**Sunday January 10, 2021**

**Baptism by Spirit**

**Prelude**

**Words of Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship** *(Psalm 29)*

Leader: Give to our God, O heavenly beings,

Give to our God glory and strength.

**People:** (*Out loud, but muted)* **Give to our God a glorious name;**

**worship our God in holy splendor.**

Leader: The voice of our God is over the waters;

the God of glory thunders,

the Lord, over mighty waters.

**People:** (*Out loud, but muted)* **The voice of our God is powerful;**

**the voice of our God is full of majesty.**

Leader: The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;

Our God breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

**People:** (*Out loud, but muted)* **God makes Lebanon skip like a calf,**

**and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

Leader: The voice of our God flashes forth flames of fire.

**People:** (*Out loud, but muted)* **The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;**

**Our God shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

Leader: The voice of our God causes the oaks to whirl,

and strips the forest bare;

and in God’s temple all say, “Glory!”

**People:** (*Out loud, but muted)* **The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;**

**Our God sits enthroned as ruler** **forever.**

**Unison: May our God give strength to the people!**

**May the Lord bless the people with peace!**

**Opening Prayer Unison** (*Out loud, but muted)*

**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.**

**Hymn #326: Crashing Waters at Creation**

(*Please see separate attachment for the score)*

1. Crashing waters at creation,

ordered by the Spirit’s breath,

first to witness day’s beginning

from the brightness of night’s death.

1. Parting water stood and trembled

as the captives passed on through,

washing off the chains of bondage,

channel to a life made new.

1. Cleansing water once at Jordan

closed around the one foretold,

opened to reveal the glory

ever new and ever old.

1. Living water, never ending,

quench the thirst and flood the soul.

Wellspring, source of life eternal,

drench our dryness, make us whole.

**Prayer of Confession Unison** (*Out loud, but muted)*

**As the gathered 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.**

*Silent Prayer*

**Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, 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 be to God.

**Passing of the Peace**(unmute for Passing of the Peace)

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be with you

**People: And also with you!**

**Reading** Liisa Granfors-Hunt

**Genesis 1:1-9 (NIV)**

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

3And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

6And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” 7So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. 8God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

9And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. 10God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

**Special Music    “***Angels We Have Heard on High”* Ken Littlefield, Josh & Ian

**Gospel Reading**

**Mark 1:4-11 (NIV)**

1:4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.  
  
1:5 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.  
  
1:6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.  
  
1:7 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.  
  
1:8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."  
  
1:9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.  
1:10 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.  
  
1:11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

**Musical Interlude**

**Sermon: Baptism by Spirit**

**Music for Meditation**

**Prayers of the People**(unmute yourself to offer a request, giving first names only, please)

**Hymn #508** Prayer Is the Soul’s Sincere Desire (verses 1 and 5)

(sung muted but together, Wei Der playing)

**Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, unuttered or expressed;  
 The motion of a hidden fire that trembles in the breast.**

**O Christ, by whom we come to God, the Life, the Truth, the Way,  
 The path of prayer you too have trod: Christ, teach us how to pray.**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord’s Prayer Unison** (*Out loud, but muted)*

**Offering Invitation**

O God, we rejoice in your grace, given and received.

We thank you that you claim 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.

We give of our gifts in this spirit. Amen.

**Offering and Dedication Unison** (*Out loud, but muted)*

**Faithful God,**

**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.**

**Blessing and Benediction Unison** (*Out loud, but muted)*

**Thank you, God, for blessing us with memories of Jesus' baptism and ours.**

**Thank you for removing our reluctance, doubt, and fears,**

**for replacing them with courage and commission.**

**We go forth with your calling, direction, and blessing. Amen.**