



**MAPLE STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC**

**JANUARY 9, 2022**

*The Baptism of Christ  
First Sunday After Epiphany*

**WELCOME**

Rev. Douglas Vooyo

**PRELUDE**

*Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*

Helen Lemel, arr. Marilyn Ham  
Judy Bonnell, piano

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: God is with us each by name.

**ALL: God has created each of us with tender care.**

Leader: God is with us and calls us by name.

**ALL: In our baptism God claims us as one of his beloved.**

Leader: God is with us calls us by name.

**ALL: God walks with each of us on every step of our journey.**

**Blessed be God who knows us all and calls us by name. AMEN.**

**OPENING HYMN**

*Now Thank We All Our God*

Black No. 419

**INVOCATION OF GOD'S PRESENCE**

Heavenly God of glory and majesty, you have called us by name. We pray in this moment for the courage and strength to answer your call. As we open our ears to hear the story of our Son's baptism, open our hearts also, that we may experience again the renewing power of baptism in the Holy Spirit. Inspire us in this time of worship, that we may claim our own identity as your beloved children. We pray in the name of our brother, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**SUNG RESPONSE**

**Spirit divine, attend our prayers  
And make this house thy home;  
Descend with all thy gracious powers,  
O come, great Spirit, come!**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

**God of the universe, we stand amazed at your power and glory. We are eager to worship you and offer our praise, but we are often reluctant to answer when we hear you calling our name. We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but shy away from the river, lest we be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Forgive us when we forget your promise to be with us always, O God. Renew us with the power of your ever-present love and strengthen us to proclaim your justice throughout the world. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Hear the words of our creator who created and formed us in his own image: I have called you by name. You are mine. Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. You are marked as God's chosen ones to bring hope and peace to others. Be at peace and live in hope. This is the good news!

### **ANTHEM**

*SLANE*

Trad. Irish melody

arr. John Purifoy  
Kathy Gross, flute  
Judy Bonnell, piano

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Karen Kilty

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rev. Douglas Vooyo

### **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 today our daily bread. 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, for ever and ever, Amen.**

### **OFFERING**

As people who have passed through the waters of baptism, who are held by God's grace, who are called to love, let us make grateful offerings to God, our redeemer, by offering gifts of ourselves, as lives well lived, faithful and true to the call laid upon our hearts.

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

**O God, at his baptism, you acknowledged Jesus as your beloved Son,  
And through him you opened to us a way to become your children by grace.  
May these gifts we return to you be a sign of our dedication to live as your  
faithful daughters and sons, born in the waters of baptism by the power of  
The Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen**

**DOXOLOGY** (Sung in unison)

**Believe, with a hopeful heart!  
Believe, and shine your light!  
Believe, because the song we sing is sung for all!  
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his son.  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong;"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich because of what our God has done for us." Believe!**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*Luke 3:15-17,21-22*

**SERMON**

*"Claimed by God"*

Rev. Nancy Haynes

**CLOSING HYMN**

*I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*

Black No. 351

**BENEDICTION**

Go forth and share grace upon grace upon grace  
In likeness of our Sovereign, Jesus Christ.  
Share grace over waves of the sea, over all the earth,  
And over every person you encounter.  
Be as Christ. Amen.

**POSTLUDE**

*I've Got Peace Like a River*

Trad. American Spiritual arr. Mark Hayes  
Judy Bonnell, piano

*The flowers this Sunday are in loving memory of  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Atkinson,  
Thelma Kimball,  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Atkinson,  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Dever  
Given by Judy Polagye*

*Our lighted steeple is an important symbol of our presence in the community. Your contributions in memory of loved ones or to commemorate a special event help keep the steeple lit.  
If interested, please contact the Church Office:*

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**Morning Worship Service — Sundays at 10am**

**Zoom Prayer & Table Worship — Tuesdays at 6pm**

**Zoom Bible Study — Thursdays at 12noon**

**Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 10 am – 1 pm**