

# Gathering

Prelude

Mary Miller, Organist

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## Processional Hymn

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#492 Sing, Ye Faithful, Sing with Gladness

(See bulletin p.13)

## Opening Rite: Liturgy of the Light

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*All standing, the Officiant greets the People with these words:*

*Officiant:* Dear friends in the risen Christ, we gather today to celebrate the Lord's Day, and for a time to be united in prayer and praise with each other and those who have gone before us. Sunday has been called the Lord's Day because it was on this day that Jesus conquered sin and death and rose to new life. As we gather together online, let us be united in the spirit of Christ with the Church around the world and celebrate our redemption in Christ's suffering, death and resurrection.

*Silence follows for a time.*

*Officiant:* Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*The following sentence of scripture may be read:*

It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants, for Jesus's sake. For the same God who said, "Out of darkness let light shine," has caused his light to shine within us, to give the light of revelation – the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

*(2 Corinthians 4:5-6)*

## Prayer for Christ's Light

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*Candles may now be lit during the following prayer:*

*Officiant:* May the light of Christ gloriously risen dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

**People:** **May this simple flame of love and hope be found still burning by the Morning Star; the one Morning Star who never sets, Christ your Son, who, coming back from death's domain, has shed his light on humanity, and lives and reigns for ever and ever. Alleluia! Amen.**

## The Confession and Assurance of Pardon

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*As we worship we ask God's forgiveness for things done and things left undone and things done on our behalf so that we are reconciled to God and each other.*

*Officiant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

*Silence is kept for a time.*

*Officiant:* God of mercy,

**People:** **We have sinned against you and against others. We have sinned in what we have done, and in what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry. For the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, who died for our sins, forgive us all that is past and raise us to newness of life. Amen.**

*We are assured of God's forgiveness and love:*

*Officiant:* Almighty God, who pardons all who truly repent, forgive you your sins, strengthen you by the Holy Spirit, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

## Hymn of Praise

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LEVAS #118 Spirit Song

(See bulletin p.14)

*Officiant:* Let us glorify the Holy One as we say:

**People:** **O Light of the World, first-born of creation, radiance of glory, light from light begotten; God self-revealing, holy, bright, and blessed, you shine upon us. Day's light is fleeting, your light is eternal, and we look to you our light within the**

shadow. We sing to you, O Creator, Christ, and Spirit, you shine before us. Light of the world, O Jesus Christ, we bless you; giver of life and Child of God, we praise you. Here with us the universe proclaims your glory, as you shine among us. **Amen.**

## The Opening Acclamation

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*Officiant:* Blessed be God: + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

***People:* And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

## The Collect for Purity

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*Officiant:* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open,

***People:* all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Collect of the Day

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*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

*Officiant:* Let us pray:

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

## The Readings

### The First Reading

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Isaiah 43:1-7

Thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.  
Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honored, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
I will say to the north, "Give them up,"  
and to the south, "Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth--  
everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made."

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## The Psalm of Response

Psalm 29

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*Afferte Domino*

- 1 **A**scribe to the LORD, you gods, \*  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; \*  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders; \*  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

- 4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; \*  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; \*  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, \*  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;  
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; \*  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe \*  
and strips the forests bare.
- 9 And in the temple of the LORD \*  
all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; \*  
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.
- 11 The LORD shall give strength to his people; \*  
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

## The Second Reading

Acts 8:14-17

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**W**hen the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

*The People stand for the Hymn and the reading of the Gospel.*

## The Sequence Hymn

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LEVAS #143 Wade in the Water

(See bulletin p.16)



**Officiant:** The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**People:** **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

**Officiant:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Sermon

Rev. Annette Joseph

## The Affirmation of Faith

*Originally the entire service was viewed as our confession of faith. Since the sixth century, however, the church has recited either the Nicene Creed or the Apostle's Creed at the Eucharist. The word "creed" comes from the Latin credo, for "I believe" or "I lend my heart to." Either the Nicene Creed, the Apostle's Creed, or the following may be used:*

