

The Baptism of Christ

January 10, 2010

Worship 8:00 and 10:30

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

* Call to Worship

One: Jesus said: "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

ALL: We have seen the light of Christ like a star shining in the sky; and like the Magi, we have come to worship.

One: Glory be to God and to Jesus the Christ, in whom God is made known in the power of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Joy to the World!

* Gathering Hymn

"Joy to the World!"

#132

* Call to Confession

God's love has come to us in Christ, but we often live as if it made no difference. Let us confess some of the ways we fail to receive and share God's love.

* Prayer of Confession

In the birth of Jesus you, O God, showed your love for the whole world and all people. Your Epiphany Star guided sages from distant lands to worship Jesus, your holy child. Although we know of your universal love, we confess that we limit our own love within safe boundaries, building walls rather than bridges, denying our connection with all those you love. Forgive us. Help us to receive the new spirit you would send to us, so that we might truly love and serve you. Let your light shine upon and through us. Empower us to be your evangelists in our time and place.

* Silent Reflection

* Words of Hope

Be of good courage, for God sent the Word into the world not to judge but to save. God's light shines to guide us toward true light. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, let us respond to God, living as children of God.

OPENING OURSELVES TO THE VOICE OF GOD

The Bible Lesson Acts 8:26-37

Chancel Choir Anthem

A Time for Young Christians

(Prayer requests and guest forms will be collected by ushers at the side aisles.)

The Morning Message **"Let Me Tell You"**

* Hymn *"Go Tell It on the Mountain"* #154

EXPRESSING OUR FAITH

Joining Our Voices in Prayer

We come this day, Eternal God, seeking a fuller awareness of your presence. Bigotry, prejudice and hatred, poverty, hunger, and injustice still haunt our world with their powers. The chaos brought about by excessive individualism, with each person pursuing their own interests, threatens to destroy community.

Speak your Word again, O God, so that your light may once again illuminate our living. Shine in the shadowed places of our being. Most importantly, use us to share your grace. Empower us to tell others about your love, with both words and deeds.

Listen now, as we express our heartfelt prayers.

(Silent and spoken prayers may be added by the congregation.)

The 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, for ever. Amen.

Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

* Offertory Response (Tune #148)

Bring gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in jubilation;

The Holy Child, though meek and mild, has come with God's salvation.

Raise, raise the song on high, the mother sings her lullaby;

Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mary!

*Offering Prayer

RECEIVING GOD'S LOVE

*Invitation to Communion

One: This is the welcome table of God, where all who seek to be at peace with their neighbor and desire the grace of God in Christ are embraced and nourished.

All: We approach this table wanting to be filled with Christ's spirit.

One: This is Christ's table, not ours. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

All: The elements of the celebration are here. The bread is here, the juice is here. Finally, we are here; and we are opening ourselves to be renewed and filled by the Spirit of Christ.

* Communion Prayer

Breaking of Bread and Blessing the Cup

Sharing the Elements *(As the elements are being distributed, you are invited to sing:
"This is the Body of Christ.")*

*This is the body of Christ, broken that we may be whole;
This cup, as promised by God, true to his word,
Cradles our Lord: food for the good of the soul.*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO WITNESS

* Closing Hymn *"You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"*

#173

* Benediction

* Musical Postlude