

# Grace Devotion

*Baptism of our Lord*

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Week of January 12, 2025

Pastor Fred Young

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*Imagine for a moment the theory that matter (in our present state) is neither created nor destroyed, that the water on our planet exists in a never ending recycling system of condensation, evaporation and the life preserving substance of water as we know it. Water. What if the miraculous waters of history are still in us and around us, the vehicles of Wine and wells, baptisms, acts of healing, restoration and service? The legacy of Living Water.*

**Kara Young**

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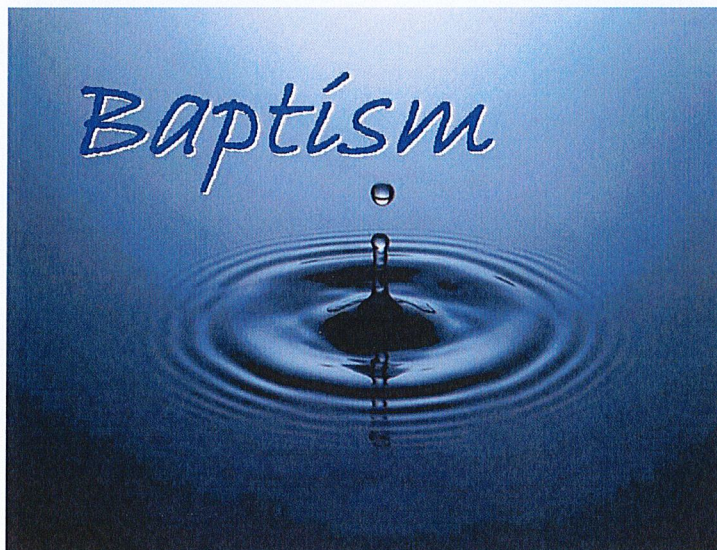
Every Epiphany Season calls us into new lives with Christ. After the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we move away from the child and encounter the man, the prophet, the teacher, the healer, the trouble-maker Jesus! It's no accident that we hear the story of Jesus' baptism during Epiphany, the season of manifestation of a bright shining light. This baptism story is full of revelation about Jesus' true identity: Imagine the heavens as they open up and the voice of God speaks to Jesus, saying, *"You are my Beloved."*

The cleansing, renewing waters of baptism link us to creation and to our creator. They stream around us and through us, binding us together as a family of believers. The prophet, Isaiah announces that humanity is claimed by God, each one of us. This is where our sense of community begins; to know and to understand that God calls us. God draws us toward the same realm Jesus came to proclaim

God calls people in a multitude of ways. John the Baptist's message was one of preparation; repentance and claiming through the sacrament of baptism, as he spoke to a people in need along the Jordan River. This muddy body of water where many began journeys of faith to follow a man, they had only heard rumors about.

The ritual of baptism welcomes the body along with the spirit into the community of faith. Know this as truth; no one is excluded, no part left behind. God continues to be present for all of creation. The blessed water, in its many forms connects us, cleanses us, sustains us, and draws us closer to Christ. Like Jesus, **You** too, are God's Beloved; with **You**, God is well pleased! Amen.

PRAYER: God of cleansing water, descend upon us and make us whole again. Amen.



Grace United Church of Christ

January 12, 2025

10AM Worship

**Brunch Around the Cross (Take 2)**

**Town Hall #5**

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GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

**\*\*OPENING SONG**

**\*\*Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**“We light this candle inviting the Holy Spirit into our lives and into this room!”**

**\*\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We are precious in your sight, ye we often forget that we are your beloved.**

**We confess that our love is fickle and inconsistent.**

**We follow selfish goals and deny that your way of life  
harms others and hurts your world.**

**We are sorry and we want to change. Create in us a clean heart, strengthen our  
resolve, and reconcile us one to another, and bless us with your peace. Amen.**

MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We have offered to God the concerns of our hearts and minds. We trust that God not only hears our prayers but in God’s almighty wisdom and awareness of our needs does answer our prayers.

**We are a forgiven people. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

VIDEO ON COMMUNION

Sharing of the Bread

**\*\*HYMN #**

**\*\*PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***“May the Peace of Christ be with you!”***

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYER/LORD’S PRAYER**

**\*\*HYMN**

**SCRIPTURES**

Isaiah 43:1-7

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**CHURCH PROFILE ACTIVITY**

*(Who is Grace United Church of Christ in 2025 compared to 2017?)*

**\*\*THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS**

**\*\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #625 Doxology**

**\*\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

**As people who have passed through the waters of baptism,  
let us make our grateful offering to God our Redeemer. Amen.**

**SHARING OF THE CUP OF BLESSING**

**\*\*SONG**

**\*\*FINAL BLESSING**

**\*\*CHORAL BENEDICTION**

**\*\*POSTLUDE**

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## LUKE 3:15-17

U	H	E	A	R	T	S	P	M	T	S	H
N	X	M	U	S	E	D	U	E	C	M	O
Q	X	W	A	T	E	R	H	T	M	A	L
U	Z	B	U	Z	L	C	P	E	V	D	Y
E	F	A	H	N	T	E	L	H	V	T	G
N	W	P	F	A	L	P	T	M	I	A	H
C	O	T	L	F	O	O	J	U	N	H	O
H	D	I	F	E	L	D	O	H	O	I	S
A	R	Z	P	A	C	O	O	S	N	M	T
B	O	E	S	W	K	J	Z	N	E	Q	R
L	E	X	P	E	C	T	A	T	I	O	N
E	M	I	G	H	T	I	E	R	L	Y	H

People

John

Latchet

Expectation

Baptize

Unloose

Mused

Water

Holy Ghost

Hearts

Mightier

Unquenchable



## WORD SEARCH

C F W E G I C I C L E L A W X N R A  
 L R S C E T A R B E L E C S C A R F  
 C O B S M C Y Y D R C C Q R E M M R  
 C S R R G W I I E J K L A Y H W H O  
 T T A A C I R G O O F R W D L O C Z  
 V Y R A U N A J N W A E K X T N A E  
 B O B T E T S P M R N N E C B S Y N  
 O T R S L E D D I N G N O F I N K E  
 O E M A I R T E Y P R C X J O O F Y  
 T G L O V E S G G W O F D R E W M P  
 S W X H G I P B N A R E H E N F L E  
 G R E K L A F X S N O W B A L L S C  
 D J T E D R K A O S F F U M R A E S  
 Y D R C E Q R S U M I C E L C K R R  
 I E J E L A S N O I T U L O S E R G  
 H E Z C I R R O Q L I E J K L A N H  
 E E I U D S T W A A C A S G O I F R  
 I T Y R E P P I L S W T A P I Q J N  
 W A E K X V E N C S G E L K B T E R  
 C H I L L Y E G B O Y K S N O O T R

BOOTS  
 CELEBRATE  
 CHILLY  
 COLD  
 EARMUFFS  
 FREEZE  
 FROSTY  
 FROZEN  
 GLOVES  
 HAT  
 HOT COCOA  
 ICE  
 ICICLE  
 JANUARY  
 NEW YEAR  
 RESOLUTIONS  
 SCARF  
 SKIING  
 SLEDDING  
 SLIPPERY  
 SNOWBALL  
 SNOWFLAKE  
 SNOWING  
 SNOWMAN  
 WINTER