

First Congregational Church of Ithaca
Baptism of Christ (January 10, 2021)

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Prelude Prelude in D Major J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** (Adapted from the Beatitudes)

Come, all who are poor in spirit; come, all who mourn; come, all who are meek;
come, all who hunger and thirst for justice.

**Come, all who would be merciful; come, all who would be pure in heart; come,
all who would be peacemakers.**

***Hymn** Sing of God Made Manifest (insert, #156)

***Opening Prayer**

God of compassion, you watch the ways of all of us and weave out of terrible happenings wonders of goodness and grace. Surround those who have been shaken by tragedy with a sense of your present love, and hold them in faith. May they find comfort and peace. Through Christ we pray, Amen.

(Adapted from the UCC *Book of Worship*)

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

***Sung Response** *Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.*

Scripture Lessons

Psalm 29
Genesis 1:1-5
Mark 1:4-11

Remembering Our Baptism

This Sunday on the liturgical calendar is called the Baptism of Christ, the day we remember that Jesus was baptized and the day we remember our baptism. This is a day to know once again that we are claimed by God's grace forever. May faith continue to grow in us. May Christ's presence, symbolized in baptism with water, be clothing and protection for us. And year by year may the knowledge of this presence be a source of greater joy and peace for us as we celebrate life and new life, symbolized in the sprinkling of water and in the new births in our community:

(Please see insert)

Let us pray: Eternal God, you have come to us in Jesus Christ, given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, forgiven all our sins, and accepted us just as we are. Bless us now with the grace we need to fulfill what we have promised:

Keep us faithful as we follow in the way of Christ.

Church, remember your baptism and be thankful.

Anthem Mary, Did You Know Mark Lowry, Buddy Greene

Sermon "Of Doves, Chaos, and Water"

***Hymn** Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (insert, #475)

Morning Prayers and Lord's Prayer

Litany Prayer

Leader: We pray to God

People: Hear us, O God

Sung Response

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me (twice).

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Sharing our Gifts

Joseph's Lullaby

MercyMe, 2005

***Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn**

As with Gladness Those of Old

(insert, #159)

***Benediction**

Postlude

Fantasy on *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*
(How Brightly Shines the Morning Star)

J. S. Bach

*** Congregation stands (*live-streamers, feel free to lift your hearts!*)**

Participating Today

Rev. Dr. David A. Kaden, Senior Minister

Susan Fast, Director of Caring Ministries, sustfast@yahoo.com

Dr. William Cowdery, Director of Music

David J. Kaden, Tech Support

Patricia Baxter, soprano soloist

Sing of God Made Manifest 156

1 Sing of God made man - i - fest in a child ro - bust and blest,
 2 Sing of God made man - i - fest when at Jor - dan John con - fessed,
 3 Sing of God made man - i - fest when Christ came as wed - ding guest
 4 Sing of God made man - i - fest on the cloud - capped moun - tain's crest,
 to whose home in Beth - le - hem where a star had guid - ed them,
 "I should be bap - tized by you, but your bid - ding I will do."
 and at Ca - na gave a sign, turn - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 where the law and proph - ets waned so that Christ a - lone re - mained:
 ma - gi came and gifts un - bound, signs mys - te - rious and pro - found:
 Then from heaven a dou - ble sign—dove - like Spir - it, voice di - vine—
 fur - ther still was love re - vealed as he taught, for - gave, and healed,
 glimpse of glo - ry, pledge of grace, given as Je - sus set his face
 myrrh and frank - in - cense and gold grave and God and king fore - told.
 hailed the true A - noint - ed One: "This is my be - lov - ed Son."
 bring - ing light and life to all who would lis - ten to God's call.
 towards the wait - ing cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.

"Epiphany" means "manifestation" or "showing forth," and this text cites key disclosures of Jesus as Messiah: the coming of the Magi, his baptism by John the Baptist, the wedding at Cana. All are summed up in the Transfiguration, recalled on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany.

