



Hope Church  
Wampanoag Trail  
East Providence - Rhode Island

**Hope Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
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# **Hope Congregational UCC**

**Order of Worship 01-14-2024, 10:30 AM**

## **Baptism of Christ Sunday**

- = **Please stand as you are able**

Gathering Music: “Oh Happy Day” (by Edwin R. Hawkins)      Austin Burns & Music Team

### **Welcome & Announcements**

**Deacon Margaret McKiernan**

### **Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 29)**

### **Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 29)**

One: Ascribe to Creator glory and honor!

Many: The Voice of the Holy One hovers over the waters and speaks creation into being.

One: Ascribe to the Holy One strength and peace!

Many: the Voice of the Sovereign One calls for justice, love, and righteousness.

One: Ascribe to the Omnipresent One power and gentleness!

Many: The Voice of the Gracious One gives life and reigns forever and ever.

- **Opening Hymn: “*When Jesus Came to Jordan*”**                      **No. 242**

## **PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & RECONCILIATION**

One: Triune God, you come among us in the fullness of your being and affirm the fullness of our humanity—mind, body, and spirit. In you, we find joy and pleasure.

**Many: In you, we claim peace and hope. In you, we arise to greet a new day and a new way of being. Shape us in this time together that we might reflect your goodness and your way. Amen.**

## **Assurance of God’s Grace**

One: Beloved, the Holy One has declared you good in your being as you have been uniquely created. The Holy One has faith in you to be the best version of

yourself. Receive the grace God gives us to fail, to learn, and to be more like Jesus Christ. Receive the grace God gives us to fail, to learn, and to be more like Jesus Christ.

**Many:** The Holy One companions with us in the process of growth, renewal, and sanctification. And the Holy One empowers and emboldens us to spread the good news, pursue justice and liberation, and be agents of transformation in the world.

- **Gloria Patri**

*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.*

***A Time for All Ages / Story Moment***  
***Rev. Bob***

## **PASSING THE PEACE**

Rev. Bob: God calls us to create a community which welcomes all:

To care and love unconditionally,  
To free us and create a welcome for  
all.

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

Rev. Bob: Let share that welcome with each  
other, that Love!

**Scripture: Mark 1: 1-11 (NRSVUE)**

**Deacon Margaret McKiernan**

**1** The beginning of the good news of Jesus  
Christ.

**2** As it is written in the prophet Isaiah:

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead  
of you, who will prepare your way,<sup>3</sup> the  
voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight,’”

**4** so John the baptizer appeared in the  
wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of  
repentance for the forgiveness of  
sins. **5** And the whole Judean region and all  
the people of Jerusalem were going out to  
him and were baptized by him in the River

Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

**Sermon/Reflection: "Jesus is coming...look busy!"      Rev. Bob**

- **Hymn:      *"When John Baptized by Jordan's River"*      No. 239**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

### **Prayer Requests & Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord's Prayer: (using "debts" and "debtors")**

**All**

**Prayer Response: "Let the Church Say Amen"**

*Let the church say amen, Let the church say  
amen,  
Altogether, let the church say amen.*

## **DELIGHTING IN GIVING**

**Rev. Bob**

*Special Music: "Down to the River to Pray"  
Austin & Music Team*

- **Doxology** "Give Thanks"

*Give Thanks, with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One.  
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his  
Son.*

*And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich,"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks!*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All

Holy One, receive our offerings as gifts of ourselves. Increase the gifts and uplift our generosity to new heights. May our giving bear fruit that sustains, nurtures, and feeds a new world into being.. Amen.

- **Closing Hymn: “I’m Gonna Sing when the Spirit Says Sing”**      *Insert*

**Benediction:**

**Rev. Bob**

**Closing Music:** “Shed a Little Light” by  
James Taylor      Austin & Music Team

### ***Calendar & Announcements***

- The **Property and Finance** Committee will meet today after church.
- We are rescheduling the Christmas Clean up. to Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Please come help if you are able.
- **Stewardship Reminder:** *Please memorialize your commitment to our faith community. Your participation & donations*



***enable us to spread Jesus' message of love to all!!! If anyone wishes to pledge but hasn't, please do so as soon as possible so we can complete our budget process.***

- Rev. Bob will be at Hope on Tuesday and Thursday.
- Rev. Bob will be at Riverside on Wednesday.

If you wish to visit, contact Rev. Bob directly by phone, (401) 339-6134 or email, [nolan062400@gmail.com](mailto:nolan062400@gmail.com) to arrange your visit in the weeks to come.

- The “**Get Crafty**” group meets at Hope Church on Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM. All are welcome.
- ***Cobweb Community thrift shop @ Riverside Church Cobweb Shop***  
Wednesday-Thursdays 9-12 & Second Saturdays of the month 9:00 AM-12:00 PM.
- ***Lighthouse Community food rescue mission @ Riverside Church*** Wednesdays 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Thursdays 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM, Fridays 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
- **Lent Book Read and Discussion**– We will be reading the book, ***Holy Moments*** by Matthew Kelly. See Rev. Bob for a copy. We will meet

after church during the 5 Sundays of Lent  
beginning February 18th.

- And don't forget your clothes for the St. Pauly Shed.