



*Hope Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ*

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## WORSHIP CELEBRATION

*Baptism of Jesus/Baptism of Alexander Demeo*

January 15, 2023

10:00 a.m.

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

INTROIT “Everyone Is Welcomed Freely” Insert

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 42:1-8

One: As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you,  
O God.

**All: My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I  
come and behold the face of God?**

One: My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to  
me continually, “Where is your God?”

**All: These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went  
with the throng and led them in procession to the house of  
God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multi-  
tude keeping festival.**

One: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted  
within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise him, my help,  
and my God.

**All: My soul is cast down within me; therefore, I remember you  
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount  
Mizar.**

One: Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your torrents; all your  
waves and your billows have gone over me.

**All: By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at night  
his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.**

\*HYMN “Rain Down” No. 444

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: How often do we forget or neglect our covenant and baptismal  
vows? Teach us to live like those who have accepted the  
obligation, the responsibilities of baptized believers.

*\*If you are able to do so comfortably, please stand.*

PASTOR - Rev. Robert Nolan  
MUSIC DIRECTOR - Kim Kuda  
DEACON & LAY READER - Margaret McKiernan  
MUSIC TEAM - Andrew Foster, Sangho Nam, Kim Kuda

## NEWS AND NOTES

1. Rev. Bob has office hours on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** and would also **like to visit our members** when they are available. If you are interested, please call Shirley and she will set up an appointment for you.
2. The **office will be closed tomorrow** in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
3. The **Annual Meeting of Hope Church** will be held **next Sunday, January 22, 2023** after worship. **Annual Reports are available on the table in the narthex for your review.**
4. The **“Get Crafty”** group meets on **Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.** Please bring your own crafts to work on as we enjoy fellowship with one another. Leave your stress at home! Everyone is welcome!
5. Don't forget your used clothing for the **St. Pauly shed.**
6. **In light of the contagions with the emerging strains of Covid, we are encouraging people to wear masks, even if vaccinated, during worship.** Everyone will also be expected to sign in on our contact list.

If you are unable to attend the regular worship service of Hope Church in person on any given Sunday, the following is the information needed to livestream the service on YouTube or any time after and to get the Sunday bulletin to follow along with the service. A link to this week's livestream service and bulletin as well as those from past weeks is available at: [hopecongri.org/?page\\_id=90](http://hopecongri.org/?page_id=90). You can click on the "plus" mark for that week.

**All: Covenant God, you made us your people and gave your Son as a pledge of your love. It was by his blood that we were baptized into relationship with you. Yet, we make trivial both his blood and the water, which symbolizes our entry into the church. Forgive us our sins. Restore us to harmony with you, we pray. Amen.**

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Truly, God shows no partiality, but, in every nation, anyone who will give God reverence, and do no harm, is acceptable.  
Thanks be to God!

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**

### \*GLORIA PATRI

No. 734

### ORDER FOR BAPTISM

#### Invitation and Welcome

Pastor: Dear friends, as we come to this font of living water, let us recall the meaning of baptism. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

**All: For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and all were made to drink of one Spirit.**

Pastor: Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

#### Reading

Mark 10:13-16

#### Questions of the Candidates

#### Congregational Assent

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

**All: We promise our love, support and care.**

#### Affirmation of Faith

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

**All: We promise our love, support and care.**

Pastor: Do you believe in God?

**All: I believe in God.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**All: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**All: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

#### Prayer of Baptism

Pastor: Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

#### Act of Baptism

Act of Praise "Come to the River"

#### Prayer for the Baptized

Pastor: We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all the faithful, for these your children and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this new member of the body of Christ.

**All: Give to the newly baptized: strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.**

#### 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!**

One: Let's share that welcome with each other, that Love!

#### SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 3:13-17 (NRSVUE)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness."

Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

#### SERMON

**"To Fulfill Righteousness"**

\*HYMN "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" No. 248

#### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastoral Prayer (including prayer concerns)

Time of Silent Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father Who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

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 (Plates are at the back of the sanctuary.)

Invitation to Present Our Offerings

Offertory "Love One Another"

\*Doxology "Give Thanks" No. 359

\*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

**The voice of the Lord thunders over the waters; the God of glory thunders. We worship God in Holy Splendor with our giving. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN "As with Gladness" No. 236

#### \*BENEDICTION

One: Once again we have been refreshed by the waters of baptism.

**All: Let it be so now; for it is proper for us, in this way, to fulfill all righteousness.**

One: The heavens are opened to you, the Holy Spirit is available to you, and God affirms, "You are my beloved, well-pleasing in my sight!"

**All: May it always be so! Amen.**

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION - We invite you to sing with us:

*Now may the God of love fill you with joy and peace in believing.  
May you abound in all joy, may you abound in all hope.  
By the power of the spirit, the spirit of God,  
The spirit of God be with you.*