



Henrietta United Church of Christ

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Senior Pastor: Rev. Jason Boyd

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Associate Pastor: Rev. Martha Koenig Stone

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Church Administrator: Andrea Folan

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Ministers: Everyone!

Order of Worship

10:30 AM

**First Sunday After the Epiphany
The Baptism of Jesus Christ**

January 10, 2021

WE GATHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

GATHERING MUSIC

Robin Bower

Our gathering music will begin in the moments before worship. This will give you the opportunity to prepare for worship, and to make any adjustments to volume on your computers or devices as needed.

You may also wish to have some bread and wine/juice – or bagel and coffee, or some other food and drink – ready ahead of time, so that we can commune together during the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

WELCOME!

Pastor Martha

CENTERING MUSIC (*in unison*)

God prepare me to be a Sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving I'll be a living Sanctuary for You. (2x)

Adapted from Randy Scruggs and John Tompson

WE OPEN OUR HEARTS TO GOD'S RENEWING PRESENCE

***CALL TO WORSHIP (*one / many*)**

Pastor Jason

Like a gentle dove,

God's Spirit flew over the waters of creation,

alighted on Jesus at his baptism,

and graced the earth with divine presence.

May we, too, feel the brush of God's wings,

the reassurance of God's care,

and the joy of God's blessing.

May we embrace the gift of life

and the call to service,

for we are all beloved children of God! Amen

OPENING HYMN (*in unison*) “I Am the Light of the World”

Chorus: I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the sages and the shepherds have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun:

Chorus: I am the light of the world...

To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above!

Chorus: I am the light of the world...

To free the prisoner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see all God's children everywhere!

Chorus: I am the light of the world...

To bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colors of the earth!

Chorus: I am the light of the world...

Words by Jim Strathdee, 1969; rev. 1981. Tune: Jim Strathdee, 1969.

***PRAYER OF RENEWAL** (unison)

Pastor Martha

Gracious God, you have blessed us with life, and we praise you for this gift! Yet what we have done with our lives has both delighted and perplexed you: we are often creative and caring, but we are also stubborn and arrogant, believing that we have no need for you. There is an emptiness in us -- a place where we are raw and hurting, bruised and fearful. We have tried our own healing methods, yet they do not last. We often feel like a boat drifting at sea, unable to gain direction,

unable to see the shore, longing for hope and home. From across these waters, you have called to us, and so we turn to you for forgiveness and renewal. Strengthen our souls, we pray! Help us to live as children of your light, baptized in the waters of your Spirit and serving you faithfully all our days. AMEN.

***WORDS OF GOD'S ENDURING LOVE** (*one / many*)

Pastor Martha

The mercy of God is like the rain, like water that showers the earth. (Psalm 72:6)
It washes and refreshes, sustains us and carries us, all throughout our lives.
In Jesus Christ, we have seen the power of God's forgiveness and renewal.
Thanks be to God!

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Jason

WE MEET AT CHRIST'S TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor Jason

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor Martha

UNISON COMMUNION SONG

"As We Gather at Your Table"

As we gather at your table, as we listen to Your Word,
Helps us know, O God, your presence, let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet, how to make Love's victory known.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989; Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844

SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

Jesus used the ordinary food of his time to remind his friends of their unity with him and their covenant with God. As you partake of your own simple food and drink, you are invited to remember Christ's love and forgiveness, to give thanks for his sacrifice, and to ponder your part in God's unfolding world.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Adapted from Rev. Alydia Smith, United Church of Canada

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live into the visions God has laid on our hearts. We are now commissioned to feed as we have been fed, to forgive as we have been forgiven, to love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.

ANTHEM “Come, Be Baptized” by G. Alan Smith, arr. Jack Schrader Joe Green, soloist

PASSING OF THE PEACE (*one / many*) Pastor Jason

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please greet your neighbors in the spirit of Christ’s love and peace by sharing messages of peace in the comments in our broadcast.

