

# A NEW BEGINNING

## The Baptism of Christ

Remembering Our Baptism

*See, I am making all things new.*

-Revelation 21.5b



### Welcome to St. John

Keith M. Haithcock, pastor

*You will need a small bowl of water  
for the Remembering our Baptism litany later in the service.*

### Preparation Music

Steve Milloy, piano

*"Down to the River/Shall We Gather at the River" -arr. Pepper Choplin*

### Call to Worship

Psalm 29

Cherie Draper, liturgist

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!

## **Singing Together**

"Take Me to the Water"

Jennie Malone, vocalist

Take me to the water, take me to the water, take me to the water to be baptized.

I love Jesus, I love Jesus, I love Jesus, . . . yes, I do.

Jesus is my Savior, Jesus is my Savior, Jesus is my Savior for-ever more.

Take me to the water, take me to the water, take me to the water to be baptized.

## **Prayer**

Keith M. Haithcock

Creating, Calling, and Faithful God,  
we come 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  
as we respond to your call. **Amen.**

## **Song of Encounter**

"Baptism Song"

Jennie Malone

In the beginning Word and the Spirit brought forth from nothing everything good.

Now love creating joyful beginning. Joy in us all with love understood.

*(Refrain:)*

Come to the waters, God's sons and daughters. We all are children of the Lord.  
New life and living, new love and giving, Blessings from water and the Word.

Child of the family Child of creation. Child of our God who fashioned us all.

Wonderful blessing, great celebration, such an occasion! We hear God call: *(Refrain)*

## Prayers of the People

Keith M. Haithcock

## An Offering of Music and our Gifts

Jennie Malone

“Spirit Song” -John Wimber

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## Mark 1.4-11

Cherie Draper

<sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

One: Here ends the reading inspired by God.

May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation.

All: Amen.

## Children’s Couch Church

Sarah, Anthony, Adeline and Eliza Palm

## Sermon

“WE HOLD THE NAME”

Keith M. Haithcock

## Song of Response “I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry”

Jennie Malone

I was there to hear your boring cry, I’ll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit your well;  
I’ll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

## Remembering Our Baptism

*You will need a small bowl of water.*

*As we share this litany of remembering our baptism you will be invited at times (\*) to dip your finger in the water and touch your forehead or the back of your hand.*

*Feel and remember your baptism – who you are and whose you are.*

### Pouring Water and Preparation

Our God created new life forms and brought them up from the waters of chaos, embraced them and called them good.

Jesus, baptized in the river Jordan by John the Baptist, became living water for us all.

Jesus embraces those who are poor, oppressed, marginalized and all others who come seeking.

We follow Jesus with our Baptism, marking a starting place for new life and new ways of being. (\*)

We join Jesus in love and service.

Let us prepare our hearts and minds to see, feel, and hear again the vows of Baptism.

### Silence is kept

### Remembering our Baptismal Promises

Do you renew and affirm the promises made at your Baptism?

**I do.**

Do you recognize the call of God to be God's people always?

**I do.**

Do you embrace the way of Jesus in faith and ministry?

**I do**

Do you accept the nurture of the Holy Spirit who renews your spirit each day?

**I do.**

Do you accept and embrace others who seek a liberating faith in God?

**I do.**

In renewing your baptismal vows,

remember your Baptism as a mark of acceptance

and welcome into the care of Christ's church

where you may begin again your Christian faith and life. (\*)

## Unison Prayer

O God, we rejoice in your grace, given and received.  
We thank you that you claim us,  
that you wash us, strengthen us, and guide us,  
that you empower us to live a life worthy of our calling.  
In the way of Jesus, make us as water in a dry and thirsty world.  
Establish us to be places of refreshment.  
Root us and nurture us in love,  
that with all your people, we may rightly and justly serve you.  
Fill us with your fullness that our lives may overflow in service and love.  
Amen. (\*)

## Send Out

Keith M. Haithcock

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 for a new beginning. **Amen.**

## Going Forth

"Spirit" -Doris Akers

Mark Behnken, organ

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