

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS**
An Open and Affirming Congregation

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**
INDOOR WORSHIP
January 10, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude "Softly and Tenderly" by *W. Thompson arr. L. Smith*

Call to Worship *from the Presbyterian Church (USA)*

Leader: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God;

All: The holy habitation of the Most High.

Leader: The Lord pours forth rivers from bare mountains, and fountains in valleys' depths.

All: God opens rocks, and water gushes out.

Leader: On dry thirsty land God springs forth streams in the desert.

Hymn "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Tune: NETTLETON

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,

Tune my heart to sing thy grace;

Streams of mercy, never ceasing,

Call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,

Sung by flaming tongues above

Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,

Mount of God's unchanging love!

Prayer of Confession

Lord, have mercy on us. Remember the promises You made to us in baptism, forgive our sinful ways and heal our brokenness. Set us free from all that enslaves us, and raise us to new life in Jesus Christ, that we may be Your faithful servants, showing forth Your healing love to the world, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ lives in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is of the New Creation. The old life is finished, gone. Behold, new life has begun. Brothers and Sisters, believe the good news:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Gloria Patri Tune: MEINEKE

Glory be to the Father,

and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be:

world without end. Amen, Amen. (repeat last line)

Time with Children

Scripture Genesis 1:1-5

Mark 1:4-11

Sermon "In the beginning..."

Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo

Joys and Concerns

Invitation to Offering

Offertory Music "The Water is Wide" by J. Purifoy

***Doxology** *sung to the tune* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication *Presbyterian Church (USA)*

Take all we are, Lord, and use it for your purpose. Bless the gifts we give this day that the church might stand as shining witnesses to your glory, planted by your living water to bring healing to all peoples. Use us as you will to the praise of Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Hymn "Shall We Gather By 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.

Benediction

Postlude "Fairest Lord Jesus" by C. Haupt arr. L. Evans

Please Hold in Your Prayers...

Nolan Schloemer, Bonnie & Bill Gibbs, Donald & Trudy Desfosse, Jay Dev Chandra, Anna M. Kane, Linda Mitrano, Charles Monroe, Chris Laurson, Barb Sampson, Bill Siegmann, Florence Stowe, Sue Moore, Joie Hodge, Sandy Wilson, Dot Perkins, Donna and Beau Meyer and family, Lisa DiPilato, Danny Labuski, Keiarra, Rena Mayberry, Pelletier & McCowan families...

... also, all military personnel, first responders, health care workers and all who protect and care for us.

The Minister is the Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo.

Our Music Director is Mr. Curtis Smith.

The Deacon today is Linda Phillips.

The Lay Reader today is Bill Whitehead.

The altar flowers today are given by Sonja Wise in memory of her parents Calvin and Inge Lindblad who were both very involved for many years in the church's music ministry.

