

C: I do.
L: Do you accept and embrace others who seek a liberating faith in God?
C: I do.
L: In renewing your baptismal vows, remember your baptism as a mark of acceptance and welcome into the care of Christ's church where you may begin again your Christian faith and life.
All: O God, we rejoice in your grace, given and received. We thank you that you claim us, that you wash us, strengthen us, and guide us, that you empower us to live a life worthy of our calling. In the way of Jesus, make us as water in a dry and thirsty world. Establish us to be places of refreshment. Root us and nurture us in love, that with all your people, that we may rightly and justly serve you. Fill us with your fullness that our lives may overflow in service and love. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ""

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE 780 NCH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Faithful God, bless us in our baptismal calling to be in ministry of showing hospitality to others. We offer the gifts that we have been given to be used not for conquest and dominance, but for use in liberating the poor and hurting people who pray for our liberation as well as their own. Receive and multiply our gifts for life-giving ministry. Amen. Amen.

We Go Forth

*CLOSING HYMN 165 NCH

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"I Love You with the Love of the Lord"
(Please join hands as we sing)
*Oh, I love you with the love of the Lord.
Yes, I love you with the love of the Lord.
I can see in you the glory of my King,
and I love you with the love of the Lord.*

* POSTLUDE ""

The Baptism of Christ (First Sunday after Epiphany)

January 8, 2012

Mark 1:4-11

CRITICAL PRESENCE

Our United Church of Christ Global Ministries define their top priority with two words: "Critical Presence": meeting God's children at the point of their deepest need in a timely and appropriate way. "Deepest need" includes not only material wants, such as food, medicine, and protection from harm, but emotional and spiritual needs, too.

Providing "Critical Presence" (or *acompanamiento*, as our Hispanic brothers and sisters call it) sounds like what Jesus did in his ministry, and it defines our mission as his disciples. There may be practical reasons why we separate our local, Conference, national, and global ministries. But in God's mission there are no such boundaries--it is one, united. That's why we can say that "Critical Presence" is really the top mission priority for the whole United Church of Christ.

Consider our local churches, which meet God's children at the point of their deepest need. Besides providing comfort for the bereaved and hope for the sick, UCC churches are present in their community food banks and homeless shelters, daycare and after-school programs, and accompanying new immigrants and refugees in their resettlement. And our UCC Conferences provide "Critical Presence" for their constituent churches as together they go through crises and leadership transitions, plan and finance building and rebuilding programs, and in their efforts to be open, affirming, and accessible to all.

Through our national ministries, guided by the decisions of General Synod, our church's witness for peace and justice meets members of our society at some of their points of deepest need. We accompany farm workers in the tomato fields of Florida, residents of communities exposed to toxic waste, and other marginalized people as they struggle to improve their lives.

Yes, "Critical Presence" is a mission priority for the *whole* United Church of Christ.

The 2012 Annual Meeting will be held next Sunday following worship. Please be present to help decide the important issues facing Trinity. There are a few copies of the report left. If you take one, please bring it back next Sunday. Full copies will be available prior to the meeting. A covered dish lunch will follow in the fellowship hall.

A Martin Luther King Peace & Justice Service will also be held next Sunday at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

The 2012 Flower calendar and the **bulletin** sign-up have been posted in the narthex. Please sign up for the Sunday you desire as soon as possible as it is first come – first served. The cost is \$20.00 per Sunday.



*Liturgy for the Celebration of Worship
Baptism of Our Lord*

January 8, 2012

10:30 A.M.

* Those who are able are invited to stand "Black" New Century Hymnal (NCH)
"Red" Evangelical & Reformed Hymnal (E & R)

Please wear your nametag in worship.

Please fill-out the pew register (including children!) and pass it down the pew. At the end of the row pass it back and note the names of those who are sharing your pew so that you might greet them after worship.

Please note prayer requests on the cards found in your pew and pass to the center aisle during the first hymn.

A nursery is available during worship for ages 0-2. We also have a beginners' room for ages 3 through 1st grade). Please contact an usher for directions if necessary.

We Gather as God's People

WELCOME /ANNOUNCEMENTS

RJ Nagy

PRELUDE ""

"The voice of the Lord is upon the waters."
(Psalm 29.3)

INTROIT

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Holy One,

Cong: who made heaven and earth.

Leader: As we have gathered here to worship, let us stand and greet one another in the love of Christ.

* HYMN

(Sing twice)

*"Enter, rejoice, and come in. Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in."*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Bob Heimbach

L: In the midst of unemployment, debt, illness, all the hardships of life, why have you come to worship?

C: **We come because Isaiah reminds us that no suffering or pain can separate us from God.**

L: I hear the Prophet Isaiah calling, "Arise, shine for your light has come!" I'm ready for that bright light from God to light my way. We see that light in Jesus, God-with-Us, and we recognize that light in our lives, too: We are all created in God's image: God's light was born in us as we breathed our first breath.

