

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor
Mrs. Amy Peck, Worship Choir Director
Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

February 02, 2025

9:45 AM

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Guess Who?: Investigating Key Figures of the Bible

Mt. Zion Bible Detectives: Uncovering the Wonders and Mysteries of the Faith

Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are a guest, we invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary.

We welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices in our worship! For your comfort, we also have a children's corner in the back narthex where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. We have children's books and activity bags for them to enjoy! Additionally, after the children's message, children from 3 years old—6th grade are invited to participate in Sunday school in our classroom downstairs. They can choose to attend Sunday school or return to their seats to sit with their parents. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS & CONCERNS

WEEKLY CLUES

PRELUDE

Morning Songs

arr. Tate

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

L: As Sarah waited...Ninety years for a son to fulfill God's promise.

C: We wait in hope for what we thought had been spoken to us.

L: As Moses waited...40 years in the desert, being prepared by God to lead his people.

C: We wait for emptiness and humility; for bravado to wither.

L: As Israel waited...40 years of wandering, hungry, depressed, thirsting, unsure.

C: We wait for the right time to act.

L: As the Prophets waited...1000 years of promises that God would raise up a Saviour.

C: We wait for the signs that God has not forgotten.

L: As Mary waited...9 months of her 14 years for the child of God.

C: We feel the birth-pains, yet fear for the child.

L: As John the Baptist waited...Scanning the crowds for the one whose sandals he would not be worthy to untie.

C: We long for an experience of the Divine

L: As Jesus waited... 30 years of creeping time. 40 days in the desert of temptation. 3 years of misunderstanding. 3 days in the depths of hell.

C: So we wait for God's time. Preparing the way. Our turn to toil on leveling mountains and straightening paths. Our turn to watch the horizon. Our turn to pass on the hope that He who promised is faithful and will come back.

OPENING HYMN NO. 459 NCH (black hymnal, see next page) *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*



Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Robert Robinson, 1758

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♩ = 80

Piano



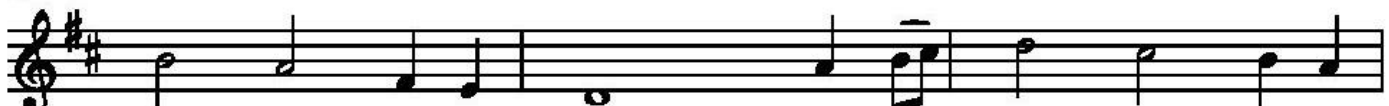
1. Come, O Fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my
2. Here I pause in my so - journ - ing, giv - ing
3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly

4




heart to sing your grace; streams of mer - cy nev - er ceas - ing, call for
thanks for hav - ing come, come to trust, at ev - ery turn - ing, God will
I am drawn a - new! Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my

8




songs of end - less praise. Teach me some me - lo - dious
guide me safe - ly home. Je - sus sought me when a
wan - dering heart to you. Prone to wan - der, I can

11



son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the
strang - er, wan - dering from the fold of God, Came to
feel it, wan - der from the love I've known: Here's my

14



mount I'm fixed up - on - it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.
res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y pre - cious blood.
heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

***TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Claiming God,

C: We are incredibly stubborn. We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires. Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Again let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 2237 FWS (vs. 1 & 2)

As a Fire is Meant for Burning

ALL SING: As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame. So the church is meant for mission giving glory to God's name. Not to preach our creeds or customs but to build a bridge of care. We join hands across the nations finding neighbors everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers, we are pilgrims on the way. We are seekers; we are givers. We are vessels made of clay By our gentle, loving actions we would show that Christ is light. In a humble, listening Spirit we would live to God's delight.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GUESS WHO SCRIPTURE READING

SERMON

HYMN (see next page)

God, You Call Us to the Waters

God, You Call Us to the Waters

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♩ = 80



1. God, you call us to the wa - ters where your
2. We con - fess your in - vi - ta - tion sounds too
3. When we search for things to feed us that will
4. May your church here be a wit - ness to your

4



gra - cious bless - ings flow, Yet we ask: "What should we
won - drous to be true. Milk and wine and your sal -
ne - ver sat - is - fy, Lord we pray that you will
gen - er - os - i - ty. May we share your life and

7



of - fer?" "What's the cost?" We want to know. What we
- va - tion, liv - ing wa - ter, gifts from you! May your
lead us to the wa - ters you pro - vide. Help us
whole - ness, gifts of grace for all and free. May the

10



long for, can we earn it? Can we buy it? Can we
wa - ters and your ta - ble now re - mind us you are
turn to seek your wa - ters, as re - pent - ing sons and
poor find here your king - dom; May the seek - ers find a

13



learn it? What's the cost? We want to know.
a - ble to give life, and life a - new.
daugh - ters; Lead us to a - bun - dant life.
wel - come; May the hun - gry come and eat.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE³

A TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

I Am the Bread of Life

by Talbot

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

Invitation to the Table

by Beall

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION⁴

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

REMEMBERING THE STORY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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.

INVITATION TO SHARE THE MEAL

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Almighty God,

C: as Christ was made manifest in the streams of the Jordan, so he is made manifest for us again in the bread and the wine, and for this we thank you. Use us to make him known to all people. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 456 ELW** (see next page)

Baptized in Water




Baptized in Water

Michael Saward, 1932


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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$



1. Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the
2. Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the
3. Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the

3




Spir - it, cleansed by the blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal -
Spir - it, dead in the tomb with Christ our king: one with his
Spir - it, marked with the sign of Christ our king: born of the

6



- va - tion, trust-ing his prom - ise, faith-ful-ly now God's praise we
ris - ing, freed and for - giv - en, thank-ful-ly now God's praise we
Spir - it, we are God's chil - dren: joy - ful-ly now God's praise we

9



sing.
sing.
sing.

BENEDICTION

L: Baptized, we will not forget Christ's claim on our lives.

C: We will roll up our sleeves, ready to be Christ's church in the world.

L: Baptized, we will go to share God's love with others.

C: We will welcome those the world rejects as our sisters and brothers.

L: Baptized, we will become the grace of our Lord Jesus.

C: We will share the waters of life with everyone we meet.

L: Baptized, we will become the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

C: We will be a community of justice, not judgment; we will be a household of hope, not an exclusive club for just a few.

L: Go forth, and remember, you, beloved, are never alone—because you go with the blessings of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—this day and always. Amen.

POSTLUDE

River of Glory

by Schutte

References

¹The Call To Worship, Waiting, was provided for use as Worship Trick No.67 on Johnny Baker's Worship Tricks website. And accessed for use 1/27/25.

²The Time of Confession was shared for use and posted on the Worship Connection page of the Ministry

Matters website. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/article/entry/4549/worship-connection-january-12-2014> and accessed for use 1/27/25.

³The Prayers of the People are adapted from prayers written the Lutheran Church of Australia's Worship Planning Page. And accessed for use 1/27/25.

⁴Communion Liturgy is adapted from the writings shared for use by <https://lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com/2017/01/02/epiphanybaptism-of-our-lord-a/> and accessed 1/27/25.

Thank you to all serving in worship this morning!

Welcome Team Members—Vanessa Bicher, Nancy & Barry Schwartz, Sarah Shaffer

Liturgist— Tama Allison

Tech Team— Joe Vacante