

WELCOME:

CALL TO WORSHIP & LITANY:

GOD OF THE WATERS

We are gathered to worship our God.
We come from many places, with many burdens.
We turn our hearts to you, O God.
Send your Spirit upon us,
and make us your beloved family.

God of the waters. Water of birth,
moving us from safety into the world.

God of the waters. Water of connection,
engaging the playful Spirit,
the passionate Christ,
the challenging God.

God of the waters. Water of life,
sustaining,
quenching,
cleansing.

God of the waters. Water of trouble,
journeying us from here to there,
from the known to the unknown.

God of the waters.
Birth us.
Connect us.
Live in us.
Trouble us.

— written by Scott A. Ressman in *Immerse Yourself: Elements for a Liturgy on Baptism of Christ Sunday*. Posted on the United Church of Christ website.

GATHERING SONG: ELW 304 Christ, When For Us You Were Baptised (vs. 1,2,4)

- 1 Christ, when for us you were baptized,
God's Spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove, and yet
as urgent as a flame,
as urgent as a flame.
- 2 God called you, "My beloved Son";
you are God's servant true,
sent to proclaim the reign of heav'n,
God's holy will to do,
God's holy will to do.
- 4 Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord;
your cross on us be signed,
that likewise in God's service we
may perfect freedom find,
may perfect freedom find.



Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984, alt.

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FIRST READING: Acts 19:1-7 *Reader Kathy Diekelman*

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He 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." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— ⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "What Feast of Love"

What feast of love is offered here,
what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life,
what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.
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GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11

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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON: Pastor Thaddeus Book

SERMON SONG: "Healing Waters"

Refrain:

Healing waters, flow over me
Mercy's water, renewing me
Mercy's ocean, transforming me
Healing water, renew me.

Verse 1:

Renew my heart, O God
Come change my hardened heart
Come fill my hardened heart with mercy
You are the water of life
You are the breath of heaven
Come fill my hardened heart with mercy, Lord
(Refrain)

Verse 2:

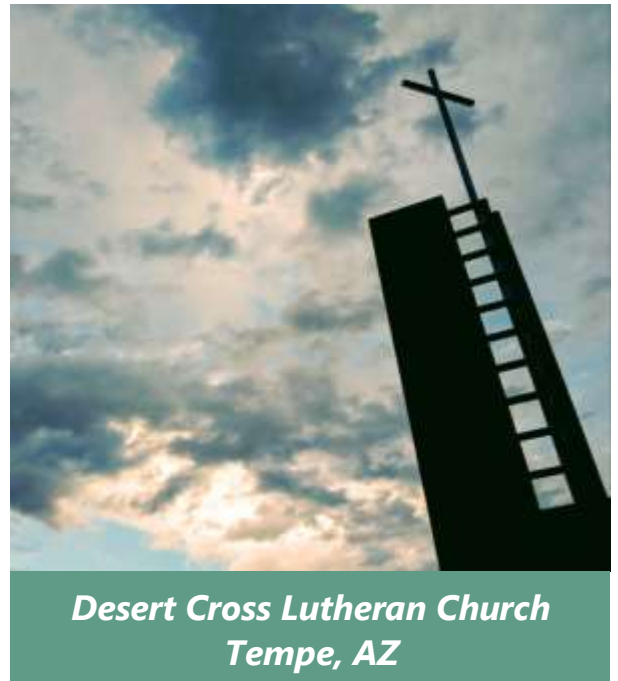
Wash me in waters of love;
Cleanse me and purify me
For only you can cleanse me, Lord
Wash over me, O Lord
Refresh my thirsty soul
For you alone can make me holy, Lord. **(Refrain)**

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OFFERING:

SPECIAL MUSIC: "In Christ Alone" – Joni Van Rossum

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

The peace of Christ be with you.

Let us pray.

God of light and darkness,
through water and Word
you shine your light into the darkness of our lives.
We give thanks for this incredible gift.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of hope and fear,
you walk with us through the challenges which surround us.
Wash away our anxiety by your promised presence,
and set us free from despair. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of church and world,
in baptism you unify yourself with our world.
Keep us from seeing your love as a hiding place.
Send us to infuse the world with your unity and justice. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of health and illness,
there is nothing that separates us from your love.
Inspire us to bring your health to the sick,
your encouragement to the discouraged,
your promise to the dying,
Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of life and death,
all that exists is from you, and for you.
Enable us to trust your baptismal promise,
and serve this hurting world.

*~ adapted from Rick Pryce, and posted on **Rick Pryce**. <http://rickpryce.wordpress.com/>*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.



SENDING SONG: ELW 671 "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

Chorus:

Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spiri, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your Word
Lord, and let there be light!

Verse 1:

Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me **(Chorus)**

Verse 2:

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here, may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me. **(Chorus)**

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

Music: Graham Kendrick

BENEDICTION:

God the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you;
And the Holy Spirit, the comforter +
keep you in peace. Amen.

Musicians: Daniel Decker (vocalist), Michael Lottes (vocalist), and Joni Van Rossum (piano)