



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

EPIPHANY THEME: FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

January 10, 2021

The Baptism of Christ

Prelude

Pastorale

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Katie Miller

***Greeting and Passing of the Peace**

"The Peace of God be with you."

In Unison: **Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

** Let us rise in body or spirit.*

Call to Worship

Garret Higginbotham, liturgist

We gather in the Light that was before, is now, and ever will be.

We seek the Light's ancient wisdom.

We gather in the Light that is God's continuing gift.

We live into the Light's new wisdom.

We gather in the Light that is our own, emerging anew each day.

We seek to share the Light for the wisdom of all.

***Processional Hymn**

Arise, Your Light Is Come

Arise, Your Light Is Come

Isa. 60:1; 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21

Ruth Duck, 1973

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!

Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!
 Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
 Bind up the bro - ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

This hymn was first published by the Ecumenical Women's Center of Chicago in the 1974 collection of hymn adaptations, Because We Are One People. Ruth Duck later included it in

Tune: FESTAL SONG S.M.
William Walter, 1872

*Invocation

Creating, Calling, Faithful God, we gather to be with you, to worship you, and to learn from you. May our time together be like your creation of light in the darkness that you called good. We will listen to you and respond to your call. Amen.

*Gloria

Black Hymnal, No. 759

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Conversation with the Children

Lizzie Patterson

Epistle Lesson

Galatians 5:13-15, 22-26

For the Word of God in scripture,
For the Word of God within us,
For the Word of God among us,
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Fruit of the Spirit

Rev. Katie Miller


***Hymn**

Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God

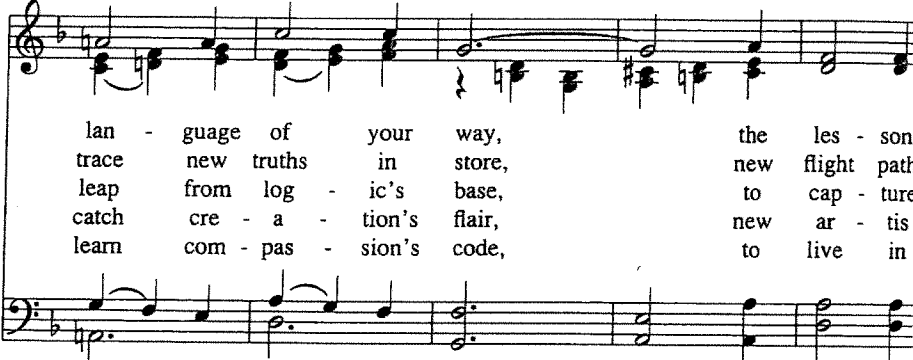
Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God

Shirley Erena Murray, 1

Unison



1 Come, teach us, Spir - it of our God, the
 2 Ex - cite our minds to fol - low you, to
 3 En - gage our wits to dance with you, to
 4 In - spire our spark to light from you to
 5 De - light our hearts to wor - ship you, to



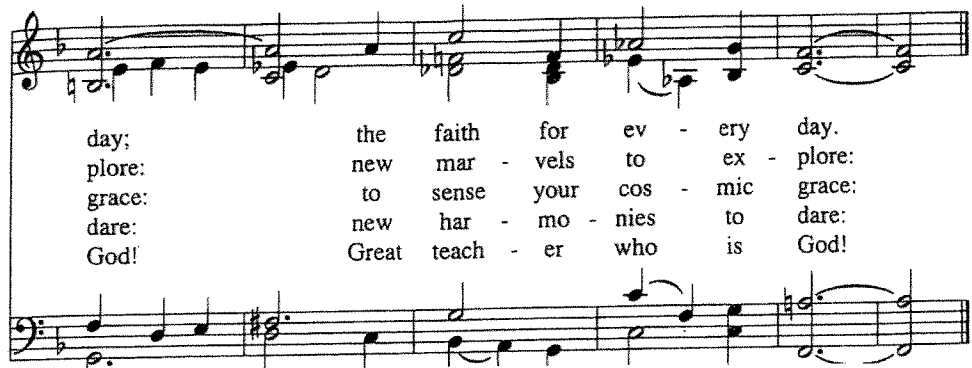
lan - guage of your way, the les - sons
 trace new truths in store, new flight path
 leap from log - ic's base, to cap - ture
 catch cre - a - tion's flair, new ar - tis
 learn com - pas - sion's code, to live in



