



**GRACE UNITED CHURCH**  
**Worship Service**  
**January 8, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.**

Minister: Rev. Ken MacDonald  
Lay Presider: Alex MacMillan

**GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Gathering Music:** Grace Band

**Blessed Assurance**  
**Just as I Am**

F. Crosby & P. Knapp  
C. Elliott & W. Bradbury  
with intro from The Summer Knows by M. Legrand

**Welcome & Announcements - Presider**

**Acknowledgment of the Traditional Land – Presider**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Call to Worship**

One: Today we celebrate a special baptism;  
the baptism of Jesus of Nazareth. God says:  
Look! See my chosen servant,  
the One in whom I utterly delight;

**All: I have placed my Spirit on him,  
he will bring true justice to the nations.**

One: When Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened up,  
and Spirit came down like a dove;  
and there was a voice from heaven saying:

**All: “This is my dearly loved Son,  
with whom I am delighted.”**

One: The joy of the Lord be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

**Opening Prayer and Lord’s Prayer**

**Worship Pkg 1:** Praise Team

**10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)**  
**Shall We Gather at the River**

J. Myrin & M. Redman  
Voices United # 710

**Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from one another. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another. We allow the past to hold us captive.**

**In your loving kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin. Fulfill the promises of our baptism so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace as we silently confess our individual sins to you now...**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Special Music: Cindy Ciarello**

**Teach Us to Pray**

D. McGuire & R. Rambo

**Time for Youth and Young at Heart**

**TO DISCOVER THE WORD OF GOD FOR TODAY**

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 3:13-17**

**Kay Bingham**

One: Hear what the spirit is saying to the church.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon: What Defines You?**

**TO RESPOND IN FAITH AND HOPE**

**Offering Invitation**

**Offering Music: I Exalt Thee**

Pete Sanchez Jr.

**Offertory Prayer**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Worship Pkg 2:** Praise Team

**You're Worthy of My Praise**  
**Love Lifted Me**

David Ruis  
E. Callahan Jr. & J. Rowe

**THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO LIVE ITS FAITH IN THE WORLD**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

May God, who has begun good work within you, continue that work in the new year. May your love overflow more and more as you grow in knowledge and understanding, to discern what really matters. Amen.

**Postlude: Change my Heart, O God**

Eddie Espinosa

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**Next Sunday: Guest Minister - Rev. Thomas Shin**