurturing shelter for those seeking a Christian home. We offer opportunities for spiritual growth through worship, education, fellowship, prayer and Christian action throughout our community and the world.*

**Called by God  
Sharing with the World**

**January 12, 2025**

## **Baptism of the Lord**

### **Meditation**

“One of the things we desperately need is a spiritual renewal in this country. We need a spiritual revival in America.” ~Billy Graham

### **Chimes**

### **Prelude**

*Not that far From Bethlehem*

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **✠ Opening Hymn #241**     *When Jesus Came to Jordan*

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.

Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make;  
This very day invade us, and every bondage break.  
Come, give our lives direction, the gift we covet most;  
To share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.

### **Lifting Up Our Joys**

### **Passing of the Peace**

## ✠ **Call to Worship** *(Congregation reads bold print)*

From the waters of Creation, the earth sprang forth.

**From the waters of a womb, God's blessed Son was given to us.**

From the waters of a river, people were baptized and marked as God's Children.

**Praise be to God, whose loving gifts and presence have called us together.**

Let us shout our love to God for God's abundant love.

## ✠ **Opening Prayer**

Pastor Jeff

## ✠ **Prayer of Confession**

**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.**

*Silent pause for reflection*

**Amen.**

## ✠ **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Sisters and Brothers, 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!**

## **Introduction of Confirmands and Mentors**

### **Children's Message**

Pastor Jeff

### **Bible Readings**

Isaiah 43:1-7  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-23

Elaine Miller

## Isaiah 43:1-7

<sup>43</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>When 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. <sup>3</sup>For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; <sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth - <sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

## Luke 3:15-17, 21-23

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>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.

<sup>17</sup>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."

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>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.”

<sup>23</sup>Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his work.

## Choir Anthem

*Just For You*

## Pastor’s Message

*“I Am Baptized!”*

Pastor Jeff

## ✠Renewal of Baptismal Vows *(read responsively)*

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

**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 –

**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.**

*(Vows and prayer taken from the UCC Book of Worship)*

## Giving our Gifts to God

## Offertory

*Berecuse*

### ✠Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

### The Lord's Prayer *(unison)*

**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 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**

### ✠Closing Hymn #679 *Baptized in Water*

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
Cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;  
Heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,  
Faithfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
Dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;  
One with his rising, freed and forgiven,  
Thankfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit.  
Marked with the sign of Christ, our King;  
Born of one Father, we are his children,  
Joyfully now God's praises we sing.

✠ **Sending Forth and Final Blessing**

✠ **Threefold Amen**

✠ **Chimes/Meditation**

**Postlude**

*Brightest and Best*



*The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of  
God, in Memory of James & Doris Hamilton  
and John & Geraldine Lundbye.  
Presented by Wayne & Lynda Hamilton.*

