



# The United Parish in Brookline

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist



*"Jesus' Baptism" by Laura James*

January 12, 2025

Second Sunday of Epiphany

Jesus' Baptism

Nursery care is available for children under 5 years old, upstairs in Room 203, where our professional caregivers provide activities, crafts, snacks, and a scripture-based curriculum.

During worship, children are invited to explore our 'Prayground' to the right of the worship platform. There is also a Family Room across the hall from the Prayground for those who would like a quiet place to rock or nurse. Rocking chairs are also available at the back of the Sanctuary.

Hearing devices are available from the ushers.

Scan the QR code to the right to fill out a visitor card, contribute to our offering, and more!



**Gathering Music**

*Ave Maria*  
by Giulio Caccini

Beverly Bowman, *cello*  
Susan DeSelms, *Minister of Music*

**\*Chiming the Trinity** *\*means we invite you to rise in body and spirit*

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Shall We Gather at the River*

New Century Hymnal #597  
TUNE: HANSON PLACE

**Greetings**

Amy Norton-Benfield and Kent French  
*Associate and Senior Pastors*

**Anthem**

*Cleansing Fountain*  
early American melody arranged by Lee Burswold

Beverly Bowman, *cello*

**Centering Prayer of Confession**

Loving and compassionate God,  
to you all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hid.  
We confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in one another, in ourselves,  
and in the world you have created.  
We turn away from the harm that enslaves us,  
the harm we have done  
and the harm done on our behalf.  
Forgive us, restore and strengthen us, we pray.  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit  
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name...

**Silent Confession**

*We take up to one minute to pray our own private confessions in silence.*

One: O God, in your compassion;

All: Hear our prayer.

**\*Assurance of Grace**

**\*The Peace of Christ**

One: The Peace of Christ and the Love of God be with you always;

All: And also with you.

**\*Peace Response**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*  
Traditional Negro Spiritual

All Sing

Refrain    ***Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere  
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!***

Verse 1    ***While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light.*** Refrain

Verse 2    ***The shepherds feared and trembled  
When, lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth.*** Refrain

Verse 3    ***Down in a lowly manger  
Our humble Christ was born  
And brought us all salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.*** Refrain

**Reading from the Gospel**

Luke 3:1-22

Justin Loke

**Message**

Amy Norton-Benfield

**Sung Response**

*Down in the River to Pray*  
Traditional Negro Spiritual

All Sing

Refrain    ***As I went down in the river to pray  
Studyin' about that good old way  
And who shall wear the robe and crown  
Good Lord, show me the way!***

Verse    ***Oh, sisters, let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
Oh, sisters, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray***

***brothers, siblings, sinners***

**Prayers of the People**

One: O God, hear our prayer;

All: And guide us with your love.

## Lord's Prayer

*We invite you to use whatever word for God you choose: Mother, Father, Allah, or...*

Our 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 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 and ever. Amen.

## Offering Collection

*No gift is too small or too large; all are precious.*

*Ways to contribute:*

1. Place cash, check, or visitor card in the offering plate.
2. Scan the QR code at right.
3. Through Venmo (@unitedparishinbrookline), Paypal (paypal.me/unitedparish), Realm (internal directory/database), or at [unitedparishbrookline.org/give](https://unitedparishbrookline.org/give).



## Negro Spiritual Royalties Project

Our peace response “Go Tell It On the Mountain” and the sermon response “Down in the River to Pray” are the intellectual property of enslaved people in America. We affirm the artistic and spiritual worth of these and other *Negro Spirituals*, pledging to sing them with holy reverence and open hearts. We acknowledge the musicians who created them and pay royalties for them with a combination of budgeted funds and the morning plate offering whenever we sing them.

Our royalties payments currently go to *Hamilton-Garrett Music and Arts*, a Boston organization dedicated to promoting the advancement of young Black musicians, and to preserving *Negro Spirituals* in the Black community.

## Offertory Anthem

*Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring*

Valentine Umeh, *soloist*

From Cantata 147, translated into English by Robert Bridges

*Jesu, joy of our desiring,  
Holy wisdom, love most bright;  
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring  
Soar to uncreated light.*

*Word of God, our flesh that fashioned,  
With the fire of life impassioned,  
Striving still to truth unknown,  
Soaring, dying round Thy throne.*

*Through the way where hope is guiding,  
Hark, what peaceful music rings;  
Where the flock, in Thee confiding,  
Drink of joy from deathless springs.*

