



Baptism of the Lord
Looking for the Light, Listening for the Call
January 10, 2021

Prelude

He Keeps Me Singing, Martha Main

We are Called to Worship - God's strong voice calls us to worship, calling us to sing and offer praise. God's creative voice calls us to worship, calling us to life and light. God's loving voice calls us to worship, calling us to love and be loved. Listen, for God's voice calls to us now.~

Gathering Prayer - Word of God, speak, for your servants are listening. (Pause for silent prayer.) Spirit of creation and renewal, hover over our gathering this day, as you hovered over creation on that first day. Enter into our hearts and our lives, as you did at the day of our baptism. Descend on us like a dove, as you did on Jesus's day of baptism, that we may hear again your words of love and adoption. Speak from the heavens into our minds, that we may perceive your words of guidance and wisdom. Amen.~

Song 1

Arise Your Light Is Come

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

A Time of Prayer: *You are welcome to send prayer requests to Pastor Sarah. Spend a few moments connecting with God and lifting up your prayers.*

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

We Hear God's Word

Genesis 1:1-5 (NRSV)

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Mark 1:1-11 (NRSV)

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight" ',

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Meditation

The Heavens Torn Apart

Song 2

This Little Light of Mine, Martha and Michael Main

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation - With hearts wide open and ears ready to hear, we bring our very lives to this time of offering. May we bring more than just gifts in a plate, but hearts and minds ready to hear God's call and respond where God's voice leads us.

January Benevolence Offering – God's Bounty Food Pantry

In 2021 we will have a Benevolence Offering focus each month. You are invited to make a special contribution to these different ministries. We hope to share our love far and wide as we use our resources to support these ministries. This month we are supporting God's Bounty, a joint ministry of the Franklin Township Ministerial Association. This ministry supports our neighbors facing food insecurity, and through this pandemic the pantry has done essential work in helping feed local families. If you'd like to make a contribution to God's Bounty, please clearly indicate that on your offering envelope or check, or make sure to leave a note/message when you make your PayPal donation.

You can mail your offerings to our office. We check the mail regularly.

Zion United Church of Christ

8916 E. Troy Ave.

Indianapolis, IN 46239

Or, you can donate through our website through our secure PayPal button at www.zionuccindy.net/donate. Please know that PayPal receives a 2.2% processing fee and a \$0.30 transaction charge. You are able to set up reoccurring, monthly payments.

We Give Thanks – Bless these gifts with your voice of creation, your healing, and your love, Mighty God. Transform our meager offerings into abundant gifts for a world in need of your light and life. Amen.~

We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing - Amidst a noisy world, make way to listen for God. In the busiest of days, find time to listen for God. For in the listening, we finally hear this truth: We are beloved children of God— created in love, created for love, created to love. Let's go out there to listen and love. Amen.~

Postlude

All Hail King Jesus/Majesty, Martha Main, YouTube

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