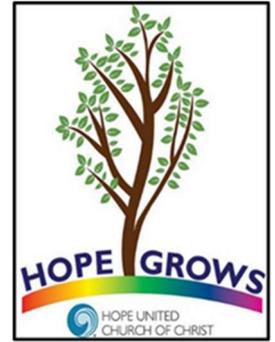


Baptism of Christ
Mosaic on Arian Baptistery
in Ravenna, Italy

Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin January 10, 2021
The Baptism of Christ

Thank you for joining us for worship today.
We are glad you are here!
No matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome at Hope UCC!



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The powerful voice of God created all worlds. That same voice calls us to worship.

Many: Ascribe to our God glory and strength. Come before God's glorious majesty.

One: God's strength shakes the wilderness. That same strength is offered to people of faith.

Many: The flames of God penetrate our cold hearts. May God bless all people with true peace.

One: Come together to remember your baptism. Gather to celebrate the Spirit's gifts.

Many: The heavens open to us at the Word of God. Surely God forgives and makes whole.

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

In the beginning, O God, you fashioned a universe. Each star and planet had its beginning in you. Out of the void, you brought light and life. Through eons of creativity, you have acted, and today we are here, inheritors of an amazing process, tiny specks in the limitless reaches of time and space. And you are here, waiting to greet us. As you acted in our baptism, you are acting still to make all things new within us. Let your light awaken us and your Spirit empower us for faithful living. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, you have created us, but we have chosen to go our own way. You have reclaimed us, but we have, by our arrogant attitudes and actions, rejected the claim. You have sent your Holy Spirit to break into our controlled and unimaginative routines, and we have not appreciated that burst of creative energy. We are ready now, ready to admit that our ways are full of dangerous byways. Our mistakes and failures have often come because, in our false pride, we have not listened to you. Save us again by your forgiving love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

SPECIAL MUSIC

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us pray:...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is 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. Amen.

HEBREW LESSON

Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning when God created[£] the heavens and the earth, ²the 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. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God 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.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Mark 1:4-11

⁴John the baptizer appeared[£] in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with[£] water; but he will baptize you with[£] the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved;[£] with you I am well pleased."

SERMON "Discovering a Truth"

SERMON HYMN #292 *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* (see end of bulletin)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

In thanksgiving for all we have received, we enlist in the ministry Christ demonstrated and inspired. We have nothing apart from God's gifts. We have everything when we allow God's Spirit to work through us. This offering demonstrates the depth of our awareness.

We are profoundly grateful for your continued support of Hope UCC as we stay connected as a faith community in this time of social distancing and spiritual connection. We are continuing the ministry of our church throughout this stay at home order and we thank you for making this possible. We now have two ways to make your offering. Hope UCC is now able to offer e-giving through Breeze Management System to make it safer and easier for you to give anytime. You are able to safely donate electronically using your credit card or ACH transfer. You can find the link on our church website (www.hopeuccqc.org). We also invite you to mail your offering to the church office – mail and messages are checked daily by Pastor Santana. Thank you for your generosity- your commitment is vital to continuing our congregation's ministries and commitments. Hope Grows! And there is nothing- not even a global pandemic - that can stop it! ☺

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Mighty God, you have given us everything we have. You have granted us life. You have poured out abiding love on our behalf. You have made us rich We share out of this awareness, and because we care about people who do not know you, people who have not shared your abundance, people who have defied your commandments, people who need your love. Bless our gifts to do the work you intend. Amen.

BENEDICTION

One: God gives strength to those who will receive it. God will bless the people with peace.

Many: We need the strength God will provide. We accept peace as God's generous gift.

One: Listen to the majesty of God's voice, calling you! Glorify God's name in your work and worship.

Many: We have been baptized in the name of Jesus. The triune God has blessed and empowered us.

One: Then go out as a new creation to Christ. Let others see how God is changing you.

Many: We are unworthy servants of the Most High. Yet we are ready to do what God expects.

POSTLUDE

Used by permission: One License # A-733028

Used by Permission. CCLI License #11387335

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

292

Edwin Hatch, 1886; alt.

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new
 2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
 3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one de - sire:
 4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.
 Un - til with you I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
 That ev - ery earth - ly part of me may glow with ho - ly fire.
 But live with you the per - fect life of your e - ter - ni - ty.

Between parish assignments in London, Edwin Hatch taught classics at Trinity College, Quebec, and lectured at Oxford. This hymn appeared in a leaflet, "Between Doubt and Prayer" (1878). Other hymns were published posthumously in Towards Fields of Light, London (1890).

Tune: TRENTHAM S.M.
 Robert Jackson, 1894