

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
BAPTISM OF THE LORD (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After the Epiphany)

JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 @ 11 A.M.

SUNDAY BULLETIN



Living in the Light

**WELCOME** to *your* faith community! We are happy to worship with you today and pray that your spirit will be blessed by our time together in the presence of our Creator. If this is your first time at Zion, welcome! Zion Reformed United Church of Christ has roots over 250 years in the making with visions of thriving long into the future. We invite you to consider making Zion Reformed UCC your church home if you haven't already and let us tell the story of Jesus and His love together!

Today, we celebrate the baptism of our Lord this first Sunday after Epiphany. The usual Epiphany symbols, like the wise men from Matthew's story don't seem to fit as nicely into our Epiphany worship "season" with the baptism of Jesus being celebrated today also. Yet, light as the central symbol of the season can certainly be enhanced with the water of baptism. Epiphany is about seeing Christ, about the manifestation of Messiah in the person of Jesus. Certainly, the proclamation made at his baptism, the tearing open of the heavens, and the descending of the Spirit like a dove can be that revelatory experience reminding us of the visible evidence of the presence of Christ in the world. When we claim the new life that we embrace at our baptism, we live the light that we proclaim. We are the witness to the activity of our Lord in the midst of the present-day reality.

We survived 2020 and have begun a new year filled with endless possibilities, and while there might still be lingering effects of the pandemic and unrest, it is time to embrace a new possibility, a new hope. The heavens have been torn open. But this isn't a threat; it's a promise of something new, something better. Let us commit ourselves to a closer walk with Christ. Let the waters of baptism renew us and cleanse us for our mission and ministry as followers of Jesus.

## *WE GATHER*

Gathering Music✠

“Ciacona in C-Minor”

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship✠

“We All Believe in One God”

If you haven't already, please gather the following supplies for use during this service:

- 10-15 Sheets of Paper
- Bowl of Water
- 10 Small Rocks or Pebbles
- Markers, Crayons or Pens in Assorted Colors
- 5 Recent News Stories about Water (bookmark or print out articles)
- Matches
- Candle (for each participant)
- Extra Credit: Photos from family baptisms, baptismal candles/shells and/or baptism certificates

## *WE PREPARE*

Gathering Prayer

Come to this font to find blessing and hear the divine echo sweep over the face of the waters calling out blessing and joy. Come to pull up a chair beside this basin or bowl or whatever you found in the back of the cupboard to remember that God's grace doesn't require gold or silver, but is poured out in abundant love. Come to splash and wade into this water to hear again that you are beloved. You have brought pleasure and glory to God's name. Come and touch the water to remember God's love for you.

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 1:1-5 (NRSV)

Lector: Barb Hendershot

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

## *PRAYER STATIONS*

### Prayer Station One: Water

What does water do? How often do you touch water in one day? When do you touch water and why? Why is water important?

Review the news stories you found for worship today – What in these stories reminds you how important water is?

Place a pebble or rock in the bowl of water for each gift water brings. With each pebble or rock, say aloud, "God, I (we) praise you for the gift of water."

Prayer for the Many Waters

Responsive  
Barb Hendershot

**Awesome God, we thank you for the water in our bathtubs and sinks. We thank you for the water that rains from the sky and the water inside our bodies. We thank you for rivers and lakes; for the Potomac and the Chesapeake. We thank you for oceans and ponds full of fish, turtles and frogs. We give thanks for the gift of water. May water always remind us of your love. Amen.**

### Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:4-11 (NRSV)

<sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." <sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

### Video Reflection

"Come Thou Fount"

### Prayer Station 2: Remembering

Were you baptized? Do you remember it? Touch the water in the bowl. What does the water feel like? Touch your head with the water to see what it is like.

You have washed your hands a lot in this pandemic. How is this different? Have you learned anything new about water this past year?

## Meditative Interlude✦

“O Worship the King”

During this time of music reflection, please give each participant in your household a fresh piece of paper and place the markers or crayons within reach of everyone as we continue to our next prayer station.

### Prayer Station Three: Beloved

Who are you? What gifts do you bring to this congregation, to the wider community, to the world? At Jesus’ baptism, God called him “Beloved.” What names does God call you?

Ready yourself to hear who God says you are by writing God’s name on your piece of paper. Draw a shape or a line or a doodle around God’s name. This is your prayer space. Now listen. Who does God say you are?

