

"Baptism of Christ," painting by Dave Zelenka, 2005



BAPTISM OF CHRIST: 1ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
A Service of the Word

January 10, 2021 10:00 a.m.

The Baptism of Christ: the 1st Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Lord, you can do everything. We beg you to take pity on us, making us not merely listen to what you say, but put it into practice also. Send the flood of your waters over our souls, destroying within us what should be destroyed, and giving life to that which should live.”

— Origen (c. 185 – c. 254)

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day, the day of Christ's resurrection

Prelude — “Now Thank We All Our God” BWV 657 by Bach

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Welcome

Greeting

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

Call to Worship

One: Mountains and rivers
Island and oceans

Many: **Give God glory**

One: Children and lovers
Rulers and nations

Many: **Give God glory**

One: All who live
All who breathe

Many: **Give God glory**

One: Exciting God
Glorious God

Many: **Baptize us with wonder**

One: Wise God
Righteous God

Many: **Baptize us with justice**

One: Holy God
Covenant God

Many: **Baptize us with love**

Hymn — “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

this bulletin, pg. 7

Prayer of the Day

One: Let us pray.

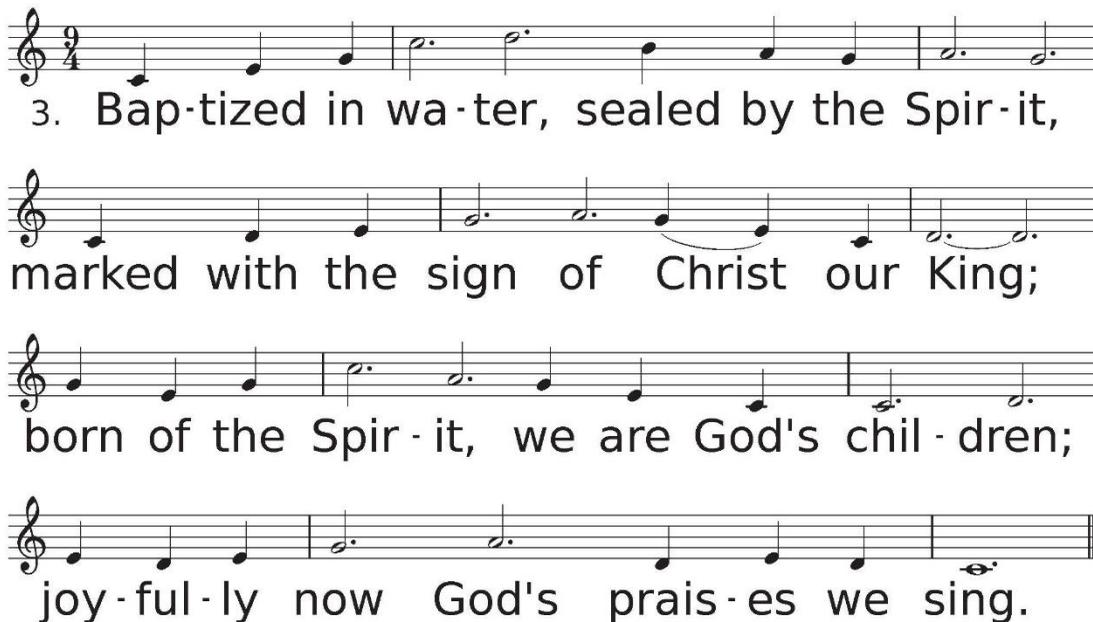
Many: God of the tearing heaven,
whose holiness is unveiled
by one who is submerged
in all the pain and sin of earth:
give us faith to follow him
who goes to the heart of darkness
bearing only the Spirit
of gentile, insistent peace;
through Jesus Christ, the promised one. Amen.

News from our Life Together

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Refrain — from “Baptized in Water”



3. Bap-tized in wa-ter, sealed by the Spir-it,
marked with the sign of Christ our King;
born of the Spir-it, we are God's chil-dren;
joy-ful-ly now God's prais-es we sing.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading — Acts 19:1-7

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

Scripture Reading — Mark 1:4-11

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

The Early Word

Lisa Haupt

The *refrain* (from "Baptized in Water" – music above) is repeated.

Sermon

The Rev. Matthew Emery

RESPONSE

We begin our lives of responding to the gospel in prayer and offering

Responding with our Gifts

Give online: Go to www.storrscongchurch.org and click the green "Give now..." button.

Text: Text "StorrsCongChurch" to 73256, followed by your gift amount (i.e. "StorrsCongChurch \$100").

Those participating via Zoom are welcome to submit prayer petitions (joys and concerns) via the Chat feature.

An Offering Thought

"[Paul] said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' " – Acts 19:2

As we celebrate the baptism of Jesus and recall our own initiation into God's family, we can be confident that God works within us, giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit, and equipping us to be faithful disciples who are well in body, mind, and spirit.

