



BAPTISM OF THE LORD

# The Water's Fine

Glimpses of the Kin-dom Worship Series



**DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES**  
The United Methodist Church

**Bellflower UMC**

January 8, 2023

Baptism of the Lord

GREETINGS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

OPENING PRAYER

PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING 🎵

**Our God is an awesome God  
He reigns from heaven above  
With wisdom, power, and love  
Our God is an awesome God**

CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

The heavens open. The Spirit descends.

**Jesus emerges from the water.**

And a voice echoes through the blue expanse.

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

Jesus is named. Claimed.

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

Can it be so? What a thing to be named. Claimed.

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

HYMN 🎵

617. I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord

NOISY OFFERING (Mt Vernon)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 42:1-9

RESPONSE

761. Psalm 29

CHILDREN'S SERMON

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

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<sup>1</sup> written by Caela Wood, Pastor at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Manhattan, Kansas.

# LORD'S PRAYER - #895

## RESPONSE

**Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

**Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

**Incline Thine ear to us,**

**and grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

## GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 3:13-17

HYMN  #252. When Jesus Came to Jordan

## SERMON

## RESPONSE<sup>2</sup>

**(Sing) Lord, I want to be a Christian  
in my heart, in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

You alone can change me, Lord. Wash me in the waters of baptism that I may become a new person. Wash away everything that stands between me and your holiness.

**(Sing) In my heart, in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

You alone can change me, Lord. Wash away this temper that gets me into more trouble than I can handle. Wash away the massive wants that place me in constant financial jeopardy.

**(Sing) Lord, I want to be a Christian  
in my heart, in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

You alone can change me, Lord. Wash away my envy that separates me from the people I should love. Wash away everything that stands between me and your holiness.

**(Sing) In my heart, in my heart.**

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<sup>2</sup> Kwasi I. Kena, *The Africana Worship Book, Year A*, Valerie Bridgeman Davis and Safiyah Fosua, eds., (Discipleship Resources, 2006), 103.

**Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

You alone can change me, Lord. Wash me with your  
cleansing power that I may be a child of God.

You alone can change me, Lord.

**(Sing) Lord, I want to be a Christian  
in my heart, in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

**OFFERING & PEACE**

**DOXOLOGY** 🎵 - #95

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**BENEDICTION<sup>3</sup>**

Greet yourself as God's beloved.

Greet one another as God's beloved.

Greet all you encounter as God's beloved.

In that greeting, we will be and we will become the Body  
of Christ. In that greeting, we will behold the image of  
God, ever among us and around.

**POSTLUDE** 🎵

**Go Now In Peace**

**Next Sunday: "Not Lacking"**

📖 Isa 49:1-7; Ps 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

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please contact any church member or Pastor Rob  
(309-722-1500, [rob@methodist.cc](mailto:rob@methodist.cc)).

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<sup>3</sup> Martha Brunell, *The Abingdon Women's Preaching Annual, Series 2, Year A*  
(Abingdon Press, 2001), 59.