that we need to live, the faith for ev - ery
 for our spir - it space, new mar - vels to ex
 in - sight on the wing, to sense your cos - mic
 try to cel - e - brate, new har - mo - nies to
 con - text of your love, great teach - er who is



287 cont.



day; the faith for ev - ery day.
plore: new mar - vels to ex - plore:
grace: to sense your cos - mic grace:
dare: new har - mo - nies to dare:
God! Great teach - er who is God!

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

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. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

Friends, 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.

Congregational Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

Congregational Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

Introduction

Profession of Faith

According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

If so, say, "We will."

We will.

Let us join in professing the Christian faith.

**United Church of Christ Statement of Faith
in the Form of a Doxology**

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness
and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.
In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and
risen Savior,
you have come to us
and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,
tongues, and races.

You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Let us join in professing our covenant with one another.

Covenant (4-12-1981)

We are thankful for life, for Jesus Our Lord, for the courage and vision of our church founders. In gratitude, we covenant with God and with one another, seeking as a church and as individuals to be faithful to God's will. We pray for hearts that open, minds that understand, and lives that serve.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal Creator:

When nothing existed but chaos,
you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light.
After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.
When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt,
you led them to freedom through the sea.
Their children you brought through the Jordan River to the land
which you promised.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a
womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit.
He called disciples to share in the baptism of his death and
resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

Declare God's works to the nations, God's glory among all people.

Pour out your Holy Spirit,
and by this gift of water call to our remembrance the grace declared
to us in our baptism.

For you have washed away our sin,
and you clothe us with righteousness throughout our lives,
that dying and rising with Christ
we may share in his final victory.

**All praise to you, our Mother and Father, through your Son Jesus
Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever.
Amen.**

Remember your baptism and be thankful.

The Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born through water and the Spirit, you may live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Thanksgiving

Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of our covenant God.

We give thanks for all that God has already given us. As members of the Body of Christ and in this congregation, we will faithfully participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service, continuing to grow as a Christian through prayer, study, reflection, and worship, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

Prayers

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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.

Offertory

Morning Star

*Hymn of Dedication

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Offertory Prayer

Faithful God, we offer the gifts that we have been given so that they might be used in liberating the poor and healing people's hurts. We pray for our liberation as well as their own. Receive

and multiply our gifts for life-giving ministry. Amen.

