

**Visions United Spirit Gathering
January 7th, 2023 – Baptism of Jesus
How Does a Weary World Rejoice?
*We Trust Our Belovedness***

* *Stand as able*

Our Community Gathers

Gathering Music/Prelude

Welcome

God's Doors Are Open to All!
Open Doors · Open Minds · Open Hands · Open Hearts
Visions United seeks to be a safe place for people of all
races, creeds, ages, cultural backgrounds,
sexual orientations and gender identities to worship.

Acknowledgement of Land

A Word of Introduction

Lighting the Christ Candle

Sharing of the Peace

One: May the Light and Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

***Song** (*standing*) VU#96 Will You Come and See the Light (vs. 1,2&5) Words: Brian Wren 1989
Music: arr. Valerie Ruddle©1993 Hope Publishing Co.
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Gathering Words

One: There are some days
When I need the reminder that I belong to God
Do you ever feel that way?

All: Yes. We do.
The world can be a harsh place.
We often need that reminder.

One: Let us care for one another

All: Let us speak the truth we each need to hear

One: Visions, you belong to God

All: We are God's beloved.

One: Friend, you belong to God

All: I am God's beloved.

Gathering Prayer (*unison*)

God of the weary traveler,
our feet are dusty
from the roads we've traveled
this past week,
this past year,
every day of our lives.

We've followed your star here,
 looking for a glimmer of hope.
 And now, after a long journey,
 we set our baggage down.
 We have arrived.
 We are on holy ground.

You may not show up
 where we always expect,
 but we trust you are here,
 nevertheless.

Be known to us
 in the Hope of the star,
 the Peace of a baby in the manger,
 the Joy of arrival,
 and Love that could not stay away.

Be known to us
 in our own belovedness,
 and in Love's presence
 in one another
 and in all creation.
 In this time, in all times,
 You are here. We are here.
 Thanks Be. Amen.

Sharing of WOW moments

***Song** (*standing*) VU#82 A Light is Gleaming (*Refrain, v1, ref. v2, ref.*) Words & Music: Linnea Good
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Theme Conversation Stars to Guide Us

Children leave for programming during singing.

***Song** (*standing*) VU#82 A Light is Gleaming (*v.3, ref., v4, ref.*) Words & Music: Linnea Good
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We Listen for Wisdom

Theme Connections How Does a Weary World Rejoice?

Wisdom Reading in Word & Song Luke 3: 1-17 (*selected verses*); 21-22

Special Music In the Bleak MidWinter Words: Christina Rossetti ©1872; Music: Gustav Holst 1906.
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Reflection We Trust in Our Belovedness

Poem The Bravest Thing We Can Do
by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

We Respond with Prayer and Gratitude

Renewing our Faith with the Blessing of Water & Receiving a Star Word

*Come forward to the font during the next song,
touch the water as you remember your blessing
as a Beloved Child of God.
Take a Star Word for your journey.*

***Song (standing)** MV#161 I Have Called You by Your Name Words & Music: Daniel Damon, 1995
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Our Community at Prayer

Invitation to Generosity & Blessing of Our Gifts (*Gifts brought forward during singing*)

Song O What a Wonderful Gift (*Ref., v4, ref.*) Words/Music: Linnea Good © 1992, Borealis Music.
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Refrain:

Oh — what a wonderful gift!
Oh — what a wonderful gift!
God gives lives of hope and --love.
Oh, what a wonderful gift!

Verse 4: So as we bring our gifts
And offer them with pray'r
May we be people seeking peace
And justice ev'ry-where

Refrain plus tag: Oh, what a wonderful, Oh, what a wonderful, Oh what a wonderful gift!

The Work of the Congregation – Announcements

We Go Forth to Be a Blessing

***Song (standing)** VU#87 I Am the Light of the World (*ref., vs.1&2, ref., vs.3&4, ref.*)
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Blessing & Changing of the Light

Postlude Music for the Journey

*Thank You for Joining Us!
May Each of Us Carry the Spirit into the world with us.*