C: We come to worship to connect God’s light in us to God’s light in Christ, and so illumine the world.
L: What a reason to worship! How do we recognize that light? In compassion for all, in justice for the poor, in welcome for the stranger we shine God’s light into the world.
C: So come let us bring the joys and hardships of life to worship and celebrate that god’s light is already with us and within us. Let us worship God!

* OPENING HYMN 159 NCH
“As with Gladness Those of Old”

* OPENING PRAYER
Creating, Calling, and Faithful god, we come to this time and place to be with you, to worship you, and to learn from you. May our time together be like your creation of light in the darkness that you called good. May it be that you would call us good while we respond to your call and as we listen to you. Amen.

* THE GLORIA 759 NCH
Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

We Hear God Speaking

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

L: Lord,
C: open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON Matthew 2.1-12 pew Bible, p. 877

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,² asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.⁵ They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the

star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

CHIMES (The children may come to the front during the playing of the chimes.)

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US Rev. Doty
(Children ages 0-1st grade are invited to go to the nursery area after the children’s time for faith formation.)

We Lift Our Praise and Prayer to God

ANTHEM

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: God be with you.
C: And also with you.
L: As God’s beloved children, let us pray that the light of Christ shine on the nations, the church, and all those in need.

(Brief silence)

Give strength to your people, that all the baptized show forth your loving presence in the world. We pray for our bishops, the congregations of our companion synods, and all our partners in ministry. Here us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Congregational Prayer Response (throughout)

L: Hear us, O God.
C: Your mercy is great.
L: Holy God, we lift our prayers to you in hope, entrusting all for whom we pray to your great goodness and mercy, made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Who taught us to pray saying:

The Lord’s Prayer (debts/debtors)

PRAYER RESPONSE 769 NCH
Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

* HYMN OF PREPARATION 167 NCH
“Mark How the Lamb of God’s Self-Offering”

We Hear the Good News

* THE GOSPEL LESSON Mark 1.4-11 pew Bible, p. 910

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

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

Liturgist: The Word of God for all people.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

SERMON *“New Beginnings”* Rev. Doty

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Introduction

L: God created new life forms and brought them up from the waters of chaos, embraced them, and called them good.Let us prepare our hearts and minds to see, feel, and hear once again the vows of baptism.

CALL TO CONFESSION

People of God, we desire to be refreshed, renewed and changed. Let us listen again to God’s calling our names to encourage us and strengthen our resolve to be God’s people in faithfulness and peace-loving justice.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we hear your voice and we see the way of Jesus set before us. But it’s hard, dear God, to try again and again to live up to our baptismal vows and maintain our resolve to be your people in the world. In repentance we ask you to forgive us. Set us once again on a holy path that leads to you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S CALL

Sisters and Brothers, God hears our prayers and sets before us the way of Jesus. God calls us and gives us enough grace and mercy to follow the way. Thanks to be God.

VOWS OF RENEWAL

L: Do you renew and affirm the promises made at your baptism?

C: I do.

L: Do you recognize the call of God to be God’s people always?

C: I do.

L: Do you embrace the way of Jesus in faith and ministry?

C: I do.

L: Do you accept the nurture of the Holy spirit who renews your spirit each day?

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Today **Sunday School**, 9:15 a.m.
Worship, 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Monday **Bloodmobile**, 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
Stewardship Board, 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Tuesday **AA**, 7:30 p.m. in the Old Fellowship Hall.
Wee Twos, 9:30 a.m. in the Beginner's Room.

Thursday **Consistory**, 7:30 p.m. in the Blue Room.
Wee Twos, 9:30 a.m. in the Beginner's Room.
Bell Choir, 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
Trinity Choir, 7:45 p.m. in the Choir Room.

Saturday **AA**, 8:00 p.m. in the Old Fellowship Hall.
Undecorating, 9:00 a.m.

Next Sunday **LINK DEADLINE!**
Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.
Worship, 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
Annual Meeting & President's Potluck, following worship.
MLK Service, 4:00 p.m.



Thank you to:

RJ Nagy, member of Church & Ministry, for bringing the announcements.

Bob Heimbach, our liturgist today.

Dwight Powers, our head usher for January.

Allison Vaccaro & Claudia Skoglund, today's acolytes.

Clark & Rose Ann Stair, our greeters this morning.

Jack & Karen Parsons, for providing today's altar flowers in memory of **Victor & Gail Summersgill**.

Emily Schmeltzer, our beginner's volunteer; and **Bruce & Brenna Thibault**, our nursery volunteers today.



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Director of Music: Ann Hudson
Organist: Dale Guiley, AGO, Honorary Minister of Music
Administrative Assistant: Cheryl Powers
Custodian: Kevin Weltzien
Supervisor of Sunday School: Kelly Weber
Mission Developer: Rev. Tom Gerstenlauer