SUNG RESPONSE “There’s a Spirit of Love in This Place”

There’s a spirit of love in this place, there’s a spirit of love in this place.

You can’t see it, but it’s there, just as precious as the air.

There’s a spirit of love in this place.

O alleluia, sing alleluia! We bless your holy name.

O alleluia, sing alleluia! There’s a spirit of love in this place.

Words and Music by Mark Miller, 2003

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S GOOD NEWS

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 1:4-11 Tina Weller

MESSAGE “Baptized” Pastor Martha

HYMN “Take Me to the Water”

Take me to the water, take me to the water,
take me to the water to be baptized.

Cleanse our minds and hearts, yes, cleanse our minds and hearts, yes,
Cleanse our minds and hearts, yes; may we see God.

Lead us from the water, lead us from the water,
lead us from the water to spread Christ’s love!

African-American Spiritual, Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993. Words in vs. 2-3 by Martha Koenig Stone.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER Pastor Martha

During our prayer time today, you will be asked to lift prayers aloud from your own space, or by sharing them as comments in our broadcast. We will not be able to read them during our service, but know that God hears them, always.

WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD'S SERVICE

REMEMBRANCE AND REAFFIRMATION OF OUR BAPTISMS

Pastor Jason

All are invited to have a small vessel of blessing water with them. There will be words of blessing for those who have been baptized as well as those who have not.

***PRAYER OF RECOMMITMENT** *(in unison)*

By your Spirit, Almighty God, grant us love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, and self-control in all things. Then strengthen us for ministry in your name. Amen.

INVITATION TO GRATEFUL GIVING

Pastor Martha

Our giving today, and our gratitude to God, cannot be shared in person. But, after worship, you are invited to go online to make your gift supporting the ministries of this church. You may do this at henriettaucc.org, scrolling down to the "Online Donation" button on the right hand side. Gifts may also be mailed to the church. We invite you as well to pick up the phone and reach out to someone who may be feeling alone and forgotten, or to let the pastors know of any special pastoral needs. In this difficult time, your support is more crucial than ever to our ministries of welcome and inclusion.

SONG OF PRAISE *(in unison)*

Praise God, who welcomes us with grace, who blesses every time and place, whose Christ shows every person's worth, whose Spirit gives us all new birth!

Tune and Text adapted from the Geneva Psalter (1551)

+ PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(Let us pray together. . .)*

Pastor Martha

O God, we rejoice in your grace, given and received! We thank you that you claim us, cleanse us, guide us, and empower us to live a life worthy of our calling. As we follow Jesus, may we become like water in a dry and thirsty world, offering refreshment and renewal to your people. Fill us with your Spirit, that our lives may overflow in service and love. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Jason

SENDING HYMN**“O Holy Dove of God Descending”**

O holy Dove of God descending, you are the love that knows no ending,
All of our shattered dreams you're mending: Spirit, now live in me.

O holy Wind of God now blowing, you are the seed that God is sowing,
You are the life that starts us growing: Spirit, now live in me.

O holy Rain of God now falling, you make the Word of God enthralling,
You are the inner voice now calling: Spirit, now live in me.

O holy Flame of God now burning, you are the power of Christ returning,
You are the answer to our yearning: Spirit, now live in me.

Tune and Text by Bryan Jeffery Leech

BENEDICTION

Pastor Martha

SENDING MUSIC

Robin Bower

***WE RETURN TO THE WORLD
RENEWED AND EMPOWERED BY GOD'S SPIRIT
As our worship ends, our service begins.***

** Portions of today's worship were adapted from "Worship Connection: January 10, 2021," by Nancy C. Townley, in Ministry Matters, www.ministrymatters.com.*

*+Today's prayer of dedication was adapted from "Baptism of Christ – Epiphany 1 – Year B, January 10, 2021," in Worship Ways, <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/baptism-of-christ-epiphany-1-year-b-january-10-2021/>
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