



Grace

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## **Grace United Church of Christ**

January 9, 2022

Rev. Joyce Wealand, Minister

**First Sunday After Epiphany**

\* When a portion of the service is preceded with an \*, you are invited to stand in body and/or spirit.

**Words printed in bold are an invitation for you to join in the spoken or sung response.**

**PRELUDE**

Holy, Holy, Holy - Dykes

**CHURCH FAMILY UPDATES**

**\*WORDS OF WELCOME**

Leader: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

People: **In this safe space, may God grant us the vision to see the Holy in each other and the Holy in ourselves.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Children of God, today we recall:  
Jesus came to the waters of baptism.

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

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

**People:** “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.”

**Leader:** 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.

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

**Leader:** Let us worship God!

#### **\*GATHERING PRAYER**

**People:** Lord of Hope and Light, as your Spirit moving over the waters brought life from chaos in creation, so the coming of Jesus Christ to this world has brought life to all. In the midst of darkness you offered light to people who lived in fear. You have called us by name. We pray in this moment for the courage and the strength to answer your call. Receive the praise and love of we who seek to live as his disciples, following him into the waters of new life. Give us now a fresh awareness of your presence here among us and in every place where Jesus walks today. Prepare us to serve you by serving your world.

**\*GATHERING HYMN** As with Gladness Those of Old

## **PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION**

**People:** 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.

*(Moment of silence and reflection)*

**A GIFT OF MUSIC** Jesus, Lord of Miracles - DeFrango

**SACRED TEXT** Isaiah 43:1-7 NRSV

**CENTERING HYMN** How Firm a Foundation

**SACRED TEXT** Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 NRSV

## **REFLECTION**

## **SUNG RESPONSE**

**God of rainbow, fiery pillar,  
leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey  
now and ever, now and ever, Now and evermore.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

*Please have your elements prepared and ready. If you are in the sanctuary and prefer, the ushers can bring prepackaged elements to you.*

## **OUR STORY OF COMMUNION AND CONNECTION**

### **Invitation**

### **Communion Prayer**

May the God of glory be with you!

**And also with you!**

People of God, offer your hearts to God.

**We give them to the One who comes to redeem us.**

Sing songs of praise and joy, Children of God.

**We lift our voices to the One who journeys with us through the waters of baptism, and who feeds us at the Table of hope.**

With the water of baptism

reminding us of your love for us,

...

So, with angel choirs in every region,  
with shepherds who caroled a homeless family,

with those who came home singing from exile,  
we lift our voices in joy and hope:

**Holy, holy, holy, Awesome Voice of life and hope.**

**All creation resounds with your wondrous love.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes to be baptized**

**with water and the Spirit.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

...

As we remember Christ's baptism,

as we recall his life and ministry,

as we follow him through death

into the resurrection of the new life,

we proclaim that mystery we call faith:

**Baptized, Christ was called your Beloved;**

**dying, Christ was your heart broken for us;**

**risen to new life, Christ is the Voice which shatters all our fears;**

**coming to gather us up, Christ will bring us into relationship with you.**

**SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP**

## **GIVING THANKS**

**People: We give thanks, loving God, that you have refreshed us at your table with the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. May we be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO FAITHFUL SHARING**

### **\*DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host.  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!**

### **\*DEDICATION OF GIFTS**

**People: Thank you, God of Love, for the promise of this season. We are grateful for the generosity aroused in us by Christ's coming into the world. May these gifts represent a new spirit of joyous sharing among us, for the sake of all your children everywhere. Amen.**

## **MORNING PRAYER**

### **THE PRAYER OF JESUS**

**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.**

**\*SENDING HYMN      Go, My Children, with my Blessing**

**\*WORDS OF SENDING AND PEACE**

**\*SENDING RESPONSE**

**Sent Forth by God's Blessing**

**Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith  
confessing,  
The people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The service is ended, O now be extended  
The fruits of our worship in all who believe.  
The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us  
To work for God's realm and to answer the call.**

**POSTLUDE**

Holy Father - O'Brian

Portions of today's worship have been adapted or inspired by: "I am God's Beloved!" Service Prayers for the First Sunday after Epiphany - written by the Rev. Dr. David Bahr, Life in Liturgy, and Lectionary Liturgies by Thom M. Shuman



**Live stream can be found at:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/gracetown/live>

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday:	7pm	Catching Our Spiritual Breath on Zoom
Tuesday:	9am-noon	Tuesday Crew meets here to do work on our building and grounds. You are welcome to join in!
Wednesday:	9am-noon	Office Hours
	10am	Yoga in the Family Activity Center
Friday	9am-noon	Office Hours
Sunday	9:15am	Adult Sunday School
		Café Conversations with Pastor Joyce in HeBrews Café and via Zoom
	11:15am	Zoom Fellowship Time

## WORSHIP LEADERS

Our acolyte this morning is **Chase Thompson** and **Jeff Shanafelt** is helping lead worship as our liturgist. Altar flowers are presented by **Bill and Lynn Flory** in honor of granddaughter Morgan Flory's birthday.

**Dave Forman, Mike Pirogowicz, Paul Sodergren,** and **Jim Lynn** serve as our Livestream and Sanctuary Technicians and **Tom DeFrange** serves as musician and accompanist.