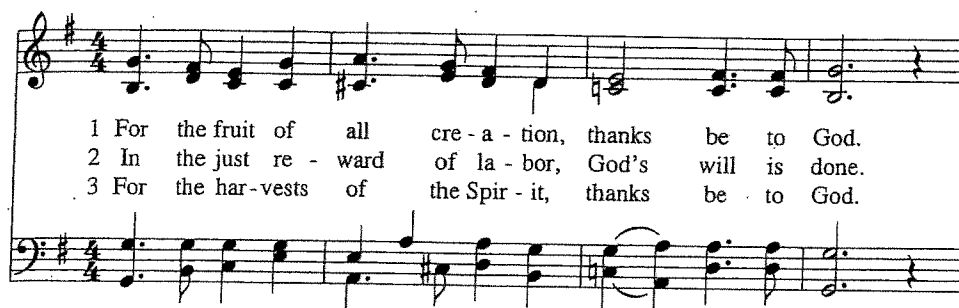
***Recessional Hymn**

For the Fruit of All Creation

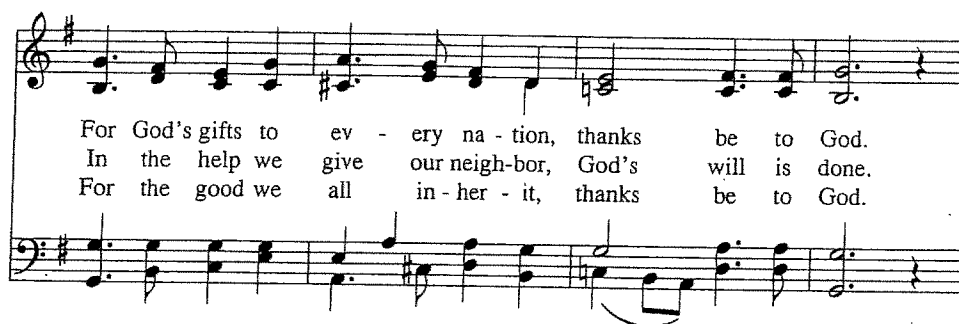
For the Fruit of All Creation

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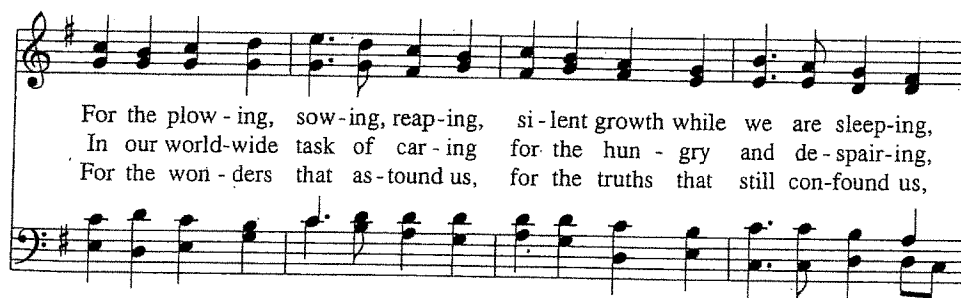
Fred Pratt Green, 1970



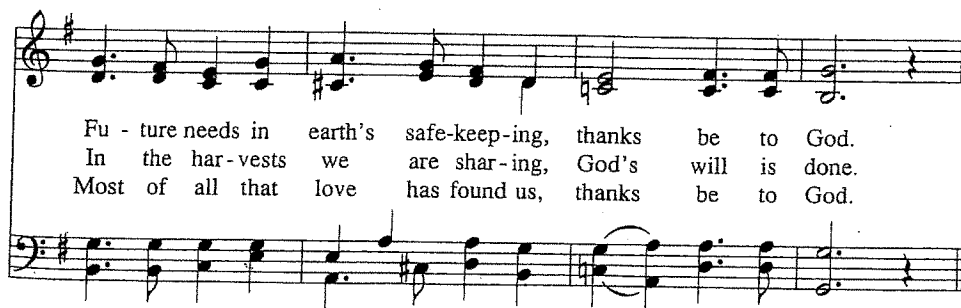
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For God's gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

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***Benediction**

Postlude

Ratisbon

Open & Affirming Statement

In our ongoing quest for hearts that open, minds that understand,
and lives that serve, we welcome into our fellowship, membership, leadership, and employment,
all people, regardless of abilities, race, gender, sexual orientation, or any God-given characteristic.

Announcements
January 10, 2021

Happy Birthday this week: to *Kerrie Kleppin-Winn, Josephine Obner, Lulu Tiller, Mitch Fey, Leo Bock, Maggie Fey, Leanne Gonzalez, and Dave Hamer.*

FirstYouth: 8 p.m., Zoom.

Siena/Francis House: Congregational Outreach is collecting socks and underwear this month for the homeless in our area. Donations may be dropped off at church; please call first.

Activities for the Coming Week, January 11 – January 16

*Lectionary Readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51.*

Monday: Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Council, 7 p.m., Zoom

Wednesday: Adult Education, 5:45 p.m., Zoom
Vespers, 6 p.m., FaceBook Live
Choir, 7 p.m., Zoom

Sunday, January 17

Worship: 10:30 a.m. on YouTube.

FirstYouth: 8 p.m., Zoom

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.

