

WE GATHER
BAPTISM OF OUR LORD
BEING CALLED BELOVED
JANUARY 17TH 2021

Music:

Welcome:

Territorial Acknowledgment:

WE ENTER INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

***Call to Worship & Opening Prayer**

(excerpt of Psalm 29 and Abingdon Worship Annual 2021, Baptism of Our Lord, Mary Scifres)

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;

worship the Lord in holy splendor.

God's creative voice calls us to worship,

calling us to life and light.

God's loving voice calls us to worship,

calling us to love and be loved.

Opening Prayer:

Come and pray in us, Holy Spirit.

(pause for silent prayer)

Spirit of creation and renewal,

hover over us this day,

as you hovered over creation on that first day.

Enter into our hearts and our lives,

as you did at the day of our baptism.

Descend on us like a dove,

as you did on Jesus's day of baptism,

that we may hear again your words of love and adoption.

Come and visit us Holy Spirit. Come and pray in us Holy Spirit!

Amen.

Opening Hymn: "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" VU#375

Prayer of Confession:

(Adapted from the Abingdon Worship Annual 2021, Baptism of Our Lord, Mary Scifres):

Be still our hearts, Holy Spirit.

When our ears are ringing with self-doubt and cynicism,

strengthen us with words of faith and love.

When our minds are muddled with confusion and fear,

enlighten us with the radiance of your wisdom.

Speak to our spirits from the truth of your being,

the reality of your love,

and the promise of your healing,

that we may hear your voice clearly

and follow where you call us to go.

Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

Hear the truth of God's voice

breaking through the clouds of our lives:

"You are God's beloved, in whom God is well pleased."

You are God's compassionate choice, gifted and graced for the

journey,

The Word

One: Your Word is a lamp to our feet;

ALL: And a light on our path.

Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love.

Amen.

Gospel Reading Mark 1: 4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of

repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole

Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to

him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their

sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt

around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed,

'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not

worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have

baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Baptism of Jesus

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized

by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water,

he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on

him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the

Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

ALL: Glory to you O Christ.

Reflection: "Being Called Beloved."

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Piano Solo: "Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart" VU#37
verses 1, 3, 4.

Announcements:

Invitation to offer of ourselves:

Offertory Blessing:

**Creator God transform our offerings,
so they may become instruments of your compassion,
for the sake of building your beloved community.**

Help us to bless your world.

In Jesus's name we pray, Amen.

The Memory Candle:

Prayers of the People:

SENT TO SHOW CHRIST'S LOVE

Hymn: "Christ when for us you were baptized" VU#99

Benediction: *(Words of Henri Nouwen)*

"From the moment we claim the truth of being Beloved,
we are faced with the call to become who we are. Becoming
the Beloved is the great spiritual journey we have to make."

Now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you,
This day and always.

Amen.

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, stead-fast, strong and true.

Know God will guide you in all you do.

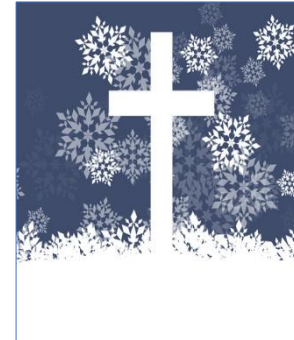
Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

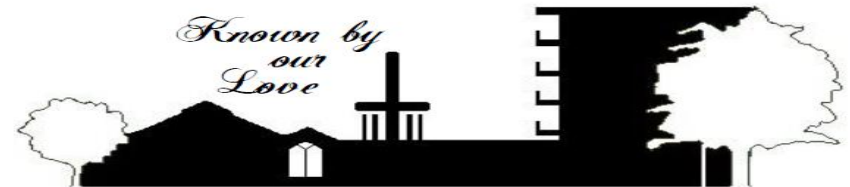
God will be there watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Postlude



**Second Sunday After Epiphany
"The Baptism of Our Lord"**



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Please note that Rev. Roni is off Monday & Tuesday.