

**Elon Community Church United Church of Christ  
First Sunday After Epiphany – Baptism of Christ  
January 10, 2021**

† Please Stand as You Are Able

**Prelude**

**Angels, from the Realms of Glory**

Setting by Mark Sedio

† **Call to Worship** (*Psalm 29*)

Leader: Give to our God, O heavenly beings, Give to our God glory and strength.

**All: 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.

**All: The voice of our God is powerful; the voice of our God is full of majesty.**

Leader: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; Our God sits enthroned as ruler forever.

**All: May our God give strength to the people! May the Lord bless the people with peace!**

† **Hymn 126**

**Angels From the Realms of Glory**

*Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
As you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:*

**Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, give thanks and sing.**

*Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of Nations, guided by Christ's natal star: (R)*

*Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly, your prayers attending, Christ beside you shall appear. (R)*

† **Prayer of Confession**

**O God, we hear your voice and we see the way of Jesus set before us. But it's hard, dear God, to try again and again to live up to our baptismal vows and maintain our resolve to be your people in the world. In repentance we ask you to forgive us. Set us once again on a holy path that leads to you. Amen.**

† **Assurance of Grace**

Leader: Friends, God calls us and gives us enough grace and mercy to follow the way. Our baptism shows us the way of grace and forgiveness!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Scripture Reading**

**Acts 19: 1-7**

Leaders: Through this scripture God is still speaking.

**All: And we are listening!**

**Children's Time**

**Gospel Lesson**

**Mark 1: 4-11**

**Sermon**

**Take Me To the Water Please!**

Randy Orwig

**Baptism and Renewal of Baptismal Vows**

**Introduction**

Leader: Our God created new life forms and brought them up from the waters of chaos, embraced them, and called them good. Jesus, baptized in the river Jordan by John the Baptist, became living water for us and embraces all of us. Jesus embraces those who are poor, oppressed, marginalized and all others who come seeking. We follow Jesus with our Baptism, marking a starting place for new life and new ways of being. We join Jesus in love and service. Let us prepare our hearts and minds to see, feel, and hear again the vows of Baptism.

## Renewal of Baptismal Promises (from *Book of Worship*)

Leader: Do you renew and affirm the promises made at your Baptism?  
**All: I do.**  
Leader: Do you embrace the way of Jesus in faith and ministry?  
**All: I do.**  
Leader: Do you accept the nurture of the Holy Spirit who renews your spirit each day?  
**All: I do.**  
Leader: Do you accept and embrace others who seek a liberating faith in God?  
**All: I do.**

## The Blessing

## Remember Your Baptism and Keep It Holy

### Prayer

**O God, we rejoice in your grace, given and received. We thank you that you claim us, that you renew us, strengthen us, and guide us. In the way of Jesus, make us as water in a dry and thirsty world. Root us and nurture us in love, that with all your people, that we may live by faith. Fill us with your fullness that our lives may overflow in service and love. Amen.**

## Joys and Concerns

### Call to The Offering

### Offertory

### Morning Has Broken

Setting by Rev. J. Bert Carlson  
(1937-2017)

### † Doxology with Alleluias

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below!  
Sing your praises, Alleluia!  
Praise God above you heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

### † Offertory Prayer

### † Closing Hymn 322

### Take Me To The Water

*Take me to the water, take me to the water,  
Take me to the water to be baptized.*

*None but the righteous, none but the righteous,  
None but the righteous...shall see God.*

*I love Jesus, I love Jesus,  
I love Jesus...yes I do.*

*Jesus is my Savior, Jesus is my Savior,  
Jesus is my Savior forevermore.*

### † Benediction

### Postlude

### Angels, from the Realms of Glory

C. S. Lang  
(1891-1971)

*In lieu of flowers a donation has been made to the New Building fund,  
given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Verona Danieley by her family.*