**Officiant:** Let us affirm our faith. Do you believe in God?

**People:** **We believe in God the Father the almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**Officiant:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People:** We believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He 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,  
and is seated at the right hand of God.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Officiant: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People:** We 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 Offertory

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#488 Be Thou My Vision

(See bulletin, p.17)

*Here at Christ Church, we consider gratitude and generosity to be spiritual disciplines. While some of us still can't be together to pass the collection plate to one another in person, we encourage you to offer your gifts and service in any way that makes the most sense to you.*

*If you are worshipping with us online, [click here](#) to contribute to our ongoing ministry in downtown Cape Girardeau.*

*The plate offering for the first Sunday of each month is dedicated to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. On the second Sunday of each quarter, the plate offering is dedicated to the Red Door Jubilee Center Food Pantry.*

## The Lord's Prayer

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Officiant: The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray:

**All:** **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed by 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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

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*Reader:* In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*A moment of silence is kept.*

*Reader:* For all people in their daily life and work;

***People:* For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

*A moment of silence is kept.*

*Reader:* For the community of Cape Girardeau, for our weary and divided nation, and for the world that you have made;

***People:* For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

*A moment of silence is kept.*

*Reader:* For the just and proper use of your creation;

***People:* For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

*A moment of silence is kept.*

*Reader:* For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

***People:* For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

*A moment of silence is kept.*

*Reader:* For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

***People:* For all who proclaim the Gospel and all who seek the Truth.**

*A moment of silence is kept.*

*Reader:* For our Presiding Bishop, Michael;

***People:* for our Bishop, Deon; and for all who serve God in his Church.**

*A moment of silence is kept.*

*Reader:* For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*Reader:* Hear us, Lord,

***People:* for your mercy is great.**

*A moment of silence is kept.*

*Reader:* We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*The People may add their own thanksgivings.*

*Reader:* We will exalt you, O God our King;

***People:* And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

*A moment of silence is kept.*

*Reader:* We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*A moment of silence is kept.*

*Reader:* Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon those who put their trust in you.

*Officiant:* Liberating God, who led your People out of slavery and through the desert wilderness of Sinai to cross the River Jordan into the Promised Land; whose Spirit

drew Jesus back to the same river to be baptized by John, and who made of us one People through water and spirit by the faithfulness of your Son: Hear our prayers, and unite us once again in your Love. Amen.

**People:**        **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence is kept for a time.*

## The Agape

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*While sharing a common Eucharistic celebration is not possible at this time, this liturgy expresses our longing for a time when we can once more share and gather together at the Eucharistic table. This practice of giving thanks for bread, wine and food is ancient, going back to the hospitality our ancestor Abraham showed to his visitors. While not the full celebration of the Holy Eucharist, there is a relationship, in much the same way that giving thanks over water is a reminder of our Baptism.*

*The Officiant and the People give thanks for the gift of wine.*

*Officiant:*        Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

**People:**        **You create the fruit of the vine; we long for the day when you will once again refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.**

*The Officiant and the People give thanks for the gift of our daily bread.*

*Officiant:*        Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

**People:**        **You bring forth bread from the earth; we long for the day when we may once again partake of the bread of life the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.**

*The Officiant and the People give thanks for the gift of food.*

*Officiant:* Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

***People:* You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the Eucharistic fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The wine, bread and food may be consumed after the liturgy.*

## The Thanksgiving

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*Officiant:* Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

***People:* We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care, which surrounds us on every side.**

*Officiant:* We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

***People:* We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.**

*Officiant:* Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

***People:* Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.**

## The Peace

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*The Peace is exchanged.*

*Officiant:* The Peace of Christ be always with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

*We greet each other in the name of the risen Christ.*

## Recessional Hymn

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#671 Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound (See bulletin p.18)

## The Sending

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*Officiant:* Our worship is ended. Our service in the world now begins. Go now to love and serve the Lord. *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

***People:* We go in the name of Christ. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*We invite you to remain seated to enjoy the beautiful postlude music, centering your hearts and minds in preparation to move joyfully and thankfully into the coming week to serve God and others.*

