



BAPTISM OF CHRIST  
01.12.2024  
Calling/Belonging/Vocation

**Greeting & Orientation – Joanna White**

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*"There are four pillars of meaning: belonging, purpose, storytelling, and transcendence."*

*Emily Estahani Smith*

**Song – There's a Light on the Water – Kristen Toedtman – The Band**

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There's a Light on the Water  
Says it's leading me home  
There's a Light on the Water  
I thought I was alone

And the river says, "Let me lead you further.  
Just around the bend, there lies another."

There's a Light on the Water  
Says it's leading me home  
There's a Light on the Water  
I thought I was alone

There's a Light on the Water  
Wants to be my guide  
There's a Light on the Water  
It's not lettin' me hide.

And the river says,  
"Girl, you've got to keep on.  
Don't you know it gets better  
where it's deeper."

There's a Light on the Water  
Wants to be my guide  
There's a Light on the Water  
It's not lettin' me hide.

I've come too far just to turn around.  
Shore bound for miles,  
searching up & down.

It's dive or stay ever underground,  
looks like you found me

Just when I'm sinking,  
thinking I just might drown,

There's a Light on the Water There's a Light  
on the Water There's a Light on the Water  
And I thought I was alone

**Community Welcome – Mary Alice Bond**

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**Children's Message - Joanna White**

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God be in my head  
God be in my words

God be in my heart  
God be in my hands  
God be in my whole self

**Passing of the Peace**

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## Reading One – Wild Geese – Mary Oliver

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You do not have to be good.  
You do not have to walk on your knees  
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.  
You only have to let the soft animal of your body  
love what it loves.  
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.  
Meanwhile the world goes on.  
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain  
are moving across the landscapes,  
over the prairies and the deep trees,  
the mountains and the rivers.  
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,  
are heading home again.  
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,  
the world offers itself to your imagination,  
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting -  
over and over announcing your place  
in the family of things.

## Isaiah 43:1-7 - Do Not Fear

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### Refrain:

**When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
the rivers of woe shall not over you flow;  
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.**

**Thus says the Lord,  
the one who created you, O Jacob,  
the one 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.**

**Refrain**

**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.**

**Refrain**

**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."**

**Refrain**

**Prayers of the People – Joanna White**

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**Song – A Change is Gonna Come – Sam Cooke – The Band**

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**I was born by the river in a little tent  
Oh, just like a river, I've been running ever since  
It's been a long, a long time coming  
But I know a change's gonna come, oh, yes, it will**

**It's been too hard living, but I'm afraid to die  
'Cause I don't know what's up there above the sky  
It's been a long, a long time coming  
But I know a change's gonna come, oh, yes, it will**

**I go to the movies, and I go downtown  
Somebody keep telling me, don't hang around  
It's been a long, a long time coming  
But I know a change's gonna come, oh, yes, it will**

**Then I go to my brother  
I'd say brother, help me, please  
But he winds up knockin' me  
Back down on my knees**

**There been times that I thought I wouldn't last for long  
Now I think I'm able to carry on  
It's been a long, a long time coming  
But I know a change's gonna come, oh, yes, it will**

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**Reading Two: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (NRSVue) - Vaughn Vigil**

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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 strap 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."

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**Song – Where I Go in the World - Ana Hernandez – The Band**

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**Where I go in the world,  
What I do in the world,  
What I say in the world,  
In the name of love**

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**Sermon – Joanna White**

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**Celebration and Offering**

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**Pastoral Care**

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**Song – Through Waters Deep – Amy Sens – The Band**

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**When Jesus reached the Jordan's shore,  
That John might baptize him,  
He showed no glory we might know;  
No light shone from within.**

**But when he rose from waters deep,  
The voice of God did speak:  
"This is my much beloved Son;  
With him I am well pleased."**

**In baptism God speaks a word  
Of grace and call and claim  
On lives that are no longer ours,  
And never more the same.**

**We make our way through waters deep,  
Arising like the dawn,  
To follow Christ, our source and guide  
As much beloved ones.**

**In waters deep, you know us first;  
Our frames you knit and spin.  
Now through these waters of new life,  
Renew us once again.**

**Oh, take away our harmful ways;  
Transform us from inside,  
And weave through us your world  
Of peace, of healing and delight.**

O Spirit of the Living God,  
Be born in us today.  
Spring forth like cool, refreshing streams,  
Along our pilgrim way.

Fall down like rain from clouds above;  
Well up from hidden springs;  
Remake us in your waters deep,  
Creator of all things.

**Eucharist & Post Communion Prayer – Amy Sens**

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*All are welcome at the Eucharistic table. If you do not wish to participate, feel free to take this time for meditation or personal reflection.*

**Prayer and Blessing – Amy Sens**

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**Announcements and Commissioning – Vaughn Vigil**

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- Bible Study - Calling/Belonging/Vocation - Mondays at 7pm
- Cuba Mission: We're collecting: lightly worn or new shoes, dry beans, rice and maseca,
- Jan 19 - Homelessness Kit Assembly - donations welcome
- Jan 25 – Book club at 1pm at Dreamers and Make-believers. This month we're reading "When Things Fall Apart" by Pema Chodron. Books are still available
- Muffins and Muffiners
- Stream team!

**Song – Let My Love Open the Door - Pete Townshend – The Band**

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When people keep repeating  
That you'll never fall in love  
When everybody keeps retreating  
But you can't seem to get enough

Let my love open the door  
Let my love open the door  
Let my love open the door to your heart

When everything feels all over  
Everybody seems unkind  
I'll give you a four-leaf clover  
Take all worry out of your mind

Let my love open the door  
Let my love open the door  
Let my love open the door to your heart

I've got the only key to your heart  
I can stop you from falling apart  
Try today, you'll find this way  
Come on and give me a chance to say  
Let my love open the door  
It's all I'm living for  
Release yourself from misery  
There's only one thing gonna set you free

That's my love  
That's my love

Let my love open the door  
Let my love open the door  
Let my love open the door  
Let my love open the door

When tragedy befalls you  
Don't let it drag you down  
Love can cure your problems  
You're so lucky I'm around

**Let my love open the door  
Let my love open the door  
Let my love open the door to your heart**

**Dismissal – Vaughn Vigil**

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