As you hear each name God calls you, surround God’s name with those names God calls you. Draw a shape or a line around each name. Doodle or color lines and shapes that connect these names to God. Think of each stroke of your crayon or marker as a prayer of hope and possibility.

Take a breath or say “Amen” for each name God has called you.

### Video Reflection

“All Belong Here”

During this time of music reflection, notice all of the objects that they have collected. Marvel for just a moment at the ways that we are learning to be church together. We are becoming something new and wonderful. There is lots to praise here. Afterwards, move your candle(s) and matches to the center of your focus and within reach before our next prayer station.

### Prayer Station Four: Becoming

There is a hymn\* that claims that in water we grow. We have changed in this season of washing our hands so much and with such intention. \**[“In Water We Grow,” lyrics by Brian Wren, ©1993 by Hope Publishing Company set to the tune of Laudate Dominum by C. Hubert Parry, ©Public Domain]*

Who are you becoming? How are you growing, or where do you anticipate growth? Where are you led? Where is God calling you to serve?

Spark a match and light a candle in the hope of all that you are becoming.

## Baptismal Waters Litany

When they say: you are alone.

**These waters say: You are "with."**

When they say: You are too broken, damaged goods, too wounded, not enough.

**These waters say: Enough, beloved. Enough.**

When they say: You are too brown, child, Too black. Too queer, child. Too fat.

**These waters say: Beautiful, child. Beautiful.**

When they say: You are too addicted, stranger. Immigrant, alien. Criminal. Too far gone, stranger.

**These waters say: Home, neighbor. Welcome home.**

When they say: We could sell these waters and turn a profit!

**These waters say: We are the waters of the Jordan,**

the waters of the Atlantic, the waters of the Patuxent.

**We are the waters of your Mother's womb, and we are free!**

When they say: Fear.

**These waters say: Trust.**

When they say: Commodify. Consume.

**These waters say: Life.**

Contemplative Interlude ✨

"How Firm a Foundation"

## Installation of the 2021 Consistory

Brothers and sisters in Christ, baptized into the priesthood of Christ we are called to offer ourselves as disciples of Christ in thanksgiving for what Christ has done and continues to do for us. It is our privilege to recognize and support those who are engaged in the work of this congregation.

The following people have been newly elected or reinstated by the congregation to the positions of leadership. Please come forward as your names are read: Michael Jones, Deacon, and Tina Shafer, Deacon.

The following consistory members have agreed to serve as officers or other appointed position on the consistory: Becky Owens, President; Kim Ridenour, Vice President; Carroll Sager, Consistory Secretary; Rae Smith, Financial Recording Secretary; Lisa Saum, Treasurer; Carol Mooers, Special Funds Treasurer; and Rev Katie Penick as Pastoral Advisor.

The following consistory members renew their commitment and continue to serve as Deacons:  
Daisy Schlatterbeck and Dee Krause.

In Holy Baptism, Christ Jesus liberated you from sin and death and welcomed you to this Holy Community. Your faith has been nurtured through Word and Sacrament. Now this community of faith has embraced you in special leadership roles.

In his letter to the Corinthian Church, Paul wrote that there are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but that they are given by the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve Christ, but the same Christ is served. There are different abilities to perform service but the same God gives us the abilities. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each and every person.

*To Consistory:*

You have accepted the office to which you have been elected or appointed. Do you promise, with God as your helper, to faithfully fulfill its duties?

**We do, with the help of God.**

God has endowed each of us with unique gifts and talents for the work of the church and of ministry. Will you accept this church office in proportion to your faith to lead with diligence, and to lead God's people according to your discernment of God's will?

**We will, with the help of God.**

Do you covenant and promise that you will walk together in love for one another, and exercise affectionate watchfulness over all those given to your charge?

**We will, with the help of God.**

*To the Congregation:*

People of God, will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

**We will, with the help of God.**

I now declare you installed as council members of this congregation. God bless you with the Holy Spirit, so that you may prove faithful servants of Christ.

Let us pray: We give thanks, O God, for all who offer themselves in Your name. Grant them the joy of service and constant care and guidance. May we all be willing disciples and

thankful recipients of ministry, that Your name be glorified, your people live in peace and your will be done. Through Christ Jesus we pray, --Amen.