## Postlude

Mary Miller, Organist

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## Servers

*Priest-in-Charge*  
*Eucharistic Minister*  
*Vergar*  
*Reader*  
*Greeter*  
*Altar Guild*

*St. Isidore's Guild*  
*Vestry Counter*  
*Organist*

Rev. Annette Joseph  
Gloria Miller  
Chris Masters  
Sue Balsamo  
Monica Waldon  
Barbara Giddens  
& Elizabeth Miller  
Matthew Heisserer-Miller  
Cheryl Essner  
Mary Miller

**Unless otherwise noted, all hymns are taken from**

*The Hymnal 1982*

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WLP *Wonder, Love and Praise: A Supplement to The Hymnal 1982*

© 1997 by The Church Pension Fund

LEVAS *Lift Every Voice and Sing II: An African American Hymnal*

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492

**Sing, Ye Faithful, Sing with Gladness**



1 Sing, ye faith - ful, sing with glad - ness, wake your no - blest,  
2 Sing how he came forth from hea - ven, bowed him-self to  
3 So, he tast - ed death for mor - tals, he, of hu - man -  
4 Now on high, yet ev - er with us, from his Fa - ther's



sweet - est strain, with the prais - es of your Sa - vior  
Beth - lehem's cave, stooped to wear the ser - vant's ves - ture,  
kind the head, sin - less one, a - mong the sin - ful,  
throne the Son rules and guides the world he ran - somed,



let his house re - sound a - gain; him let all your  
bore the pain, the cross, the grave, passed with - in the  
Prince of life, a - mong the dead; thus he wrought the  
till the ap - point - ed work be done, till he see, re -



mu - sic hon - or, and your songs ex - alt his reign.  
gates of dark - ness, thence his ban - ished ones to save.  
full re - demp - tion, and the cap - tor cap - tive led.  
newed and per - fect, all things gath - ered in - to one.

Words: John Ellerton (1826-1893), alt.

Music: *Finnian*, Christopher Dearnley (b. 1930)

87. 87. 87

1. Oh, let the Son of God en - fold you, with His  
 2. Oh, come and sing this song with glad - ness, as your

1. Spir - it and His love, Let Him fill your heart and  
 2. hearts are filled with joy, Lift your hands in sweet sur -

1. sat - is - fy your soul. Oh, let Him  
 2. ren - der to His name. Oh, give Him

1. have the things that hold you, and His Spir - it like a  
 2. all your tears and sad - ness, give Him all your years of

1. dove, Will de - scend up - on your life, and make you  
 2. pain, And you'll en - ter in - to life in Je - sus'

Words: John Wimber  
 Music: John Wimber  
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1. whole. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. name. \_\_\_\_\_

Je - sus. Oh,

Je - sus, come and

fill your lambs. \_\_\_\_\_

Je - sus, Oh, Je - sus,

come and fill \_\_\_\_\_ your lambs. \_\_\_\_\_

Wade \_\_\_ in the wa - ter, - wade \_\_\_ in the wa - ter, chil - dren,

Wade \_\_\_ in the wa - ter, - God's a - gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter. Fine

1. See \_\_\_ that \_\_\_ host all dressed in \_\_\_ white, \_\_\_
2. See \_\_\_ that \_\_\_ band all dressed in \_\_\_ red, \_\_\_
3. Look \_\_\_ o - ver yon - der, what do I see? \_\_\_ God's a - gon - na trou - ble the
4. If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed, \_\_\_

wa - ter. -

1. The lead - er \_\_\_ looks like the Is - ra - elite, \_\_\_
2. Looks like \_\_\_ the \_\_\_ band that \_\_\_ Mo - ses led, \_\_\_
3. The Ho - ly \_\_\_ Ghost a - com - ing on \_\_\_ me, \_\_\_
4. Just fol - low me down to \_\_\_ Jor - dan's stream, \_\_\_

God's a - gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter. D.C.

Words: Traditional

Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *The Haywood Collection of Negro Spirituals*, Copyright © 1992.



