

## Welcome, All Worshipers

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine." (*Isaiah 43:1b*)

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(\* indicates when those who are able will stand  
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### Prelude

### WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BILL DEMPSEY, LAY READER**

### \*OPENING HYMN **STEPPING INTO THIS NEW YEAR** (SEE INSERT)

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### \*Call to Worship

Leader: From the midst of our real lives with their very real problems,

**All: We come to seek courage and strength from the presence of God and the support of one another.**

Leader: As persons who love imperfectly,

**All: We come to be renewed by the perfect love of God.**

Leader: As persons who never fully live up to their high calling in Jesus Christ,

**All: We come to be encouraged to do our best for one more week.**

**All: Let us worship, with hearts open to the love of God, with hands outstretched to one another, and with whole selves willing to accept the cost and joy of being Christ's disciples. Amen.**

### \*Opening Prayer

**All: Holy God, Eternal Spirit, we thank you for baptizing us into one body in Jesus the Christ. Wash over us with your Spirit, that, like Jesus, we may serve you in serving humanity. Baptize us with the fire of your truth, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### \*The Gloria Patri (sung)

**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**

Words: Anonymous, 4<sup>th</sup> Century. Music: Henry Greatorex. This selection is in the public domain.

### SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 43:1-7**

### ANTHEM: **GO INTO THE WORLD**

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**CHOIR**

### GOSPEL: **LUKE 3:15-16, 21-22**

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

### \*HYMN **#325 CHILD OF BLESSING, CHILD OF PROMISE** ALL VERSES

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### SERMON: **THE GIFTED**

**REV. EUGENE BACON**

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (SEE INSERT)

### SHARING OUR OFFERING, JOYS AND CONCERNS, PASTORAL PRAYER THE LORD'S PRAYER

### \*CLOSING HYMN **#459 COME, O FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING** ALL VERSES

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### \*BENEDICTION

Minister: Christ is the Way. Follow and find freedom.

**All: Christ is the Life. Receive and rejoice.**

Minister: Christ is the Truth. Seek, sure that those who seek find.

Minister: All the blessings of God, Creator, Christ, and Spirit, be with you now and all your days.

**\*UNISON RESPONSE:** And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand. Amen.

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### Postlude

OUR APPRECIATION IS EXTENDED TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS  
WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP MINISTRY

Lay Reader: **Bill Dempsey**  
Altar Guild: **Nancy Wedge**  
Counter: **Nancy Wedge**

Live Stream Operators: **Jay Kettler**  
and **Lynn Borke**  
Fellowship Hosts: **Ann & Jeff Gerow**  
and **Bill & Dottie Haase**

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 9, 2022

*We welcome people as they are,  
share Jesus as He is, and serve  
our community and the world in love.*

## This Week's Calendar

Sunday	January 9	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday	January 10	5:30 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday	January 11	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice

### Announcements:

- ❖ Please remember to sign the care letters on the table behind the sanctuary.
- ❖ Please remember to sign up to provide altar flowers. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board near the office.
- ❖ Hosting help for Fellowship Hour is much needed during many months in this new year. Please review the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary for details and sign-up for the month you want to help the assigned hosts. Thank you! Please contact Bill Haase (989-916-4104 or [dsbhaase@live.com](mailto:dsbhaase@live.com)) with any questions.

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 A unisex handicap-accessible restroom is located through the doors to your left as you exit the sanctuary. A ladies' room is near the Lockwood Street entrance. A men's room is in the middle hallway.  
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Transitional Ministers: *Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case (Pastor Emeritus)*  
and *Reverend Eugene Bacon*

Organist & Choir Director: *Kat Tomaszewski*

Office Administrator: *Judy Suszek*

Treasurer: *Denise Fusina*

Custodian: *Mike LaMarre*

Office hours: 9:00am – 1:00pm, Monday – Thursday

Phone: (989) 356-1795

Email: [officeuccalp@gmail.com](mailto:officeuccalp@gmail.com)

Web page: [www.uccalpena.org](http://www.uccalpena.org)

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## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (BAPTISM OF JESUS)

### Minister:

The earth has been sanctified, O Word, by your holy birth.  
The heavens with the stars declared your glory.  
Now the waters are blessed by your baptism in the flesh,  
and humanity has been restored once more to nobility.  
Christ is baptized.  
Coming up from the waters,  
He carries the universe.

*(from the Orthodox liturgy, trans. Kenneth*

*Leech)*

### People:

God is joined with humanity.  
As Jesus is baptized,  
we too are baptized into renewed life.  
We discover the dignity of being human;  
we are empowered to forsake the thrall of death.  
God has sanctified creation:  
The waters are blessed,  
as are earth and sky and all creatures.  
While humans threaten to destroy this world,  
our Creator works to restore all creation.  
We join with this God who has joined with us:  
in upholding human dignity and working to renew our world,  
in challenging the rule of death and claiming the dominion of  
life.

# Stepping into This New Year

REDHEAD (Alt)

R. G. Huff

Richard Redhead

1. Step - pin in - to this new year, we a - wait what lies a - head  
2. We bow down on bend - ed knees, hum - bly voic - ing fer - vent prayers,  
3. We are wait - ing in the wings; ours a va - cant, o - pen stage.  
4. We can't wait for what's in store, learn - ing what it's all a - bout.

With a fu - ture burn - ing bright, filled with won - der, not with dread.  
Cry - ing out to you for peace as we face un - cer - tain hours.  
Si - lent script and un - known plot— just a blank and emp - ty page.  
By the Spir - it and the Word God will work his pur - pose out.

All be - hind us his - to - ry; all be - fore us mys - te - ry.  
All our for - mer wrongs e - raise; hold us in your warm em - brace.  
Lord, di - rect our ev' - ry turn; for your per - fect will we yearn.  
Christ be - fore us, Christ be - low, Christ be - side us as we go.

Ours the path of faith, not fear on the first day of the year.  
Full of pos - si - bil - i - ties, we bow down on bend - ed knees.  
With a hope of com - ing things, we are wait - ing in the wings.  
As we trust him e - ven more, we can't wait for what's in store.

## Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1981

1. Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise,  
bap-tized with the Spir-it's sign;  
With this wa-ter God has sealed you  
un-to love and grace di-vine.
  
2. Child of love, our love's ex-pres-sion,  
love's cre-a-tion, loved in-deed!  
Fresh from God, re-fresh our spir-its,  
in-to joy and laugh-ter lead.
  
3. Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure,  
God's you are, from God you came.  
Back to God we hum-bly give you;  
live as one who bears Christ's name.
  
4. Child of God your lov-ing Par-ent,  
learn to know whose child you are.  
Grow to laugh and sing and wor-ship,  
trust and love God more than all.

Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.

1. Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing,  
tune my heart to sing your grace;  
streams of mer-cy, nev-er ceas-ing,  
call for songs of end-less praise.  
Teach me some me-lo-dious son-net,  
sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove.  
Praise the mount; I'm fixed up-on it,  
mount of God's un-fail-ing love.
2. Here I pause in my so-journ-ing,  
giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,  
come to trust, at ev-ery turn-ing,  
God will guide me safe-ly home.  
Je-sus sought me when a strang-er,  
wan-dering from the fold of God,  
Came to res-cue me from dan-ger,  
bless-ed bod-y, pre-cious blood.
3. O to grace how great a debt-or  
dai-ly I am drawn a-new!  
Let that grace now, like a fet-ter,  
bind my wan-dering heart to you.  
Prone to wan-der, I can feel it,  
wan-der from the love I've known:  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it for your ver-y own.

Ps. 36:7-9

## Scripture:

### Isaiah 43:1-7

**43** But now 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. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; <sup>6</sup>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— <sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

## Gospel:

### Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>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.

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>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."