



The Baptism of Christ

First Sunday After Epiphany

January 8, 2023

2860 Coventry Road, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120  
216.921.3510 • www.plymouthchurchucc.org

*"My house is a house of prayer for all people." (Isaiah 56:7)*  
**Plymouth is A Just Peace Church and An Open and Affirming Congregation**

**Our Approach to God**

**Preparation Music**

James Riggs, organ

**Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship**

Rev. Ruth Garwood

ONE: Send your Spirit among us, O God, and into each one.

**ALL: Confirm in us your creative purpose with the fire of your love.**

ONE: Guide us in the way of Jesus, that we may offer this blessed and bruised world  
the liberation of your grace,

**ALL: Confirm us so that we may live with the courage of your vision.**

**\*Hymn (Black) 326** Crashing Waters at Creation .....*Stuttgart*

**Confession**

ALL: Creator of all worlds, we confess to you our inconsistent faithfulness. Before  
the mystery of the universe, our minds struggle to grasp a God who embraces  
infinity. In the face of the tragedies of the world, we struggle to live as if your  
love reigns. There is a wide difference between our actions and the more  
perfect way we might live together, and we cannot overcome that difference  
on our own. Reclaim us, O God, and fill us with your Spirit. Amen.

**Silent Reflection**

**Words of Assurance**

**Hymn of Praise** .....*Sixth Night*

Now greet the swiftly changing year  
With joy and penitence sincere;  
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace another year of grace.

**\*Passing of the Peace**

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

**The Proclamation of God's Word**

**Reading from Scripture** Matthew 3:13-17

**Sermon** Water and Spirit Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster

**\*Hymn** (Black) 322 Take Me to the Water ..... Negro Spiritual

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer** Rev. Andy Lang

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 forever, Amen.

**Response**

**Reaffirmation of Baptism and Renaming**

Sol Marcus Rizzato

Introduction

Testimony

Reaffirmation of Baptism and Ritual of Renaming

Prayer

Acclamation

ONE: Jesus said, 'Rejoice that your names are written in heaven.' (Luke 10:20)

**ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen. Alleluia!**

**Congregational Response**.....Slane

God of many names, we invite you to show  
Us the new names that reflect our true souls.  
Breathe with your holy spirit to give us the Word  
That will in dwell dry bones, granting new life once heard. (Amy Cerniglia)

**Living Out the Word of God**

**Announcements of Church Life**

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory** Communion Prayer.....Allen Pote

Jackie Josten and John Mills, soloists

We place upon your table Lord, the food of life, the bread and wine, as symbols of our daily work, according to your grand design. Within these simple things there lie the height and depth of human life; our pain and tears, our thoughts and toils, our hopes and fears, our joy and strife. Accept them, Lord, they come from you. We take them humbly from your hand. These gifts of yours for higher use we offer up as you command. (M.F.C. Wilson)

**\*Doxology**.....Old 100<sup>th</sup>

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host:  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

O God, we give you thanks for praises to sing, for people’s voices to hear, for water to touch, and for gifts to offer. With your blessing, may all these gifts and more work together for the good of our precious world. Amen.

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Invitation to the Lord’s Table**

**Words of Institution**

**Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

**Music at Communion** O Taste and See.....Ralph Vaughn Williams  
The Plymouth Choir

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is: blest is the one that trusteth in him. (Psalm 34:8)

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Gracious God, for gifts of communion, restoration, and nourishment, we give you thanks and praise. Send us forth as the body of Christ, to give comfort and hope to all. Amen.

**\*Hymn (Black) 164** Arise, Your Light Is Come ..... *Festal Song*

**\*Commission and Benediction**

**Voluntary** Trumpet Tune.....Frederick Swann  
Sol Rizzato, organ

Frederick Swann (1931-2022) did much to promote the organ and sacred music having served as President of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) and as organist at the Riverside Church in Manhattan and on the “Hour of Power” at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, CA.

*Many in the congregation wish to remain seated for the Voluntary. If you choose to leave, please be aware of those still participating in this part of the service. The Voluntary is music for worship and we ask that all be respectful of one another’s worship practices, including those participating via livestream. Following the Voluntary, you may greet the ministers.*

Scroll Down for Hymns

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# Crashing Waters at Creation

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Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1991

Gen. 1:1-5; Exod. 14:21-22; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:13-14

- 1 Crashing wa-ters at cre-a-tion  
or-dered by the Spir-it's breath,  
First to wit-ness day's be-gin-ning  
from the bright-ness of night's death.
- 2 Part-ing wa-ter stood and trem-bled  
as the cap-tives passed on through,  
Wash-ing off the chains of bond-age—  
chan-nel to a life made new.
- 3 Cleans-ing wa-ter once at Jor-dan  
closed a-round the One fore-told,  
O-pened to re-veal the glo-ry  
ev-er new and ev-er old.
- 4 Liv-ing wa-ter, nev-er end-ing,  
quench the thirst and flood the soul.  
Well-spring, Source of life e-ter-nal,  
drench our dry-ness, make us whole.

Hymnwriter Sylvia Dunstan wrote this text to accompany a prayer for blessing the water in the United Church of Canada baptismal rites. She has credited the work of Miriam Therese Winter as her inspiration for some of the imagery in the last stanza.

Tune: STUTT GART 8.7.8.7.  
Attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660-1716), in  
Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

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## Take Me to the Water

Acts 8:36-39; 10:47-48

African-American spiritual

1 Take me to the wa - ter, take me to the wa -  
2 None but the righ - teous, none but the righ -  
3 I love Je - sus, I love Je -  
4 Je - sus is my Sav - ior, Je - sus is my Sav -

BAPTISM

ter. take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.  
teous, none but the righ - teous . . . shall see God.  
sus, I love Je - sus, . . . yes, I do.  
ior, Je - sus is my Sav - ior for - ev - er more.

During the antebellum era the enslaved either worshipped secretly in the woods or in small one-room churches built on the plantations. This spiritual reminds us that in either case baptisms were done down at the riverside.

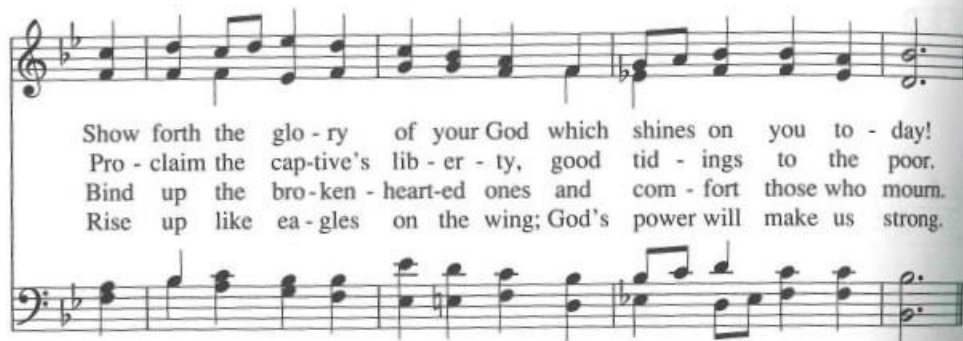
Tune: African-American spiritual  
Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993

Scroll Down for Hymns

## Arise, Your Light Is Come

*Isa. 60:1; 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21**Ruth Duck, 1972*


1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,  
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!



Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!  
 Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
 Bind up the bro - ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

*This hymn was first published by the Ecumenical Women's  
 Center of Chicago in the 1974 collection of hymn adaptations,  
 Because We Are One People. Ruth Duck later included it in*

Tune: FESTAL SONG S.M.  
*William Walter, 1872*