

**Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale  
Sunday, January 9, 2022  
The Baptism of Christ  
First Sunday after Epiphany**

**PRELUDE**

**ANTHEM** Softly and Tenderly Chancel Choir

**Softly and Tenderly**

Words and Music: William Lamartine Thompson  
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**WELCOME AND GATHERING PRAYER  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come, let us gather our hearts and minds.

**All: With the assistance of God's Holy Spirit, we gather to hear and see.**

One: What are you seeking?

**All: God's Wisdom!**

One: We raise up to greet our Lord and one another with praiseful song.

**All: In prayer and song, we come forward in worship and praise. Amen!**

**\*OPENING HYMN** Go, Tell It On The Mountain, #167

**Go, Tell It On The Mountain**

Words: adap. John W. Work, Jr. (1907)  
Music: arr. William Farley Smith (1986)  
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***Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere.  
Go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.***

***While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heavens,  
there shone a holy light.***

***Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere.  
Go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.***

***The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo! above the earth,  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed the Savior's birth:***

***Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere.  
Go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.***

***Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.***

***Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere.  
Go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.***

### **UNISON PRAYER**

***Lord, I come to you in the hope for a better year. This is the year that I prayerfully seek Your Wisdom for the work to be done and the changes that are to come. Lord, grant me the strength to do the work I am called to do, gladly and lovingly. And when I am tired, remind me to seek Your strength and courage before continuing so that I may be renewed. When I am in despair, supply me with the hope that things will be restored to Your ways. Lord, thank you for journeying with me when I can follow and for carrying me when needed. Amen!***

### **OUR 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 and the Power and the Glory, forever, Amen.***

**\*GLORIA PATRI** Glory Be to the Father, #35

Glory Be to the Father

WORDS: Lesser Doxology (3rd-4th centuries)

MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

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***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.***

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*Wondering*

Pastor Dave

## **CHILDREN'S HYMN**

### **We Three Kings of Orient Are**

Words and Music: John H. Hopkins, Jr. (1857)  
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***We three kings of Orient are  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain  
Following yonder star***

***O Star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding  
Guide us to thy Perfect Light***

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

New Testament Lesson: Acts 8:14-17  
Gospel Lesson: Luke 3:15-17; 21-22

## **SERMON**

*The Beginning of our journey*

Pastor Dave

**\*HYMN**      *Lovely Star in the Sky, #175*

### **Lovely Star in the Sky**

Words: adap. Reginald Heber  
Music: Un-Yung La  
Copyright 1990 Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music

***Lovely star in the sky, banishing the night,  
shine down and hallow us, light up our path.  
Star shining in the East, be our true guide,  
lead us to Bethlehem, where the child lies.***

***Royal Child lying there, manger for a bed,  
with all the animals sleeping in hay;  
angels sing rev'rently, worship the Child,  
lowly in majesty, ruler of all.***

***What can we do to show our devotion true?  
Shall we present to Him sweet smelling gifts:  
far mountain's frankincense sandalwood myrrh?  
Shall it be precious gold, pearls from the sea?***

***None of these things of price would give Jesus joy;  
how then will we express thanks for His birth?  
One present, one alone, Christ would desire:  
love from our deepest heart, our own best love.***

## **MORNING OFFERING**

( *For those at home, donation options are available on our website at: [www.SturFed.org/donate](http://www.SturFed.org/donate) ).*

## **WE OFFER OURSELVES TO GOD**

Invitation to Offer Ourselves for God's Work using our time, talent, and treasures

**\*DOXOLOGY** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow, #46

### **Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674

MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

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***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him, all creatures here below  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)**

***For the amazing gift of life, we are grateful, O Lord. Your plentiful  
outpouring of grace and love reminds us of the fruitful life we are called  
to bear. May these gifts of time and labor, therefore, embody our desire to  
share and contribute to your coming reign among us. Amen.***

## **WE PAUSE TO REFLECT AND PRAY**

**Prayers of the People:** You are invited to offer prayers of concerns or joys.

### **Sharing our joys and concerns**

Pastor: God is with you

***All: And also, with you***

Pastor: Let us pray

## **PASTORAL PRAYER:**

**\*SUNG RESPONSE** Hear Our Prayer, O Lord, #306

### **Hear Our Prayer, O Lord**

WORDS: Psalm 143:1

MUSIC: George Whelpton, 1897

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***Hear our Prayer, O Lord, Hear our prayer, O Lord.  
Incline thine ear to us, And grant us thy peace. Amen.***

**\*CLOSING HYMN** Have Thine Own Way, Lord!, #588

**Have Thine Own Way, Lord!**

Words: Adelaide A. Pollard (1902)

Music: George C. Stebbins (1907)

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***Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!  
Thou art the potter, I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me after thy will,  
while I am waiting, yielded and still.***

***Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!  
Search me and try me, Savior today!  
Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just now,  
as in thy presence humbly I bow.***

***Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!  
Wounded and weary, help me I pray!  
Power, all power, surely is thine!  
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!***

***Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!  
Hold o'er my being absolute sway.  
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see  
Christ only, always, living in me!***

**BENEDICTION**

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**We Three Kings of Orient Are**

Words and Music: John H. Hopkins, Jr. (1857)

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***Glorious now behold Him arise  
King and God and Sacrifice  
Alleluia, Alleluia  
Earth to heav'n replies***

***O Star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding  
Guide us to Thy perfect light***

**POSTLUDE** Thuma Mina (Send Me, Lord)

**Thuma Mina (Send Me, Lord)**

Words: South African Text

Music: South African Melody

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Chancel Choir

## Readings

### **Acts 8:14-17** (NRSV)

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come<sup>[a]</sup> upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John<sup>[b]</sup> laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

### **Luke 3:15-17; 21-22** (NRSV)

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with<sup>[b]</sup> the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

### **The Baptism of Jesus**

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved;<sup>[a]</sup> with you I am well pleased."