



**THE BAR HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**29 Mount Desert Street**  
**Bar Harbor, Maine 04609**

January 10, 2020

10:00 AM

First Sunday after Epiphany

**PRELUDE**

**SILENT REFLECTION** (*Jan Richardson*)

We do not all choose  
the same place  
of beginning;  
not all doorways  
are meant for entry.  
And so  
when silence falls  
across the threshold  
I have meant for welcome,  
may you,  
guardian of every passage,  
cast your shadow  
at my door.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The flowers on the altar this morning are given by Ruth and Ben Blaney in honor and memory of loved ones.**

- **There is a need for volunteers** to be greeters and liturgists, and to provide special music ... contact Robin if you'd like to help
- **Offering envelopes are available.** Contact the office at 288-3280
- **Morning prayer** Tues 8:30am, Evening prayer Thurs 7pm - FB Live
- **Open Table Tuesday, @4-6pm:** takeout / delivery
- **No Sauter or Bible study this week**
- **Fresh Food Friday mornings @ BHFP**
- **Zoom Bible study Friday @ 11am**
- **Annual Meeting Jan 24<sup>th</sup>** after worship via Zoom
- *Need anything? Call Pastor Rob @ 266-9026.*

## INTROIT *Lead, Kindly Light (verse 1)*

Lead, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom,  
lead thou me on;  
the night is dark, and I am far from home;  
lead thou me on.  
Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see  
the distant scene; one step enough for me.

## CALL TO WORSHIP *(by Christine Sine)*

Leader: Let us kneel in the darkness,

**People: Until we see God's light emerge.**

Leader: Let us wait eagerly, with hope-filled hearts,

**People: As Christ's image grows within us and shows us life.**

Leader: Let Christ speak to us and teach us love,

**People: That we may open our hearts and lives to Christ's transformation.**

## **HYMN**

### *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh.  
Awake and harken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin: make straight the way for God within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward.  
Without your grace we wander far; haste our return with guiding star.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more.  
O let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION** *(by RCL Prayers)*

*led by Kay Rand*

Holy God, creator of light and herald of goodness, you revealed your Son in the waters of the Jordan and anointed him with the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim good news to all people. Sanctify us by the same Spirit, that we may proclaim the healing power of the gospel by acts of love in your name. Amen.

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

### **PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

#### **Joys and Concerns**

*Text prayer requests in the chat box or to (207) 266-9026*

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

#### **The Lord's Prayer** *(using 'debts')*

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE***What Child Is This (verse 1)*

What child is this who laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king -  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing!  
Haste, haste to bring him laud -  
The babe, the son of Mary.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS***led by Kay Rand**Genesis 1:1-5*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the 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. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

*Mark 1:4-11*

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

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

**SPECIAL MUSIC***Tony Sousa & Fred Benson***MEDITATION**

*Shame and Grace*  
*Rev. Robert S. Benson*

## **HYMN**

*Down By the Jordan (by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)*

*Tune: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Down by the Jordan, a prophet named John was baptizing,  
Preaching a message the people found bold and surprising:  
"God will forgive! Show that you'll change how you live!  
Surely God's new day is rising!"

There by the river, the crowd came with great expectation:  
"Are you God's Chosen One, sent here to rescue our nation?"  
"No!" John replied. "He who is mightier than I  
Judges and offers salvation."

Jesus, you went to be baptized along with the others,  
Taking your place among sinners, God's lost sons and daughters.  
Then with great love, God's Spirit came as a dove!  
Your work began in those waters.

Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God's Spirit.  
Freed and forgiven, we're welcomed with joy! Can you hear it?  
This is God's sign! This is how God says, "You're mine!"  
Let's take the good news and share it!

## **BENEDICTION AND BLESSING** *(from Christian Aid)*

God of abiding grace:

As we take our leave, we know we do not leave your presence.

So we give ourselves into the hand of your continuing creativity;

Our past, with its joys and triumphs, its failures and regrets,

Our present, with its struggles and accomplishments, its worries and hopes,

Our future, with its fears and freedom, its pain and possibility.

We go, trusting the Spirit that breathes life, trusting the love that will not let  
us go, trusting the promise of the Word made flesh.

Leader: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**SUNG RESPONSE**                    *God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again – verse 1*

God be with you till we meet again; by his counsels guide, uphold you,  
With his sheep securely fold you: God be with you till we meet again.

**CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD**

**POSTLUDE**

**ZOOM COFFEE HOUR**