*WE RESPOND*

Blessing Our Gifts

Prayer of Dedication

**God of redemption and new life, we focus once more this day on the greatest gift ever given – Jesus, our Savior. As he was baptized by John in the Jordan, we were able to share in his baptism and receive the promise of sharing in Jesus’ resurrection. As we leave a painful year behind and look with hope to the new year ahead, help us to live and give of ourselves as those who know every day what a great gift we have been given. May it move us to give our whole selves more freely! In the name of Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, we pray! Amen.**

Prayer of Our Savior

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

*WE ARE SENT TO SERVE*

Sending Forth

Benediction

Prelude to Service✦

“Prelude in G-Minor”

*GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!*

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**Prayer Requests**



As a faith community, we are here to support and pray for one another. As a rule of thumb, we should pray for all of our Zion siblings even when a specific need isn’t voiced, but especially when a need is. Prayer is one of the most important spiritual disciplines of our faith, promoting communication with God, and love for God and neighbor.

Submit your prayer requests to the church office by phone at 301.739.7244 or email at [zionrucc@myactv.net](mailto:zionrucc@myactv.net) so we can pray with you and your loved ones.



## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of January 10<sup>th</sup>



### Church Office Update

Due to the pandemic and following guidance set forth for businesses and organizations, please refrain as much as possible from person-to-person contact. If possible, consider trying to conduct your business over the phone or by email. If an in-person meeting is required or preferred, please schedule an appointment with Darlene prior to coming in. This helps ensure best safety practices are followed and limits the possibility of others being in the building at the same time. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to navigate this pandemic together!

Church Office: [zionrucc@myactv.net](mailto:zionrucc@myactv.net) or 301.739.7244

### Bulletin and Newsletters

Submit your weekly bulletin news and announcements (and corrections) to Michael at [connectionssixeight@gmail.com](mailto:connectionssixeight@gmail.com) or call 240.203.0854.

Submit your newsletter news and announcements (and corrections) to Darlene at [zionrucc@myactv.net](mailto:zionrucc@myactv.net) or 301.739.7244.

### Volunteer Opportunities

In addition to the 3 vacancies remaining on the consistory, other possibilities to serve also exist: Search & Call Committee (Pastoral Search); Constitution & Bylaws Revision Taskforce; and Soup Kitchen (cook, server, or preparation). If you are willing to serve in one of these positions or have a talent to volunteer in another type of position, please contact the church office.

### Pledge Envelopes

2021 pledge envelopes are in the process of being sent out, we apologize for the delay. If you normally receive pledge envelopes and have any changes or no longer need envelopes, please let the church office know.

Online giving is an alternative to mailing-in donations that you may want to consider. Online giving provides you with a secure, convenient alternative that places you in control of your giving and offers 24/7 access to the platform so that you can update info, change scheduled donations, view reports and more. [www.zionreformed.church/give](http://www.zionreformed.church/give)

### Consistory 2021 Elections

Thank you to those who took the time to vote in the 2021 consistory elections, and those who committed to serving the church by serving on the consistory!



## Other Announcements & Reminders

- ❖ Children's Sunday School meets by Zoom each Sunday at 9:45am. Contact Kim Ridenour or the church office for more information.
- ❖ To make a special donation towards purchase of a new upstairs fridge or the ongoing new piano fundraiser, please send donations marked "Fridge Fund" or "Piano Fund" respectively to the church or donate online at [www.zionreformed.church/give](http://www.zionreformed.church/give).
- ❖ Choir Rehearsals are postponed until further notice.
- ❖ Celebrate Recovery meetings are suspended until further notice.

## Records from Last Week

**Sunday Worship:** 50 online views and 4 shares. | **Soup Kitchen:** 25 meals served.



## IMPORTANT DATES

Week of January 10<sup>th</sup>



### Tech Team Meeting

January 12<sup>th</sup>, 10am

### Soup Kitchen

January 12<sup>th</sup>, 5pm-6:15pm. All are welcome, carryout only.  
Social distancing and masks enforced. Volunteers welcome.