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475

1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove;
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love!
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

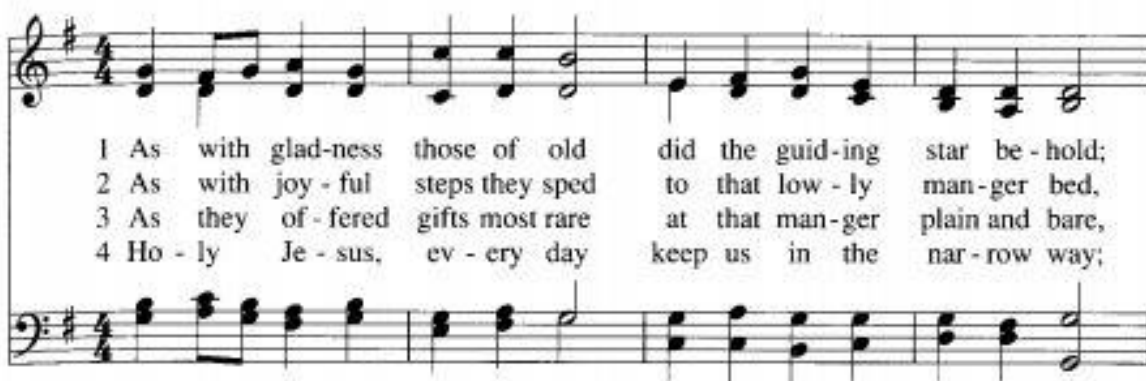
Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asabel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

As with Gladness Those of Old


159

William C. Dix, 1861; alt.

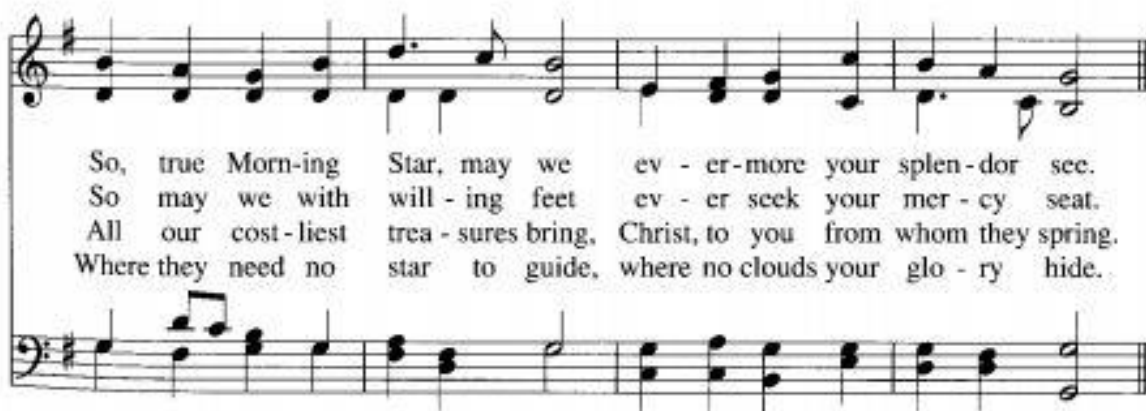
Mat. 2:1-12



1 As with glad-ness those of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped to that low-ly man-ger bed,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at that man-ger plain and bare,
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day keep us in the nar-row way;



As with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be-fore One whom heaven and earth a-dore;
So may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,
And when mor-tal things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



So, true Morn-ing Star, may we ev-er-more your splen-dor see.
So may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek your mer-cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glo-ry hide.

After reading the Epiphany gospel, William C. Dix penned this hymn. Dix, the manager of a marine insurance company, was also a gifted hymnwriter. Among his many fine contributions is "What Child Is This."

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7.7.
Conrad Kocher, 1838
Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

Baptism of Christ Sunday

Adelaine Sierra Koch <i>Daughter of Maura Grainger Koch, granddaughter of Brad & Mary Grainger, niece of Alleen & Erin Grainger</i>	May 19, 2020
Cameron Philip Andree <i>Sarah Tavelli Andree & Holly Tavelli Son & grandson</i>	August 27, 2020
Carson Adwell Porter <i>Charlotte's Young great grandson and son of Trevor Porter and friend of Laura Andolina</i>	May 11, 2020
Elliott Visscher <i>Daniel & Jennifer Visscher son</i>	October 28, 2020
Jack Lee Mayer <i>Jill & John Mayer son</i>	July 31, 2020
Mateo Brundige-Jones <i>Liz Brundige son and brother to Emma Brundige- Jones</i>	June 1, 2020
Nicholas Samuel Nalbone <i>Pam Hanna & Greg Menzenski great-nephew</i>	January 4, 2020
Roosevelt Jeffrey Thomsen <i>Wendy & Rob Hovey friends' grandson of Gary & Annie McCaslin</i>	December 12, 2020
Salome Theresa Bloom <i>Donna Bloom great granddaughter</i>	February 17, 2020
Sylvie Irene Dawson <i>Paul & Cathy Dawson granddaughter</i>	July 29, 2020
Theodore Cyrus Gentry <i>Laura Call Andolina cousin</i>	March 3, 2020