



*January 10, 2021*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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*Sunday Meditation*

Through water and the word you have become a child of God and are sealed as Christ's own forever.

[Galatians 3:26-27]

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ  
Joint Virtual Service (Recorded at Grace)  
Baptism of the Lord – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

January 10, 2021

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude*

*Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

Psalm 29

Give to our GOD, O heavenly beings,  
Give to our GOD glory and strength.

**Give to our GOD a glorious name;  
worship our GOD in holy splendor.**

The voice of our GOD is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the LORD, over mighty waters.

**The voice of our GOD is powerful;  
the voice of our GOD is full of majesty.**

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;  
Our GOD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

**God makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

The voice of our GOD flashes forth flames of fire.

**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
Our GOD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

The voice of our GOD causes the oaks to whirl,  
and strips the forest bare;  
and in God's temple all say, "Glory!"

**The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;  
Our GOD sits enthroned as ruler forever.**

May our GOD give strength to the people!  
May the LORD bless the people with peace!

\* *Opening Hymn*

“*Jesus, Our Lord and King*”

*Greenfield CH #466*

*Gathering Prayer*

Creating, Calling, and Faithful God,  
we come to this time and place 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.  
May it be that you would call us good  
while we respond to your call and as we listen to you. Amen.

*First Reading*

**Genesis 1:1-5 NIV**

*The Beginning*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.  
<sup>3</sup> And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

*Prayer of Confession*

People of God, we desire to be refreshed, renewed and changed.  
Let us listen again to God’s calling our names  
to encourage us and strengthen our resolve  
to be God’s people in faithfulness and peace-loving justice.

*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.

*Paul in Ephesus*

19 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples <sup>2</sup> and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

<sup>3</sup> So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?”

“John’s baptism,” they replied.

<sup>4</sup> Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” <sup>5</sup> On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. <sup>7</sup> There were about twelve men in all.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Mark 1:4-11 NIV

*Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.)*

TH #497

<sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

*The Baptism and Testing of Jesus*

<sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message*

\* *Meditation Hymn*

*“Baptized in Water”*

*Greenfield CH #465*

*Today's Message*

\* *The Apostle's Creed*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic/Christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

*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, forever. Amen.**

\* *Sung Response*

*“Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”*

TH # 501

\* *Closing Hymn*

*“Here I Am, Lord”*

vs 1-2

*Greenfield CH #589*

\* *Benediction*

Thank you, God, for blessing us with memories of Jesus' baptism and ours. Thank you for removing our reluctance, doubt, and fears, for replacing them with courage and commission. We go forth with your calling, direction, and blessing.

In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. **Hallelujah! Amen!**

\* *Three-Fold Amen*

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

**TH # 558**

\* *Postlude 2/Exiting the Church*