



# First Congregational United Church of Christ

Menomonie, Wisconsin

Baptism of Jesus  
Epiphany  
January 8, 2023

## Welcome

### Prelude/Candle-lighting

"When He Cometh"  
(arr. G. Young)

Evelyn Rohrbach

## Ringing of the Bell

### Call to Worship

Leader: The heavens open. The Spirit descends.

**All: Jesus emerges from the water.**

Leader: A voice echoes through the blue expanse.

**All: "This is my child, the Beloved, with whom I am well-pleased."**

Leader: Jesus is named. Claimed.

**All: We come to the water. We remember we are named. Claimed.**

Leader: What a thing to be named and claimed by God.

**All: Let us worship the one who names and claims us still.**

### Opening Prayer (unison)

Gracious and all-loving God, you call to us across deep waters and from dark places. Yours is the darkness that holds us, the light that guides us and the voice that names us. Grant us eyes to see and ears to hear your gentle, powerful presence alive all around us. May those without hope be encouraged; those who are sad, cheered; those who are seeking, find you. May we join in the gentle revolution of your kin-dom. Amen.

### \*Opening Hymn

"Gather Us In"

SoF #44

### Readings

Isaiah 42:1-9

Mt. 3:13-17

Lee Theorin

### Anthem

"Brighter Than the Sun"  
(Ray Makeever)

Senior Choir

### Sermon

*Gentle Perseverance*

Rev. Kathleen Remund

### Re-Affirming Our Baptism

**Prayers of the People****Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father/Mother/Creator who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy 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 thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Offering/Offertory**

“Brightest and Best of the Stars”

Evelyn Rohrbach

**\*Doxology (in unison)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all people here below;  
Praise God above you heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)**

**Holy One, who calls us “Beloved” and invites us into Christ’s Way of gentle revolution, we dedicate these gifts to the realizing of your kin-dom. Receive our hearts, our vision, our commitment and our resources so that your love and justice may bloom in our midst. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Siyahamba/We Are Marching”

SoF #120

**\*Benediction**

Leader: May the path that Christ walks to bring justice upon the earth, to bring light to those who sit in darkness, to bring out those who live in bondage, to bring new things to all creation: may this path run through our life and our lives. May we be the road Christ takes.

**All: Amen.**

**\*Sung Benediction**

God, be with you till we meet again;  
By their counsels guide, uphold you;  
With their sheep securely fold you;  
God, be with you till we meet again.

**Postlude**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”  
(arr. H. Gehrke)

Evelyn Rohrbach

The Call to Worship was written by Caela Wood, Pastor at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Manhattan, Kansas and posted at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>.

The Opening Prayer was adapted from one written by Rev. Richard J. Fairchild and posted on *Kir-shalom*, <http://www.rockies.net>, then re-posted at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>.

The Benediction is adapted from “Epiphany Blessing,” written by Jan Richardson and posted on *The Painted Prayerbook*, <http://paintedprayerbook.com>.

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# Gather Us In

(Marty Haugen)



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,  
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the  
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the  
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the  
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

# We Are Marching

First system of musical notation. Treble and bass clefs, key signature of one sharp (F#), and 4/4 time signature. The melody in the treble clef includes a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics are: "We are march - ing\* in the light of God, we are".

Second system of musical notation, featuring a first ending bracket labeled "1." and a second ending bracket labeled "2.". The lyrics are: "march - ing in the light of God, march - ing in the light of God." and "march - ing in the light of the".

Third system of musical notation. The lyrics are: "we are march - ing, light of God, we are march - ing, march - ing, we are".

Fourth system of musical notation. The lyrics are: "Oo we are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing in the light of God.".

\* Alternate text: dancing, singing, praying

Text: South African  
Tune: South African  
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