

**Evangelical United Church of Christ
Baptism of Jesus
January 9, 2011 8:00 a.m.**

We Gather In Response to God's Call

THE BELLS CALL US TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE: "How Firm a Foundation" – Paxton Joan Schuetz,
Organist

WE WELCOME MEMBERS, FRIENDS, AND VISITORS

(Child care is available for children 3 and under in our nursery)

WE SHARE OUR LIFE TOGETHER

****WE GREET EACH OTHER** *(You are invited to stand and share the Peace of Christ with your fellow worshippers.)*

GATHERING HYMN: "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" No. 261

****CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: A voice of power and majesty calls out to us.

I am your God; I have called you in righteousness.

People: **We are amazed that God knows us and calls us.**

By God's breath and spirit, we receive life.

Leader: God takes us by the hand and leads us. In covenant with God, we extend light to the world.

People: **Eyes are opened and prisoners are freed. Justice and peace prevail, by God's strength.**

Leader: Worship with joy and give glory to God's name. Listen for the new thing God declares.

People: We remember that we have been baptized. May we live as those with whom God is pleased.

HYMNS OF PRAISE: "Fairest Lord Jesus"

No. 97

We Acknowledge our Sins

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God of glory, we confess that our lives have not glorified you. God of justice, we admit our complicity with systems of injustice. God of light, we are aware of the shadows we create that keep others from seeing you. All-inclusive God, we repent of our narrow vision and our tendency to exclude. Purge us of the idols that keep us from full commitment to the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The prophets testify that all who believe in God's messengers receive forgiveness of sin through his name. We believe that Jesus is that beloved messenger, with whom God is well pleased. Through this One on whom God's spirit was poured out, like a descending dove, we know ourselves to be beloved by God, forgiven and freed from the bonds of sin.

**** THE GLORIA PATRI**

No. 35

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.

We Hear God's Word

A TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

THE BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

God of grace, we ask that your blessing rest upon the children of our congregation and all children. Guard and protect them with your love, Christ's friendship, and the comfort and caring of the Holy Spirit. May your loving arms always surround them. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Shall We Gather at the River"

Joan Schuetz

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 3:13-17

*And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved,
with whom I am well pleased."*

This is the Gospel of Lord. **Praise to you our Lord and Christ.**

SERMON: "Power to the People"

Pastor Chris Hill

Remembering Our Baptismal Promises

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be a disciple, to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, to resist oppression, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ?

People: I do

Pastor: And do you promise, according to the grace given to you, to grow in your faith and to be a faithful member of the church, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering God's mission in all the world?

People: I do

Prayer of Recommitment

People: By your Spirit, Almighty God, grant us love for others; joy in serving you; peace in disagreement; patience in suffering; kindness toward all people; goodness in evil times; faithfulness in temptation; gentleness in the face of opposition; self-control in all things. Strengthen us for ministry in your name. Amen.

Respond to God's Word

HYMN: "Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters" No. 365

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "All Creatures of Our God and King" - Harris

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

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION:** (*unison*)

We pray, O God, that our offerings delight you. We bring them to encourage all who work for justice and peace on our behalf, that they may not grow faint or be crushed by oppression. May the oppressed find healing, the discouraged receive hope, and those who are bound discover freedom, through and beyond our efforts. Amen.

We Go Forth to Serve

****PARTING HYMN:** “Spirit Song”

No. 352

****BENEDICTION**

****CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:** (*unison*)

May the grace of Christ, our Savior, and the love of God, our Father, and the fellowship of the Spirit be with us. (repeat all) forever, and ever, forevermore. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Notes to Worshippers: Double asterisks (**) indicate times when you may stand if you are comfortably able.

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Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I

need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."