### Staff Meeting

January 13<sup>th</sup>, 9am

### Zion Book Club

Bring a synopsis to share of a book of your choice on January 15<sup>th</sup>

### Virtual Sunday Worship

January 17<sup>th</sup> at 11am (Second Sunday After the Epiphany)  
Virtual service at [www.zionreformed.church/sermons](http://www.zionreformed.church/sermons).  
(Children's Sunday School via Zoom @ 9:45am)

### February Newsletter Deadline

Noon, January 18<sup>th</sup> (MLK Jr. Day)

## OTHER HAPPENINGS AT ZION

### Downtown Hagerstown 4H Club

January 14<sup>th</sup>, 4:30pm via Zoom

### Celebrate Recovery Hagerstown

Postponed Until Further Notice





## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



We are a community of believers who support one another in love, prayer, and faith!

Please email Michael at [connectionsixeight@gmail.com](mailto:connectionsixeight@gmail.com) or call him at 240.203.0854 with your announcements, joys, needs, or concerns to be shared with the church.

### Wedding Celebration

Carroll Sager is delighted to announce that Rebecca Sager married Joshua Loccisano on December 5<sup>th</sup> in Pittsburgh with immediate family and close friends in attendance. The newlyweds live and work in Pittsburgh. Congratulations to the newlyweds and to Carroll Sager!

### Homecoming of Ed Krause

Ed Krause suddenly and unexpectedly went to be with our Lord on Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Krause family during this time of loss. We will share more information as it becomes available.

### Kaylor and Talhelm Homecoming Updates

Anne G. "Annie" Kaylor's memorial service will be this coming Saturday for family only, a public memorial service will be held at a later time here at Zion as will a memorial service for Harold E. "Gus" Talhelm. Our prayers continue for both the Kaylor and Talhelm families as they journey through this time of loss and grief. Online condolences may continue to be expressed in the respective online family guestbooks at:

Anne Kaylor: [Douglas A. Fiery Funeral Home](http://www.douglasfiery.com) (www.douglasfiery.com)

Harold Talhelm: [Minnich Funeral Home](http://www.minnichfh.com) (www.minnichfh.com).

### Birthdays and Anniversaries This Week



Happy belated birthday to Jenna Hott (Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>)! May this year of your life be filled with happiness as we celebrate the gift of *YOU*. We hope and pray that this year of your life be filled with an abundance of blessings, and for those times of trial should any arise, that you find the perseverance in Christ to endure.

If your special day does not appear the week of your special event, contact the church office to make sure your special day is in the records.

### REACH Cold Weather Shelter

REACH Cold Weather Shelter is in need of help with meal preparation, meal serving, laundry room support, security & search, and hospitality. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Carroll Sager at [carroll.sager@gmail.com](mailto:carroll.sager@gmail.com) or the REACH office at 301-733-2371.

A special thank you to Barb Hendershot, Amber Nilson, and Carroll Sager for preparing and delivering the January 2<sup>nd</sup> meal to the REACH Cold Weather Shelter.

## A Message of Hope from Our General Minister and President of the UCC



Good evening on this, the feast of Epiphany. I wish to speak to you about what I believe is the greatest Epiphany the world knows, embodied and incarnated for we who call ourselves Christian in the one we know as Jesus. And that Epiphany is this: love has come and love alone will endure. Now I speak with both a heavy heart and a hopeful heart. The heavy heart arises from the presence again of persistent evil. The hopeful heart though emerges in its wake because of the presence of the enduring love known most fully in Jesus. I don't know when it was in my life that I came to the stark realization that evil was a thing. I've never understood it. I can't find words to explain what it is exactly or why it exists. But I have encountered it often enough to know I would be wise to take it seriously and not pretend it isn't there. My life as a person of faith, and my calling as a minister of the gospel, is dedicated to two important things in relation to evil.