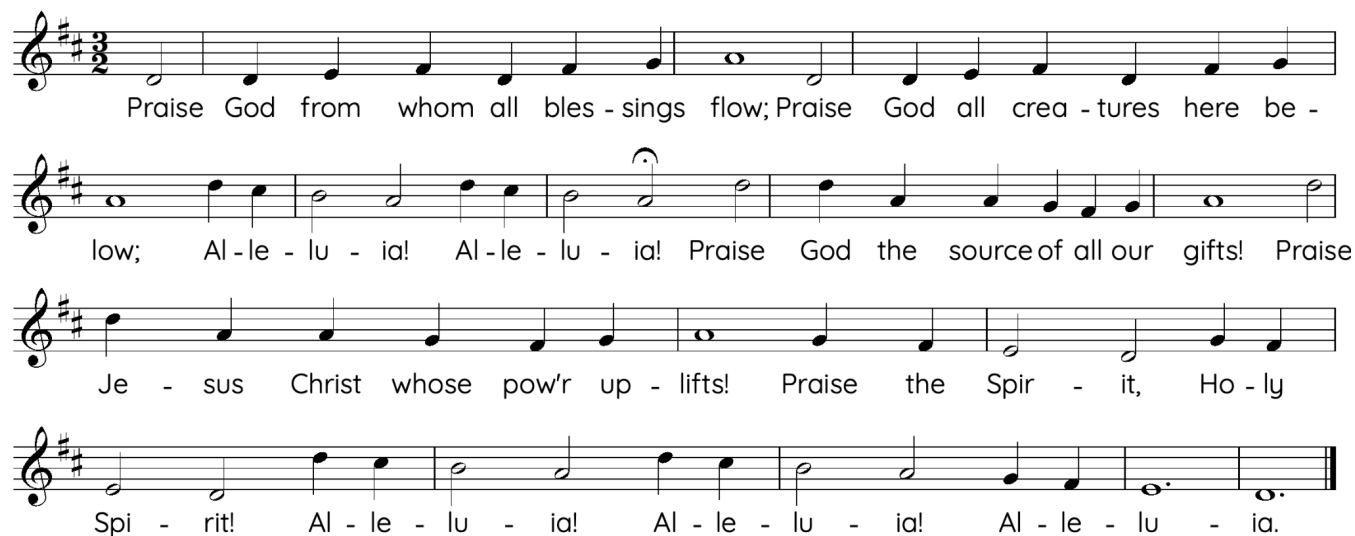
*Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure;  
Theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure.  
Thou dost ever lead Thine own  
In the love of joys unknown.*

**\*Doxology**

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

All Sing

TUNE: LASST UNS ERFREUEN



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here be -  
low; Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Praise God the source of all our gifts! Praise  
Je-sus Christ whose pow'r up-lifts! Praise the Spir-it, Ho-ly  
Spi-rit! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Closing Hymn**

*Blessed Be the Tie That Binds*

New Century Hymnal #393

TUNE: DENNIS

**\*Holy Business**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

*Christ, our Lord to Jordan Came, BWV 684*  
by Johann Sebastian Bach

Susan DeSelms

Thank you to those serving in worship today:

Liturgist: Justin Loke

Ushers: Tyler Smith, Emily Turkington, Carolyn Melbye, Alan Fobes, David Mann, Ella M.,  
Livia Imada

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# WELCOME

We at the United Parish in Brookline believe that all people are made in the image of God and embrace and cherish every person and every kind of family. Jesus Christ welcomed everyone; we seek to follow his example in our own life and worship, by extending God's love and grace abundantly and equally to everyone. We affirm and welcome all people to share in worship, fellowship and leadership with us, to join us in a diversity of race, gender, sexual identity, physical and mental ability, ethnicity and economic means.

We have joined with other Open and Affirming (United Church of Christ) and Welcoming and Affirming (American Baptist Churches USA), as well as with the Reconciling Ministries Network (United Methodist Churches) to declare that we are and will remain open to all people.

We invite you to consider becoming a member of the United Parish family. You may become a member by transferring membership or by a statement of faith. If you desire to retain ties with a former church, we invite you to become an associate or affiliate member for the time you are with us.

*We ask that you silence all electronic devices.  
Please see an usher if you would like a hearing assistive device.*

*Because our building is open to the public,  
an adult should accompany children if/when they leave the worship service.*

Ministers  
Senior Pastor  
Associate Pastor  
Seminarian  
Minister of Music  
Choir Section Leader  
Choir Section Leader  
Choir Section Leader  
Choir Section Leader  
Handbell Choir Director  
Multimedia Producer  
Parish Administrator  
Accounting Administrator  
Building Manager  
Custodian  
Custodian  
Custodian  
Nursery Supervisor  
Nursery Staff  
Nursery Staff  
Nursery Staff  
Nursery Staff  
Pastor Emerita

The People of the United Parish  
Reverend Kent French  
Reverend Amy Norton-Benfield  
Anna Jeide-Detweiler  
Susan DeSelms  
Ruby Abreu  
Robbie Allen  
Michelé Crowder  
Valentine Umeh  
Tricia Kopko  
Jordan Wuth  
Sarah Fitzpatrick  
Jim Smith  
Rebekah Shore  
Emery Bibbins  
Jesse Kieffer  
Violet Nowlan  
Katy Lum  
Melanie Caicedo  
Anne Florient  
Ione Madsen Hardy  
Emma Nelson  
Patricia Coughlin



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