
+ FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, SAUGUS, MASSACHUSETTS

Service of Worship & Communion 10 a.m.
Baptism of Jesus Sunday, January 6, 2019

*Indicates for those who are able to, please stand.
Bold print indicates congregational response.
NCH = New Century Hymnal (black cover)
HOP = Spiral bound cover

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Jenn Macy

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP (“Psalm 76”):

L: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king’s son.

P: May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

L: May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

P: May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

L: May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

P: May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

L: In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

P: May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

*OPENING HYMN:

Over my head, I hear music in the air (x3)

There must be a God somewhere

Over my head, I see stars in the air (x3)

There must be a God somewhere

Over my head, I feel trouble in the air (x3)

There must be a God somewhere

Over my head, I hear singing in the air (x3)

There must be a God somewhere

Confession (unison):

The coming of Christ was not, and is not, widely welcomed. Wherever there is epiphany there will also be darkness:

Most holy and most loving God, we admit to you and to each other,
that we are creatures who either through foolishness or wilfulness
often choose darkness instead of light.

Please forgive the darkness and pain we have inflicted on others, and restore the light-starved hopes and ideals within our own souls.

Trusting your grace, we earnestly pray: “Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.”

CHORAL RESPONSE: “Thy Word” HOP 92

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
(2x)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORY TO GOD “Holy, Holy, Holy” NCH #277
Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty! Early in the morning we praise your majesty./ Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty/ God in three persons/ blessed Trinity!
(Children go to Sunday School.)

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:1-12 (SP, LP)

(SP=Small print Bible; LP=Large print Bible)

PRAYER INTRO: “Sanctuary” HOP 135

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary/pure and holy, tried and true./With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living sanctuary for you.

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever.
Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE: “Take My Life & Let it Be” HOP 129
Take my life and let it be/Consecrated Lord, to thee./ Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love/ At the impulse of thy love.

OFFERTORY INVITATION (“God, we give back”), in unison: **Holy God, we know the gospel is down-to-earth. Jesus proclaimed it so, standing in the muddy waters of his baptism. May we, by our gifts given today, make the gospel a living entity, and proclaim it to the world. Amen.**

(Donations to our Deacons Fund can be made in the envelopes provided. These support community members in need.)

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY: NCH #778 lyrics; NCH 780 tune
***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done.
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*COMMUNION HYMN: **“One Bread, One Body” HOP 181**
(Children return for Communion.)

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (see insert)
Intinction song: “In Christ Alone” HOP 122

*CLOSING HYMN: **‘I’ve Got Peace Like a River’**

I've got peace like a river (x2)

I've got peace like a river in my soul (x2)

I've got joy like a fountain (x2)

I've got joy like a fountain in my soul (x2)

I've got faith like an anchor (x2)

I've got faith like an anchor in my soul (x2)

I've got love like an ocean (x2)

I've got love like an ocean in my soul

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING (“God, we will try”), in unison:
God of Baptism, we will try to remember that baptism is not just a ritual for one day, but a covenant for a lifetime. Help us in our trying. Amen.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



Baptism of Jesus Sunday January 6, 2018



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