



January 16, 2022
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Epiphany Thought

Most of what we do in worldly life is geared toward our staying dry, looking good, not going under. But in baptism, in lakes and rain and tank and fonts, you agree to do something that's a little sloppy because at the same time it's also holy, and absurd. It's about surrender, giving in to all those things we can't control; it's a willingness to let go of balance and decorum and get drenched.

Anne Lamott
Traveling Mercies (1999)

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
Baptism of the Lord

January 16, 2022
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Sisters and brothers, today we recall:
Jesus came to the waters of baptism.

**In baptism, our Creator claims us
and frees us from the power of hatred and death.**

In baptism we are joined to Christ
and we are joined together in unity, recalling

**“There is no longer Jew or Greek
there is no longer slave or free
there is no longer male or female
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”**

In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry
and makes us signs of divine love.

It is the mark of acceptance into the church
and the beginning of our growth
into full Christian faith and discipleship.

**Therefore on this day,
the whole church, the Body of Christ,
remembers and celebrates.**

Let us worship God!

* *Opening Hymn*

Mt Hope PH #305

“I Surrender All”

Greenfield CH #596

Grace VH #305

Prayer of Confession

Based on Isaiah 43:1-2

Gracious God, we confess that too often we live
as though we are fearful, not faithful.

When we encounter the waters of chaos and confusion,
we don't easily pass through them,
but we obsess about the height of the water
instead of the sight of the other side.

You promised to walk through the rivers with us.
Help us believe. And help our unbelief.

Words of Grace

Thus says the God who created you and formed us in God's image:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.”

This is the good news!

I belong to God.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 NIV

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

TH #497

¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

The Baptism and Genealogy of Jesus

²¹ When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. 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* “*Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*”

Mt Hope VH #150

Greenfield CH #390

Grace VH #150

Today's Message

Remembrance of Our Baptisms

Remembering Our Baptismal Promises

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,
as best you are able?

(Let people answer silently to themselves)

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?

Reaffirmation of Baptism

If you choose, you may come forward to recall the promises of
your baptism - made either by you or on your behalf by your
parents/guardians.

Please come forward to the font and as you touch your forehead
with the water, say,

“I am God's beloved!”

Prayer of Recommitment

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.

Then strengthen us for ministry in your name. Amen.

* *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

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Statement

Offertory (MH)

* Doxology

TH # 551

* Offertory Prayer

**Accept these gifts, we humbly pray, O God. Let them give
you honor and glory as we serve the needs of your people.
And let the called and redeemed of God say, Amen**

* *Closing Hymn*

“Amazing Grace”

Mt Hope VH #77

Greenfield CH #343

Grace VH #77

* *Benediction*

Remember this week whose you are. And remember,
“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.”

Go in the peace of Christ.

In the name of the triune God: the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*