

**Trinitarian Congregational Church**  
**TakeOut**  
**Epiphany 1 B**  
**January 10, 2021**

**Bells** <https://youtu.be/-6qZ9A6GFik>

**Announcements**

**Prelude** "Wondrous Love" Lynne Walker  
American folksong, arr. Fred Boch  
<https://youtu.be/cR2X80SY49k>

**Call to Worship** Michele Lawler  
Rosemary Dawson

One: God, who dwells in glory and strength,  
sweeps into our presence in this hour.

**All: Glory be to God, by whose eternal loyalty  
all people are blessed with peace.**

One: God, who called all worlds into being,  
calls forth new life in us today.

**All: Glory be to God, in whose redemptive love  
we are claimed and empowered.**

One: God, whose Spirit unites all people in faith,  
confirms holy gifts in us as we gather here.

**All: Glory be to God, through whose creative purposes  
our lives find purpose and meaning.**

**Hymn** Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee Lynne Walker  
<https://youtu.be/0gZI5k6V4T8>

## Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

12

F C7 F C F C7 F C

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,  
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,  
 4 Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

F B♭ F7 B♭ F C7 F C7 F

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, open - ing to the sun a - bove.  
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!  
 love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, join - ing all with - in its span.

C F C7 F C7 A Dm G7 C

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er— all who live in love are thine;  
 Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife;

F B♭ F7 B♭ F C7 F C7 F

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day!  
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to thy joy di - vine.  
 joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

WORDS: Henry van Dyke (1852-1933)  
 MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

HYMN TO JOY  
 8.7.8.7.D.

## Gathering Prayer

Michele Lawler

**Glorious God, we worship you with awe and wonder. You are the God of grace and power who claimed Jesus through the waters of baptism and transformed his disciples through the gift of your Spirit. Grant that we may hear and see your creative presence among us today. Fill us with your wisdom and strength that we may take up the promise of our baptisms and serve your good purposes for us and for the world you came to save. Amen.**

## Gloria Patri

<https://youtu.be/OLz3R1hnUjs>

## Scriptures

Genesis 1:1-5

Michele Lawler

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.

<sup>3</sup>And God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

Mark 1:1-11

Rosemary Dawson

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,  
“Behold, I send my messenger before thy face,  
who shall prepare thy way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight—”

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove; <sup>11</sup>and a voice came from heaven, “You art my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

## Musical Reflection

“In the Bleak Midwinter,” Lynne Walker and Chris Harris  
Gustav Theodore Holst. Arr. Sharon Wilson.

## Sermon

## Beginnings

Beginnings. Beginnings are important. Beginnings mark significant transitional events that continue to affect our lives. We mark the discovery of the 'new world', we mark the beginning of our nation, and we mark the beginning of every new presidency. But it is not just the great global events that mark beginnings for us. We celebrate the beginning of life with christenings, we mark the beginning of our careers at graduation, we mark the beginning of marriage with weddings, and just as joyfully we mark the beginning of our retirement.

If beginnings are important to us, you can be sure they are important to God. The Bible opens with 'In the beginning, God...' and amazingly does not close with 'in the end...' but with a new beginning- a new heavens and a new earth, and the beginning of eternal life.

In today's scripture Mark proclaimed, 'this is the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ.' Mark was the first gospel writer. There was a lot riding on his message. So his beginning would be very important. But rather than start with Jesus' birth, or with his Jewish heritage, or like John 'In the beginning', Mark starts at the Jordan River; in the waters of baptism.

It is here, that we first meet Jesus; at the very beginning of his ministry. And because it is the very beginning, it is clearly a very significant moment.

"The heavens tore open and the Spirit descended like a dove on him.  
And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased."

A surprising and powerful event; but more surprising is that these are the very first words ever written about Jesus in the gospel.

So Jesus' baptism is very important to who Jesus is and what he did. Here, at the beginning of Jesus' ministry we hear God's acceptance and affirmation, and claim. What Jesus receives in his baptism is not just a nice word it is the hallmark of all that he will do. When he casts out demons, heals the sick, feeds the hungry, welcomes the stranger, and preaches the good news, he is offering to others what he himself received and knows in his very core:

You are a beloved child of God. God is delighted in you.

That was God's word to Jesus, and that is God's word to you. And it may just shake us up a bit, because seldom do we hear those words with any semblance of truth and power. We are most likely to hear, you will be accepted if... or your will be pleasing when... And if mom or dad, husband or kids, or any number of people here on earth say that to you, how could God say anything differently? But that is exactly the beginning, the source and the power of the good news. You are God's beloved, here and now, just as you are - you always have been, and you always will be.

And when Jesus, and John, were calling people to repent – to turn from sin, that is the core reason – you are God's child, you are beloved, you are precious and beautiful; please stop harming yourself, please stop harming one another, please claim your place and live your life in the beauty and joy that God intended.

