



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE  
SERVICE LEAFLET  
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 7, 2018

The First Sunday after the Epiphany

The Baptism of Christ

\* PSALM OF THE DAY                      Psalm 29 (*read responsively by verse*)

L: Ascribe to God, you heavenly beings; ascribe to God glory and strength.

**P: Ascribe due honor to God's holy Name; worship the most High in the beauty of holiness.**

L: The voice of God is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; God is upon the mighty waters.

**P: The voice of God is a powerful voice; the voice of God is a voice of splendor.**

L: The voice of God breaks the cedar trees; God breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**P: God makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

L: The voice of God splits the flames of fire; the voice of God shakes the wilderness; God shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**P: The voice of God makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.**

L: And in the temple of the Holy One, all are crying, "Glory!"

**P: God sits enthroned above the flood, enthroned as Sovereign for evermore.**

L: God shall give strength to the people;

**P: God shall give the people the blessing of peace.**

*At the time of the Children's Sermon, we will instead renew our Baptismal Vows*

LITANY OF BAPTISMAL AFFIRMATION

Rev. Ahrens, Rev. Corzine

L: Lord and life-giving Spirit, who brooded over the waters when first the world began:

**All: Help us renounce evil and receive new life in Christ.**

L: Who led your people out of slavery through the waters of the Red Sea and into freedom through the waters of the Jordan: who overshadowed Mary of Nazareth and caused her to be the mother of Jesus.

**All: Help us renounce evil and receive new life in Christ.**

L: Who anointed Jesus as Messiah as he was baptized by John in the Jordan: Who raised Jesus Christ from the grave and proclaimed Christ "Son of God" in all power over the living and the dead.

**All: Help us renounce evil and receive new life in Christ.**

L: Who appeared in tongues of flame on Pentecost: Who charges the waters of baptism through and through with power to give new life.

**All: Help us renounce evil and receive new life in Christ.**

L: Lord, hear our prayer.

**All: Let our cry come to You.**

PRAYER OVER THE WATER OF BAPTISM

Rev. Corzine

*(The Renewal liturgy continues on the reverse.)*

*Please stand.*

\* THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Rev. Ahrens

*As we sing, Rev. Ahrens will share the water of baptism with all using these words:*

Leader: Remember your baptism and keep it holy.

All: Amen.

We have put on Christ this day, sing al-le-lu-ia and re joice. We have been bap-  
tized in Him; sing al-le-lu-ia and re joice. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia,  
sing al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, sing al-le-lu-ia.

\* CLOSING PRAYER

Rev. Corzine

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everlasting God, who out of pure mercy decreed both the creation and the renewal of the world, be present and active in the sacraments which you have instituted for our salvation. Send forth the Spirit of adoption in full measure that those who are born of water and the Spirit may live under the power of the same Spirit all the days of their life and so arrive safely in their heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated for the Readings.*

THE FIRST READING                      Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 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.

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness God called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

THE SECOND READING                      Mark 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 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. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 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. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 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. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

HOMILY

"Promises Made"

Rev. Ahrens

MISSION INVITATION

Cash and designated checks go to **Crossroad**, a not-for-profit treatment provider for emotionally troubled children. For more information on Crossroad, please see <http://www.crossroad-fwch.org>. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN 157

Brightest and best

*Morning Star*

*Want to give online? Please see the Depart to Serve leaflet for more information and a QR link.*

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *celebrant*

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *preacher*  
, *liturgist*

Tom Stewart, *pianist*

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

Liturgist:

Communion preparation:

Refreshments: