

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN**

January 10, 2021

*"The Baptism of Christ"*

10:00 am

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**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**SONG**

***"Shall We Gather at the River"***

*Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,  
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?  
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,  
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

*Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.  
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,  
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

**Rev. Chris Myers**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Mark 1:4-11**

**HOMILY**

**Rev. Chris Myers**

**SONG**

***"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"***

*Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign;  
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.*

*Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.  
Back to God we humbly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.*

*Child of God your loving Parent, learn to know whose child you are.  
Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than all.*

**\*STATEMENT OF FAITH – The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**THE PRAYERS & LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)**

**...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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**SONG**

***"Bind Us Together"***

*Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.*

*Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.*

*There is only one God, there is only one King;*

*There is only one body, that is why we sing.*

**BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

**Those who are ill or recovering:**

Gary (Ann Gustafson's brother in law), Dan Filkins, Bernice Larson, Megan (daughter of Steve and Janice Healy), Teddi (friend of Janice Healy), Chuck (Jan Hansen's brother in law), Nancy Hove (Pierce County Sheriff diagnosed with brain cancer), Mark and Caroline Ferry (friends of Joy Anderson), Jason Kuhl (cousin of Rose Rude), Darren (friend of Trautmillers), Peg Thomson, Jean Hagberg, Miles Voster (friend of Grisars), Irene Field, Dorothy Shavers (mother of Rene Bylander), Dorie (friend of Jan Hansen), Judy Henning, Roger Hirstein, Lara Koecher, Joyce Kampstra, Phyllis Huber (N5335 760th Street, Ellsworth WI 54011), Sarah

**Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:**

- For a return to things like confirmation, Faith at Home, Bible study and yes (gasp) even meetings, that they may bring some normalcy back to our lives after a nice Christmas and New Year break
- For those who worshipped with us in three ways on Christmas Eve: on the church lawn (150 of us in two very cold outdoor services), online and for the first time ever at Christmas, over the radio.
- For the 240 people who work in nursing homes and assisted living facilities in River Falls who were given Jimmy John's gift certificates by our church as a small token of our thanks for their tireless efforts to care for the most vulnerable in our community
- For those who continue to support our church's ministry with their tithes, offerings and gifts, and those who are making extra gifts to the church—you are all a blessing

**Prayers for our World:**

- For reconciliation, in our lives, our families, our community, our politics and our world, that we may all be one (John 17:21)
- For those producing, delivering and administering vaccines, that they may help end the pandemic
- For healthcare workers who are on the frontlines of the COVID crisis, that they may be given God's strength and that we may all do our part to enable them to treat the virus
- For the 355,000 people in our country and 1.85 million people worldwide who have died from COVID in the past year, may they not have died in vain
- For those quarantining due to COVID-19, may they stay home and find ways to stay busy
- For nursing home workers, for you are doing God's work in our world

**Prayers of Thanksgiving:**

- For the webteam (Brad Richter, Rene Bylander, Scott Jameson, Vanessa Withers, Brad Williams, Pastor Chris) who are redesigning and upgrading our church website, that they may be given inspiration and creativity
- For Cindy Gandrud and Ron Ruhnke who are our new communion bread bakers at church—you are a blessing to our community
- For those who graduated from college recently including Nick Miller, Baily Plackner and Alyssa Larsen
- For Spencer Wakefield and Kim Engler who will be married on January 23, that they may grow in love
- For the gift of COVID vaccines and the hope that this will all end sooner rather than later
- For the blessings of daily life, even in a pandemic

**For those grieving the loss of loved ones:**

- For the family of John Benson, brother of Ruth Anne Benson White, who died recently, that he may rest in God's strong care (cards can be sent to Ruth Anne at 963 Leisure World, Meza, AZ 85206)
- For those in mourning, including the Reilly, Zeman and Greub families, as well as all those who have died from COVID-19

If you have people you wish to include on our prayer list, please contact the church office or one of the pastors.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON: 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.”

*Worship participants for this week:*

*Audio/Visual: Jeff Hoffman, Andy Myers*  
*Music: Jamie Mills, Marsha Pearson*  
*Counters: Jean Smith, Jane Truesdill*  
*Preacher: Rev. Chris Myers*

**Treasurer’s Report**

	Dec 31, 2020
General Fund Income*	\$ 485,439.69
General Fund Expenses	<u>476,810.47</u>
Net Income	<u>\$ 8,629.22</u>
	Jan 3, 2021
General Fund Income*	<u>\$ 28,140.47</u>

A full accounting of all income and expenses is available in the church office.

\*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

A new budget will be approved at the February 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.