

**First Sunday after Epiphany,
The Baptism of Christ
January 10, 2016**

Prelude: *Shepherds Came* Helmut Walcha

Chiming of the Hour

***Hymn:** #126 *Brightest and Best of the Songs*

Welcome

Joys and Concerns

Choral Introit: *Like Survivors of the Flood*

Call to Worship

One: Dear Ones, today we bring to mind that
Jesus came to the waters of baptism.

**All: When we are baptized, we affirm that
our glorious Creator claims us and sets
us on the path of freedom and
discipleship for the rest of our lives.**

One: In baptism we are joined to Christ and to
each other, recalling that:

**All: "There is no longer Jew or Greek
there is no longer slave or free
there is no longer male or female
for all of us are one in Christ Jesus."**

One: In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for
ministry. Baptism is the beginning of our
transformation into disciples.

**All: Therefore, on this day, the whole
church, the Body of Christ, remembers
and celebrates that beginning.**

One: Let us worship God.

Prayer of Invocation (in unison)

Dear Lord, let what we say and do here, what we
ponder and decide here, be honest and true. As
you strengthen us for living well in our
communities, help us be authentic and humble.
Thank you for calling us to be devoted. Amen.

Call to Confession

Together we can face what we cannot face alone.
Let us clear our hearts and minds so that God can
feed our hearts. Let us pray corporately and then
silently.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

O God, we are sorry for many things: for missing
signals from others, for mixing our own signals,
and for confusing everyone. We feel badly but we
may not apologize. Free us from our self-made
chaos and help us forgive ourselves. In this
moment we turn ourselves over to you.

Moment of Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Love

One: Thus says the God who created you and
formed us in God's image:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine."
Friend, this is the good news.

All: I belong to God.

***Gloria Patri:** *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.*

Responsive Reading - Psalm 29: 1-11

(Page 621 OT in the pew bible)

**Hebrew Scripture Reading - Isaiah 43: 1-7,
18-21** (Page 822 OT in the pew bible)

Children's Message and Lord's Prayer

*(Children will leave for Sunday School and Youth
Discussion Group)*

***Hymn:** #164 (Supplement) *Arise your Light Has
Come*

Offering of our Gifts

Anthem: *A New Year Dawns* Paige and Martin
***Doxology:** *Praise God from whom all blessings
flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise
God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son,
and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication

Bless these offerings, O God, which we have
received from you and now return to you. In our
seeking and in our serving, may our ministry
illumine the way of those who hunger. Guide us
into our wisdom and our kindness. Amen.

Gospel Reading - Luke 3: 15-18, 21-22

(Page 68 NT in the pew bible)

Sermon: *"Putting the Past in the Past"*

The Rev. Eileen L. Epperson

Pastoral Prayer and Silent Prayer

Response: *Like small children washed and clean
Remembering Our Baptismal Promises*

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God,
to be a disciple, to follow in the way of
Jesus Christ,
to expose the fruits of darkness,
to show love and justice,
and to witness to the work and word of
Jesus Christ, as best you are able?

(People answer silently to themselves)

Pastor: And do you promise, according to the
grace given to you, to grow in your faith
and to be a faithful member of the church,
whether this one or another, celebrating
Christ's presence and furthering God's
mission in all the world?

(People answer silently to themselves)

Prayer of Recommitment

**All: By your Spirit, Almighty God, Grant us
Love for others,
Joy in serving you,
Peace in disagreement,
Patience in pain,
Kindness toward living beings,
Goodness in the face of fury,
Courage in temptation,
Perseverance in the face of
resignation, and
Self-discipline in our commitments.
Then strengthen us for ministry in
your name. Amen.**

***Hymn:** #438 *When Peace Like A River*

Benediction

Remember this week **whose** you are.
And remember, "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."
Go in the peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God!

Choral Response: *Do You See the Spirit's Fire?*

Postlude: *The Kings* Gordon Young
(*Please stand if able.)

*Please join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments
and fellowship following worship. Our hosts today
are the Deng family and the Hoffman – Zarbock
Family.*

*The flowers are donated by the Beck Family in
gratitude for the love, light and life of Dorrie
Fuchs, 5/27/57 - 1/10/15.*

Our ushers today are Bob Weber and Vince
Hanlon.

Our Lay reader today is Jack Patterson.

Prayer List

*Alan Weinberg, Les Cornwell and family, Sarah
and Pete Cortright, David Bernier, Marilyn Ritchie,
Rosie Bell, Nancy Tuckerman, Barbara Jacquette,
family and friends of Martha Johnson, Mary
Wadsworth, Gloria Buckley, Petie Robinson, Sue
Bucceri, Bruce McEver, Jim Aitchison, Jeri Johnson,
Nancy Smith, Dick Dwelley, Louise "Weezie"
Hannegan, and the family and friends of Al Sly.*

Calendar For the Week

Today: 11:15 am Christian Action
11:30 am Trustees Meeting
Thursday: 8:30 am "Silent" Retreat in the
Parish Hall Library
4:30 pm Women's Bible Study
Friday: 8:00 am Men's Bible Study
Next Sunday: 11:30 am Church Council

OPPORTUNITIES

AL SLY MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Hospitality Committee would appreciate
your support as we prepare to celebrate the life
of Al Sly on Saturday, January 30. If you are
interested and able to contribute food for the
reception following the service, please complete
the attached sheet and return with the offering
or to the church office. Copies of the sheet will
also be with the church bulletins. Thank you!

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THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SALISBURY

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SALISBURY, CONNECTICUT

GATHERED IN 1744
INCORPORATED IN 1949



CREATED BY GOD
CALLED BY JESUS CHRIST
GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT
DEDICATED TO LOVING AND SERVING GOD AND NEIGHBOR

The Reverend Diane Monti-Catania, *Pastor*