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,



all else be nought to me, save that thou art—  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
 may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!



thou my best thought,— by day or by night,  
 thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;  
 Heart of my heart,— what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all.

Words: Irish, ca. 700; versified Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931);  
 tr. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935), alt.

Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927

10 10. 9 10

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his  
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 \*5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but  
 2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 4 have al - ly - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me  
 5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.  
 2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

*The melody may be sung in canon at distances of either two or three beats.*

Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; st. 5, from *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; compiled by Richard Broaddus and Andrew Broaddus

Music: *New Britain*, from *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; adapt. att. Edwin Othello Excell (1851-1921); harm. Austin Cole Lovelace (b. 1919)

# Notes on the Service

## First Sunday after the Epiphany

Isa. 43:1-7 • Ps. 29 • Acts 8:14-17 • Lk. 3:15-17, 21-22

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Last Thursday was THE Epiphany. Epiphany means disclosure/showing, so further disclosures of Christ will be reported during the season after the Epiphany, eight weeks long this year. Today marks the baptism of Jesus, an epiphany when John hints at, and God declares, who Jesus is.

The collect presents the baptism of Jesus as a model for our baptism, because today is one of the four Sundays of the year which the Prayer Book designates for holding public baptisms. (Other Sundays are Easter, Pentecost, and All Saints Sunday.) New to the 1979 Prayer Book, this collect is based upon ones in the Roman Sacramentary.

First lessons for the first through the third Sundays after the Epiphany are about the redemption of Israel. In today's reading the second Isaiah says that God who made Israel is giving Ethiopia, Egypt, and Seba [in Arabia] to buy Israel's freedom, and is bringing scattered Jewish exiles home.

Because today's Gospel will report a voice from heaven, the psalm is about God's voice. One of the oldest psalms, Psalm 29 speaks of the thunder crashing across the skies. "You gods," literally, "sons of God," is addressing lesser divinities, perhaps the gods of Gentiles. "Lebanon" is the principal mountain range of Syria, north of Israel; "Mt Hermon" is in the northeast on the way to Damascus. In v 7 "flames of fire" means lightning flashes; "Kadesh" may mean a big mountain in the southern wilderness. "Flood" in v 3 & 10 means the Mediterranean. It also suggests the chaos out of which the earth appeared at creation, and on this Sunday could suggest the River Jordan's waters out of which Jesus came at his Baptism.

Second readings for the first three Sundays after the Epiphany refer to the Spirit who descended upon Jesus at his Baptism. Today we read Acts' account of that Spirit's coming to Samaritans, a group who were not Gentiles but "unorthodox" Jews, shunned by the majority who controlled Jerusalem. In Jerusalem about A.D. 30 Jewish Christians had received the Spirit. Subsequently, Peter and John lay hands on Samaritans who have been baptized, and then they, too, receive the same Spirit.

Why Luke's account of Jesus' baptism does not explicitly say that it was John who baptized him, we do not know, although it may have to do with Luke's desire not to make Jesus appear subordinate to John, who is unworthy to unloose Jesus' sandal. For Luke, the baptism of Jesus is not an exercise in repentance, but an epiphany of Jesus' nature by the Voice and the Spirit, and is the inauguration of Jesus' teaching and healing ministry.

**Rev. Stephen Weissman**  
Asheville, North Carolina

## Welcome to Christ Church!

We are so glad you have joined us for worship this morning. As we continue to recover from the recent COVID-19 pandemic, here are a few important guidelines for in-person services:

- Masks continue to be required for all indoor gatherings at this time.
- Social distancing is recommended between cohorts. Cohorts are family members and/or friends who agree to share close proximity.
- No one should sit directly behind anyone else unless they are part of a cohort.
- Distance between cohorts should be maintained.
- It is each parishioner's responsibility to follow social distancing guidelines, taking into consideration other parishioners' safety and level of comfort.



*We are a community forgiven and loved by God,  
joyfully called to the work of reconciliation.*

[christchurchcape.org](http://christchurchcape.org)