First, I feel called to do everything in my power to name evil and confront it. I take very seriously that part of our baptismal vows that reads: "Do you promise, by the grace of God, ... to resist the powers of evil." I made that promise. As a pastor who has baptized many, I have asked others to take that promise. As I say – I take it very seriously. When the evil of racism destroys the lives of people of color, my baptismal vows ask me to resist it. When the evil of homophobia leads to the humiliation of our kindred who identify as gay or lesbian or bi or trans or queer, my baptismal vows ask me to resist it. When the evil of climate change threatens to undo life on this planet as we know it, my baptismal vows ask me to resist it. I knew in my bones [that the unrest at our Capital this past week] was evil. It was present and it was real, embodied in the hearts and minds of white supremacists assembled to inflict terror. I saw that terror in the eyes of our elected leaders hiding under their desks. I saw it in the eyes of a black man wearing guard's uniform who was being slowly backed up the stairs by white vigilantes who had breached the security lines and clearly had no fear of being arrested or detained. I saw it in the eyes of law officers standing at guard with guns pointed at windows that had been busted out in front of them by an angry and unruly mob. I saw and heard that terror in the voices of the courageous news people who reported about the violence that was being threatened and who also noted there was not a police presence anywhere to be found. Evil has come to America. I realize as I say this that the particular evil on display today, that of white supremacy and white terrorism, has been with us throughout our long and sometimes rich and sometimes sordid history. But it was on full display today. On a day like this, where the presence of evil is so undeniably present and so maliciously threatened, there can be a tendency to despair. There can be a moment in which we wonder what good is derived from naming evil and resisting it. After all, generations now have resisted the evil we saw acted out today in our nation's capital and yet it still shows up.

So, let me then talk about my second commitment as a disciple of the risen Jesus. It is not just to name and resist evil – it is to proclaim that good news that he embodied. Evil will not win. Evil

cannot win. It is love alone that survives. Today, America woke up to this: A black man was elected to serve in the Senate representing the deep south State of Georgia. The violence we are witnessing erupted within an hour of Amy Klobuchar telling us that the state of Arizona will cast its electoral votes not just for the white man Joe Biden, but for the Black and Indian woman Kamala Harris. And as the violence broke out, in the midst of the terror that was erupting, we learned that the other Senator from the deep south state of Georgia would be the son of Jewish immigrants.

Evil exists. Evil persists. We name it. We resist it. And it always returns. --But it doesn't stop the power of love to overcome it.

Our call tonight is twofold: First, bear witness to the evil we see. Name it. Name all who align with it. Tell the world what you see and what you hear and resist it with all the power of love you can bring to bear against it. Just as darkness cannot endure when the light is turned on, so evil cannot survive in the presence of love. The second call is to practice steadfastly the art of a love that leads to justice for all. It is a love of neighbor and a love of creation and a love for children. It is a love for the black and brown bodies ravaged by racism; a love for the female bodies ravaged by misogyny and toxic masculinity; a love for the LGBTQ bodies terrorized by homophobia. --That is our mark as Christians.

Evil is real. Make no mistake about that. But love wins. And we who practice love need not shy away from the evil we confront. Like the saints before us, we face fully into the face of evil and show the strength of a love it cannot conquer.

I close with the words of Julian of Norwich, words I have been repeating since the beginning of the spread of the coronavirus: In the spirit of knowing what she did about the power of love to conquer, and from the midst of an evil she saw ravaging the world she knew, she authored these words: "All shall be well. And all shall be well. And all manner of things shall be well."

Reverend John Dorhauer  
General Minister & President  
United Church of Christ

#### **Statement Resources:**

Statement from UCC General Minister & President: <https://www.ucc.org/prayer-vigil/>

Statement from UCC National Leadership:

<https://www.ucc.org/ucc-national-leaders-condemn-insurrection-in-racist-takeover-of-the-u-s-capitol>

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**Contemplative Interlude:** "How Firm A Foundation" – Tune, "Foundation," an early U.S. melody from Funk's "Genuine Church Music" (1832), ©Public Domain. Lyrics from "K" in John Rippon's "Selection of Hymns" (1787). Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) and Byron L. Stay (Trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. \*Source(s): [Hymnary](http://hymnary.org) (hymnary.org), New Century Hymnal #407.

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**Video Reflection** (after Gospel Lesson): "Come Thou Fount" by Kings Kaleidoscope. \*Source: YouTube (<https://youtu.be/-W02OuKdPWA>).

**Video Reflection** (Prayer Station 3): "All Belong Here" by The Many. Lyrics by Lenora Rand. Music by Hannah Rand, ©2017 by Plural Guild Music. \*Source: YouTube (<https://youtu.be/sJBEwqBfw3I>).

**Liturgical Components:** Adapted from UCC Minister, Rev Elsa Cook's blog "[Cooking with Elsa](http://cookingwithelsa.org)" (cookingwithelsa.org). Offertory prayer adapted from [Discipleship Ministries](http://Discipleship Ministries), a ministry of the United Methodist Church, ©2020 by UMC. Used with permission, all rights reserved.

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**Zion Reformed United Church of Christ**

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