

**First Congregational Church of Montague, Trinitarian,
Montague, MA
January 11, 2015**

Baptism of Our Lord

Meditation: There is a tendency at every important but difficult crossroad to pretend that it's not really there.
- Bill McKibben, The End of Nature

Prelude

Announcements

Invitation to Worship

One: The vast expanse of sky stretches in praise.

All: The waters and streams cry out in longing.

One: The earth now hardened, incubates life.

All: And we your people awaken.

Prayer of Invocation

Why water, O God? Why dove and voice? Why, when your Spirit comes, are we surrounded by images? Open us in this worship to metaphor and grace. Amen.

Hymn: # R 38 Morning Has Broken

Children's Church

Prayer of Confession

Tender One who gave shape to creation and who appointed us stewards of its care, we confess that in wild abandon and willful ignorance we have run roughshod over the earth and our fellow creatures. Renew within us a right measure of ourselves and our place in your world. Help us recalibrate from gluttony to gratitude, from cavorting to celebration, from domination to dwelling that we may join in your great chorus of shalom.

The time is coming, says the prophet Isaiah, when "they will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." We trust your promise, merciful God, and seek to know you more.

Words of Assurance: Sisters and Brothers, God hears our prayers and sets before us the way of Jesus. God calls us and gives us enough grace and mercy to follow the way. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Gloria Patri) Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, it is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Responsive Reading: #, Psalm 29 p.

Scripture Lessons

Hebrew Scripture: Genesis 1: 1-5 p.1

Epistle: Acts 19:1-7 p.122

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11 p.30

Communion Meditation: Healing Water
Rev. Dr. Christine Fontaine

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

Unison Prayer: O God, we rejoice in your grace, given and received. We thank you that you claim us, that you wash us, strengthen us, and guide us, that you empower us to live a life worthy of our calling. In the way of Jesus, make us as water in a dry and thirsty world. Establish us to be places of refreshment. Root us and nurture us in love, that with all your people, we may rightly and justly serve you. Fill us with your fullness that our lives may overflow in service and love. Amen.

Hymn: #7B Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Prayers

Joys and Concerns

L: Let us join in prayer. The Lord be with you.

P: And with your spirit

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response

Offering

Invitation to Giving
Offertory Anthem
Doxology #514

Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self

Out of your abundant love you have given us more than we can possibly imagine. We offer these gifts and pledge ourselves, trusting that abundance so that we may build just and sustainable lives together, glorifying you and giving life to the world. Amen.

Service of Holy Communion

Hymn #68 I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Benediction

Benediction Response

Postlude

****Please fill out the pew card or let a deacon or Pastor Barb know if you would like a visit or have a prayer concern. ****

PRAYER GARDEN

(If you know of someone you would like us to pray for please put their name on a slip of paper and drop it into the offering plate or let one of the deacons or secretary Ann Cenzano know of their name. Names will stay on the list for approximately one month.)
Tina Wells, Nicole Cuthbert, Helen Lambert and Linda Ackerman family, Connie, Margaret and Brian Felix, Ken Stawasz, the Zaniwski family, Bob B.

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Pastor Barbara E. Turner Delisle

Music Director Ann Cenzano

www.montaguechurch.org