OFFERTORY MUSIC — "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" by Wilberg

Adult Choir

Tina Huey, flute; Jonathan Elmer, oboe

Jonah Garcia, music editing; Dick Roberts, photos

My Shepherd will supply my need:
Jehovah is His Name;
In pastures fresh He makes me feed,
Beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back
When I forsake His ways,
And leads me, for His mercy's sake,
In paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death
Thy presence is my stay;
One word of Thy supporting breath
Drives all my fears away.
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes,
Doth still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows,
Thine oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God
Attend me all my days;
O may Thy house be my abode,
And all my work be praise.

There would I find a settled rest,
While others go and come;
No more a stranger, nor a guest,
But like a child at home.

The Prayers of the People, *ending with* The Lord's Prayer

Many: 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 glory forever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world

Hymn — “May God Support You All Your Days”

this bulletin, pg. 8

Times of Passage: Farewell and Ending of an Authorized Ministry

GREETING FROM LOCAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP

REMEMBRANCE AND RECOGNITION

GIVING AND SHARING SYMBOLS

RECOGNITION OF THE END *The Rev. Elizabeth Garrigan-Byerly, area conference minister*

One: On October 3rd, 2010, this local church called the Reverend Matthew Charles Emery as a pastor and teacher of this church, to serve as senior minister.

Matt: *I thank the Storrs Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last ten years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.*

Many: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

Matt: *I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.*

VOWS OF RELEASE

One: Do you, the members and friends of the Storrs Congregational Church of Christ, United Church of Christ, release Matthew from the duties of pastor and teacher

of this church as your senior minister?

Many: We do, with the help of God.

One: Do you offer your encouragement for his ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

Many: We do, with the help of God.

One: Do you, Matthew, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?

Matt: I do, with the help of God.

One: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and on the relationship with another who will come to serve?

Matt: I do, with the help of God.

WITNESS OF THE ASSOCIATION

One: On behalf of the Windham Association, the Southern New England Conference, and the wider United Church of Christ, I witness to the words spoken: words of thankfulness, forgiveness, and release. The member churches of our association and conference hold each of you in prayer. We pledge our support in the transitions signified in this service.

Many: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER

BLESSING

Hymn — “Now Thank We All Our God”

this bulletin, pg. 9

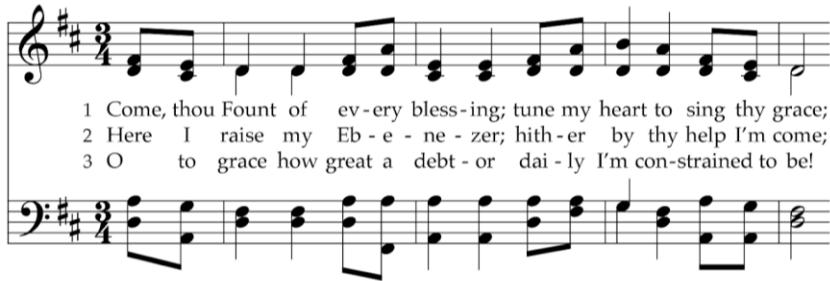
Benediction

Postlude — “Toccata in G” (*excerpt*) by Dubois

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Following the postlude, the Zoom Meeting will remain open for those who wish to connect and chat—a bring-your-own-coffee “coffee hour”! We look forward to connecting with you!

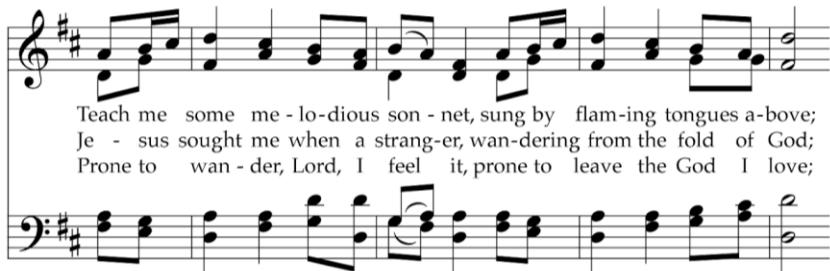
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475



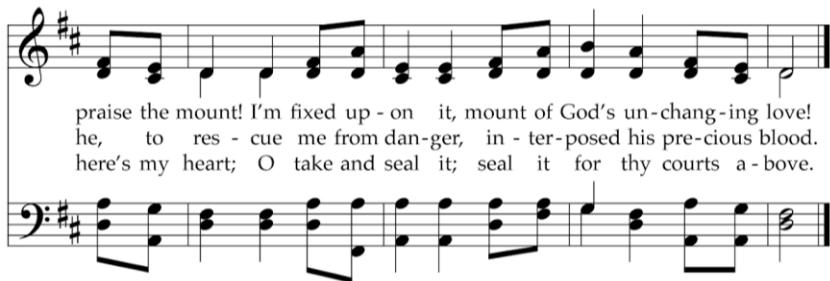
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

SENDING

548 May God Support You All Your Days

(Psalm 20)

1 May God sup - port you all your days, in times of
2 May God con - firm your heart's de - sire and bring to
3 May God be near you when you pray, to help you
4 Our hope is in the Ho - ly One. The swift and

glad - ness and in need. May God re - mem - ber you with
full - ness all your plans. May God's sus - tain - ing love in -
with a gen - tle hand. May God for - ev - er guide your
strong will sure - ly fall, but you will stand with God a -

grace and bless your ev - ery word and deed.
spire your shouts of praise and joy - ful dance.
way and lead you to the prom - ised land.
lone, who hears and an - swers when you call.

