



Red Lodge Community Church
United Church of Christ
PO Box 786, 308 S. Broadway Ave.
Red Lodge, MT 59068
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406-446-1444

BAPTISM OF CHRIST

January 12, 2025

GATHERING MUSIC

Marty Clague

WELCOME

Rev. Teressa L. Clark

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

**CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)*

Carolyn Brown

One: The voice of God spoke over the waters,

Many: And the voice of God said, “Let there be. And there was.”

One: The voice of God said, “Let there be the people of Red Lodge Community Church, United Church of Christ, and there were.”

Many: And it was good.

One: The voice of God came from heaven, saying “You are my son, my daughter, my child, my beloved one.”

Many: “With you I am well pleased.”

One: In the washing of the baptismal waters, we became light—light to the world.

Many: And God saw that the light was good!

**OPENING PRAYER (unison)*

God, who spoke words of love for Jesus at his baptism, and who speaks words of love for us at the font, be present. Speak to us anew this day that we may speak boldly of you in a world that desperately longs to be re-created in your love. Amen.

*HYMN “You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore” NCH # 173 V. 1,2& 4

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Talk about water ... where we use it, how it is important for life.

*Talk about baptism as a sacrament (use things to remind of something divine);
where we are named and claimed by God.*

Blessing of Water

Dear God, // Bless this water. //

Use it // to remind us // of baptism // and your love.

Help us // follow Jesus, // with kindness and love.

Amen.

Touch / splash the water,

have kids say “God loves me. God loves you.”

SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:15-22

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ 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 strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people. ¹⁹ But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰ added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² 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.”

One: The word of God for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Remembering Baptism”

*AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

One: Do you believe in God?

All: We believe in God, the creator of the universe, who calls us each into relationship with God and with one another.

One: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

All: We believe in Jesus Christ, the one who came to dwell among us, revealing God's love for all people.

One: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

All: We believe in the Holy Spirit, the force by which we are brought into closer harmony with the will of God.

One: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and community, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer?

All: We will, with God's help.

One: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being?

All: We will, with God's help.

*PRAYER OF THE BAPTIZED

One: Eternal God, you have come to us in Jesus Christ, given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins. Bless us now with the grace we need to fulfill what we have promised.

All: By your Spirit, almighty God, grant us love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Then strengthen us for ministry in your name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Confident in your grace and truth, O God, we pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

You bid us turn away from all that holds us back from living as your servants. Give us truly contrite hearts and turn our faces to your ever-present mercy once more.

We pray for creation and all that it faces. Strengthen and guide those who advocate for sustainable practices and policies. Inspire us to actively engage in preserving and protecting the earth.

We pray for local leaders. Give them a commitment to justice and equity. Help them to seek unity and wellbeing for all under their care.

We pray for all who are suffering from illness, physical, emotional, or spiritual
especially...

Bring comfort to those who are struggling, strength to those who are weary, and healing to those who are broken. Embrace all with your love and surround them with caring communities.

We pray for all who face uncertainty and danger. May your peace reign in regions torn by war, and may the international community work towards solutions that promote harmony and equity.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We lift up all of our prayers, spoken and unspoken to you.

And now join our voices in the prayer Jesus taught:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Do you have questions about Red Lodge Community Church or the United Church of Christ? Do you wonder about the history or how things get done or what we believe? Have you considered joining, but want to know more? Pastor Teressa and the Deacons will host an informal **information session** next Sunday (January 12th) after worship. We'll provide a brief overview of RLCC and the UCC and answer questions. Childcare will be provided. You're invited to get a cup of coffee and a treat in fellowship hall then bring it upstairs to the Upper Room for the conversation. Whether a relative newcomer or a participant over many years, all are welcome!
- Did you receive a Bible from your home church when you were a child, maybe in 3rd grade? Do you still have it? We plan to present Bibles in two weeks and thought it would be fun to have a display of Bibles from members of the congregation. If you're willing, bring your Bible on Jan. 26th. You're welcome to bring any special Bible – whether or not you received it as a child or it was given to you by a church.
- **Survey** for Rocky Mountain Vista University in Billings about access to and attitudes regarding Telehealth. It's being done by a group of Master's Level students who will have preference for acceptance into the medical school there.
- **Annual Meeting** will be held after worship on February 9th.
- **Supper Club** – talk to Helen.

INVITATION TO GIVING

Members of the first Christian congregations received the gift of the spirit and so were gifted for ministry in the world. In baptism, we too are gifted and, in turn, we offer the gifts of our labor for the good of God's creation. Let us receive the morning offering.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

NCH # 778, TUNE: OLD HUNDREDTH

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

God of glory, in baptism we dedicate our lives to you and pledge to become your voice of love in the world. Hold us close in our baptismal vows as we bring ourselves, our time, and our possessions to you. May these offerings be gifts of your love in a world in which your tender voice of love is often drowned out by voices of violence, hatred, and oppression. Use us and all we have to your glory. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

This is the supper of Jesus Christ. All are invited. All are welcome.

INVITATION

Come, you who are weary or restless.
Come, all who hunger and thirst.
Jesus calls us all to dine as friends.
Come, God's feast of welcome awaits us.

COMMUNION PRAYER

O God, our Father and Mother,
Bread baker and wine maker,
We give you thanks and praise.

You spoke the world into being,
Instilled all creation with the breath of life,
And have shaped us as your people.

In Jesus Christ, the bread of life and true vine,
You feed us with the Word,
And nourish us from the stalk.

O present spirit, help us recognize the risen Christ
In the breaking of the bread
And sharing of the cup.

Feed the world with this bread.
Bring it joy with this fruit of the vine.
Give it leaven and salt though us,
a community of strengthened by your meal. Amen.

BREAKING BREAD / POURING CUP

Through the broken bread, we participate in the body of Christ.
Through the cup of blessing, we participate in the new life Christ gives.

My friends, these are the gifts of God, for the people of God.
Come, for all things are ready.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

We are serving by Intinction today.
As you are able, please move forward as directed by a Deacon,
receive the bread, dip one end of the bread in the cup, partake, and
return to your seat.
If you prefer, we are glad to serve you where you are seated.

MUSIC

“River”

Lynell Kruckeberg

Text and Music by Julian Pattison

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)*

God of glory, in baptism we dedicate our lives to you and pledge to become your voice of love in the world. Hold us close in our baptismal vows as we bring ourselves, our time, and our possessions to you. May these offerings be gifts of your love in a world in which your tender voice of love is often drowned out by voices of violence, hatred, and oppression. Use us and all we have to your glory. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN “I’ve Got Peace Like a River” NCH # 478**

***BENEDICTION**

Life is short and we do not have much time
to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us.
So be swift to love, make haste to be kind,
And go in peace, praising God in word and deed.¹

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord’s face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord look upon you with kindness and give you peace.²

***SENDING SONG “Go Tell It on the Mountain” NCH # 154, refrain**

¹ Adapted from Henri Frederic Armiel

² Priestly blessing, Numbers 6:24-26

Please join us downstairs after worship for a time of fellowship.

An asterisk () notes an invitation to stand in body or spirit;
congregational parts are in **bold print**.*



We are an Open and Affirming Church.

Serving today:

Deacons Sharyn McKenzie, Helen Mackay
Technology Jay West
Nursery Attendant..... Deb Bratton
Sunday School..... Zina General (CE Director), N/A
Fellowship Time Host(s) Marge & Brent Nearpass

Transitional Pastor Teresa Clark is available for **pastoral care** emergencies and visits. Contact her by phone at **406-717-9745** or by email to rlccminister@gmail.com.

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