

January 12, 2025
Baptism of Jesus

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Mr. Kevin Crone

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

PRAYERFUL CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Isaiah 42)

Pastor: God says, “Behold! You are my servants, whom I uphold. You are my chosen in whom I delight. I have put my Spirit upon you, to bring forth justice in all the world. Do not be discouraged nor accept failure. Justice will be done! Remember, I am the Lord. I have called you. I have taken you by the hand and led you. You will be a light to the nations.”

All people: Lord, I give you praise because I have experienced you in my life. You have chosen me since I was in my mother’s womb, chosen me to be your child – your disciple. My entire life, I pray that I may live within you, as you live within me. I have another hope, Lord, and that is to be used by you forever. Lord, touch and mold me again. Fill me and use me for your purposes and will. Amen.

HYMN & CONFESSION

Blue Hymnal, #259

*All SING: Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me. Mold me. Fill me. Use me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.*

*All SAY: You asked for my hands that you might use them for your purpose.
I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard.
You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice.
I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.*

*All SING: Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me. Mold me. Fill me. Use me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.*

*All SAY: You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty.
I closed them for I did not want to see.
You asked for my life that you might work through me.
I gave a small part that I might not get too involved.*

All SING: *Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me. Mold me. Fill me. Use me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.*

All SAY: *Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you,
only when it is convenient for me to do so,
and only in those places where it is safe for me to do so.
Lord, forgive me, renew me, send me out as a usable instrument
that I might take seriously your claim on my life.
I am your child, your beloved. May you be well pleased with me.*

All SING: *Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me. Mold me. Fill me. Use me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Daughters and sons of God, forgiveness is for real! You are a baptized people. In Christ Jesus, we're washed clean, are being washed clean, and will forever be washed clean. Those who are washed clean need no other cleansing. Rise up! Live as one who has heard God say to you, "This is my child whom I dearly love and with whom I am very pleased."

All people: *I thank you, Lord, for melting, molding, and filling me anew. I say, "Yes God! Use me according to your will and purpose." Amen.*

PRAISE HYMN *Let All Things Now Living* **Blue Hymnal, #717**

(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

HEBREW READING **Isaiah 42:1-9**

GOSPEL READING **Matthew 3:3-17**

SERMON **Rev. Laura Baker**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

All people: *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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.*

ANTHEM *O Love How Deep, How Broad, How High* (Schalk) **Chancel Choir**

(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: As we remember both Jesus' baptism and our own today, we consider what it means to dedicate our lives to serving God and others in the way of Jesus. One of the things it means is supporting this congregation through our abilities, our time, and our financial resources. Let's consider how we can do that again, as we offer all we give with a song and a prayer. Please stand as you are able.

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

OFFERING RESPONSE *Accept, O God, the Gifts* **Blue Hymnal, #379**

(Tune: Ellacombe)

*Accept, O God, the gifts we bring of spirit and of clay.
Transform them into blessings on those we serve today.
Rekindle deep within us all a passion to fulfill –
The ministry disciples have, empowered to do your will.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: *Living God, you baptize and bless us with your Spirit. We are your beloved and we are so grateful for the loving designs you have on our lives. You bless us to be a blessing to others. May you be well pleased with the time, talent, and money we joyfully and generously give to do your continuing word of justice and peace in the world. Amen.*

HYMN *Go, My Children With my Blessing* **Blue Hymnal, #431**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: God says, "Behold! You are my servants, whom I uphold. You are my chosen in whom I delight. I have put my Spirit upon you, to bring forth justice in all the world. Do not be discouraged nor accept failure. Justice will be done! Remember, I am the Lord. I have called you. I have taken you by the hand and led you. You will be a light to the nations."

All people: *Lord, I give you praise because I have experienced you in my life. You have chosen me since I was in my mother's womb, chosen me to be your child – your disciple. My entire life, I pray that I may live within you, as you live within me. I have another hope, Lord, and that is to be used by you forever. Lord! Touch and mold me again. Fill me and send me forth to serve according to your purpose and will. Amen.*

POSTLUDE