

## January 9, 2022 – First Sunday after the Epiphany

Prelude

Ring of the Bell

Opening Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 169 - Our opening hymn connects to today's Gospel. Thomas Troeger was inspired by seeing a picture of a muddy Jordan River and realizing the materiality of Christ's experience at baptism. The refrain says "Water, River, Spirit, Grace, sweep over me! Recarve the depths your fingers traced in sculpting me."

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Gather from East and West, from North and South. God is calling us; listen, for God is naming you.

**Congregation: The voice of God thunders through our midst. The voice of God is powerful and full of majesty.**

Liturgist: Bow in awe before the one who created you. God knows you completely yet accepts you.

**Congregation: The voice of God commands our attention. The voice of God is like fire and tornado.**

Liturgist: God reaches out to strengthen, not condemn us. God brings us through terror to a place of peace.

**Congregation: Ascribe to God glory and strength. Worship God in awe, wonder, and joy!**

Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 354 - Inspired by today's reading from Isaiah, "God, When I Came into This Life" says in the first verse, "God, when I came into this life, you called me by my name; Today I come, commit myself. responding to your claim."

Confession of Sin

O God, the waters of faithfulness run deep, and we have been afraid they will overwhelm us. The fires of your Spirit burn brightly, and we fear we may be consumed if we display too much enthusiasm. We retreat to safe places where we hope to avoid challenges, conflicts, and uncertainty. When we shrink from risks, we miss much that enriches life. We fail to notice your amazing activity among those who respond to your leading. Free us, we pray, for daring service. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Gloria Patri

Old Testament Lesson – Isaiah 43:1-7

Hymn of Praise (Recorded) - "How Great is the Miracle" by Sally DeFord, performed by the First UCC Choir

Children's Sermon

Lesson from the Acts of the Apostles – Acts 8:14-17

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory - NCH 165 - Today's offertory is a fantasy inspired by "Love Came Down at Christmas."

Gospel Lesson – Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sermon

Closing Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 407 - Also connected to the reading from Isaiah, "How Firm a Foundation" is based on an early American melody. The first verse closes with "What more can God say than to you has been said, to you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?"

Benediction

Postlude