This text is loosely based on Psalm 20, the first of the psalms for the welfare of the king in battle. This royal psalm is here adapted as a sung blessing and prayer for those setting out on any new venture, making it appropriate for ordinations, weddings, or other such services.

TEXT: David Gambrell, 2009
MUSIC: Lee Hastings Bristol Jr., 1962
Text © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.)
Music © 1962 Theodore Presser Co. (admin. Carl Fischer, Inc.)

DICKINSON COLLEGE
LM

643 Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voice,
 2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,

who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
 to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:

who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

Although this hymn is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648). These words have been associated with this tune since the mid-17th century.

Notes and Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements:

- Cover art from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN; used by permission.
- Call to Worship by Ruth Burgess, in Ruth Burgess, ed., *Hay & Stardust: Resources for Christmas to Candlemas*, ©2005, pub. Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland.
- Hymn – “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”: Public domain. Reprinted from *Glory to God: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs*, ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press, #475.
- Prayer of the Day from Steven Shakespeare, *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*, ©2009, pub. Canterbury Press, Norwich UK, and Church Publishing Inc, New York.
- Refrain – “Baptized in Water”: Text © 1982 The Jubilate Group (admin. Hope Publishing Company) Music Arr. © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources. Reprinted from *Glory to God: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs*, ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press, #482.
- Scripture introductions reprinted from *Sundays and Seasons 2021*, ©2020 Augsburg Fortress, Publishers.
- Offering Thought from Rob Blezard, *Stewardship Snippets*, Stewardship of Life Institute.
- Hymn – “May God Support You All Your Days”: Text © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.) Music © 1962 Theodore Presser Co. (admin. Carl Fischer, Inc.) All rights reserved; reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-719182.
- Liturgy for Times of Passage: Farewell and Ending of an Authorized Ministry from *Book of Worship: United Church of Christ*, ©1986 United Church of Christ Office of Church Life and Leadership; alt.
- Hymn – “Now Thank We All Our God”: Public domain. Reprinted from *Glory to God: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs*, ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press, #643.

A Note on Giving: *We welcome and encourage your financial generosity in support of the Storrs Congregational Church UCC! Giving back to God and God’s mission through the life of this church is a part of your gratitude towards God and your faithful stewardship of all that God has entrusted to you.*

- **Mail:** *You can mail your check or money order to us at the church office*
- **Drop-off:** *You can drop off cash, checks, or money orders at the church office during the week.*
- **Online Bill Pay:** *Most banks and credit unions offer an “online bill pay” in their online account access. All you need to do is set up the church as another payee in that system, and your bank or credit union will print a check and mail it to us at no cost—you don’t even need to find a stamp!*
- **Online or text via ACH debit from a checking or savings account:** *By using our website giving portal (go to www.storrsconchurch.org and click the green “Give now...” button), you can make an auto-debit from your checking or savings account. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 1% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it is optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 1% processing fee.)*
- **Online or text via Debit Card or Credit Card:** *By using our website giving portal (go to www.storrsconchurch.org and click the green “Give now...” button), you can charge your contribution to a debit card or credit card. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 3% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it is optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 3% processing fee.) If using a credit card, know that we as a church do not want you to add to any debt load in order for you to contribute, as that’s not good stewardship! If using a credit card, please make sure, for your own sake, that it’s a card for which you pay off the balance each month.*

If you have any questions about how to make a contribution, or about your giving history, feel free to contact our Collector, Donna Latincics (contact info available through the church office).

We envision our community as a welcoming, historic, and progressive Christian community. *We are an Open and Affirming congregation: Believing that each of us is unique and blessed with special talents from God, each a creation of God's love, alike and yet different, we open our doors and our ministry to all. We accept into full participation in the life of this Church: people of any age, economic status, gender, marital status, race, sexual orientation, and physical, emotional and mental capability. As a community, we will work to put aside all prejudices and to affirm and promote the worth and dignity of each person.*

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

***We share in God's love by growing in faith,
courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.***

Ministers All of the Congregation

Senior Minister Rev. Matthew C. Emery – matt@storrscongregation.org | Ext. 23

Director of Music Ministries Dr. Patricia Snyder – trisha@storrscongregation.org | Ext. 26

Director of Faith Formation Lisa Haupt – lisa@storrscongregation.org | Ext. 22

Office Administrator Deborah Gacek – sccoffice@storrscongregation.org | Ext. 21

Communications & Digital Ministry Specialist Claire Galvin – claire@storrscongregation.org | Ext. 22

Sexton Antonio Aguilera