There is a wonder in the beginning of the gospel of Christ, and it is the good news that there are always new beginnings. If and when we mess up, when we sin, and then turn again to God and seek mercy and restoration – it is there, always, for us; a new beginning, a gospel beginning, an opportunity to reclaim who we have always been – a child of God, precious and loved; and an opportunity to live again in the power and truth of that love, to live a new, spirit- filled, spirit enriching way that will reveal the glory of God within.

That is the promise and call of our baptism, even when we forget it, or ignore it. Many of us were baptized as children, not because it was our choice or our action, but because it was given to us, done to us and granted to us before we were ever aware. But that is love – God’s love, offered and given and bestowed when we are helpless – like an infant at a font.

And that is also our call – “remember you baptism, to keep it holy”. Hold that ceremony as sacred, not because of the action, but because of the word. –

You are beloved.  
You are precious.  
You are claimed as God’s own.

Hold that word as true, beloved, hold that word as promise, and hold that word as a guiding star. Live as God’s child, live as God’s beloved, live as God’s chosen – because you have been chosen, chosen to be loved and to love, to be blessed and to bless. Live out your baptism in faith and hope and love. Live as one who belongs to God and whom God sends into the world as a servant of the gospel, the wondrous, good news which begins in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

**Hymn**

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry  
[https://youtu.be/W5VuCkv\\_qh0](https://youtu.be/W5VuCkv_qh0)

Lynne Walker

## BAPTISM

## 488 I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry



1 "I was there to hear your born - ing cry; I'll be there when  
 2 "When you heard the won - der of the Word, I was there to  
 3 "In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no



you are old. I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to  
 cheer you on. You were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord to  
 lon - ger young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, com -



see your life un - fold. I was there when you were but a  
 whom you now be - long. If you find some - one to share your  
 plete what I've be - gun. When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es



child with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of  
 time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to  
 in and you shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as



light you wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell."  
 make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."  
 I have al - ways been with just one more sur - prise."



4 "I was there to hear your born - ing cry; I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold."

Originally created to accompany a video series on baptism, this hymn speaks in the imagined conversational voice of God, assuring the person being baptized of God's presence throughout the changing stages of life. It offers a reminder that baptism is a once-in-a-lifetime event.

## **Joys and Concerns**

As you meet with God in prayer, please lift up the joys and concerns shared through the Trumpet Blast. God is eager to be your help and strength, to listen to you and meet your needs. Prayer is a gift we can always use.

## **Prayers of the People**

Wondrous God, we thank you for the amazing gift of your love and grace that welcomes us as your children and claims us for yourself. We thank you for coming to us in Jesus Christ and for his willingness to serve you and restore us. We thank you for the promise of our baptism, and for the opportunity to live out our baptism by the gift of your Spirit.

And so we pray for your church and for this congregation. Grant us the joy of knowing we are your beloved children and drench us again with the anointing of your Spirit. Lead us as we follow your way of love, that we might share the life of Christ with all people.

We pray as well for our country, our world and all our leaders. Grant them the vision, wisdom and courage they need to achieve true peace and justice among the nations. And we pray for all who need your care today. Grant your hope to the disheartened, your strength to the weary, your peace to the troubled and your grace to the contrite. Grant also your healing to the ill, your comfort to the sorrowful and your aid to the needy. We especially lift up the needs of.... and we thank you for... And grant that we, who know your faithful love, willing spirits to love and care for all our neighbors, near and far.

We praise you, Faithful God, for all your goodness to us, through Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray...

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Choral Response**

[https://youtu.be/IAivVHv\\_abc](https://youtu.be/IAivVHv_abc)

### **Offering**

In love God has created us, redeemed us, and transformed us into living expressions of his glory. With deep gratitude for all we are and all we have received, we commit ourselves to the life Christ demonstrated and inspired. We now dedicate our offerings with joy. Let us pray

Mighty God, you have given us all good things and more. You have granted us life. You have poured out your abiding love on us. You have filled our lives with abundance. We give out of this awareness, and because we care about people who do not know your grace, or share in your bounty. Bless our gifts to do the work you intend. Amen.

### **Doxology**

<https://youtu.be/5I7PEGUPAXQ>

**Hymn**

Go My Children, With My Blessing  
(Lynne leads singing)  
[https://youtu.be/PiQZd\\_FUfpQ](https://youtu.be/PiQZd_FUfpQ)

Lynne Walker

## Go, My Children, with My Blessing 547

1 "Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev-er a-lone.  
 2 "Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.  
 3 "Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me.

Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
 Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.

In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for-  
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry; here you touched him, saw his  
 Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you; here my ten-der com-fort

ev-er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."  
 glo-ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure."  
 stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free."

Because this Welsh melody usually sets evening texts, the author was asked to create one for use in daytime. His recasting of the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:22-27 imagines that passage as a benediction that might be spoken by God at the conclusion of a worship service.

## **Common Commission**

**Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the faint-hearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

## **Benediction**

Go now into the world

and may the Lord your God be present to you,  
may he refresh your life with his love,  
may he delight in you with shouts of joy. Zeph 3:17 adj

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

## **Postlude**

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Charles Converse

<https://youtu.be/znWu2HCJ92c>

Lynne Walker