

**The Congregational Church of Needham (MA), *United Church of Christ***

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# **January 9, 2022: Baptism of Jesus**

## **PRELUDE**

*Adagio* by J. Andre

Valerie Becker, *organ*

## **WELCOME**

Rev. John MacIver Gage & Rev. Maddie Foster

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come, come to the waters. Come, all you who are thirsty.

**Many: Come to the waters.**

One: For the mighty acts of God are known to us and in us through water.

**Many: Water, that primordial pool of creation over which the Spirit brooded.**

One: Water, that washed the whole earth for beginnings and new beginnings, growth and new growth.

**Many: Water, that divided so enslaved persons could walk to freedom on dry ground, and the instruments of their oppression washed away.**

One: Water, our bath, our tomb, and our womb.

**Many: Water, by which we are adopted as children of the Most High.**

One: Come to the waters and give thanks to God whose mighty acts, whose intentions for our lives are revealed here.

***All: Let us worship God together in spirit and in truth, in word and in deed.***

## **HYMN**

***In Water We Grow*** (see below)

## **TIME WITH CHILDREN**

Rev. Maddie Foster

## **SCRIPTURE**

*from the Gospels, Luke 3:15-22*

## **SERMON**

**“Grace, Destroyer of Worlds”**

Rev. John MacIver Gage

## **ANTHEM**

***The Waters of Grace*** by J. Martin

Chancel Choir

## **REAFFIRMATION/(RE)IMAGINATION OF BAPTISM**

One: Will you refuse to believe you are less than God’s beloved child, just as you are?

**Many: With God’s help, I will.**

One: Will you refuse to believe you must work harder, do better, be better to earn God's love?

**Many: With God's help, I will.**

One: Will you refuse to believe God loves some people more than others?

**Many: With God's help, I will.**

One: Will you refuse to believe there is anything you or anyone else can do to lose God's love?

**Many: With God's help, I will.**

One: In imitation of Christ, do you choose to believe grace is truly free and truly freeing, for you and for all whom God has made?

**Many: Trusting God, I do.**

One: In imitation of Christ, do you choose to believe grace can shatter every sinful system of supremacy, greed, and exploitation?

**Many: Trusting God, I do.**

One: In imitation of Christ, do you choose to believe grace can lift up the lowly, empower the oppressed, and remake the world in accordance with God's original purposes of justice, peace, and compassion?

**Many: Trusting God, I do.**

One: In imitation of Christ, do you choose to embrace the grace God offers you; follow it to the surprising places it leads; recognize it in others' unexpected accents; return to it when you stumble and fall; and share it with the world with courage and creativity, as best you are able?

**Many: Trusting God, I do.**

One: And will you offer yourself, a living stone, to be built up together with graceful believers in every time and place, as a witness to the transforming power of God's love for individuals and communities, and a part of this community of faith?

**Many: On the wings of the Holy Spirit, we will.**

**HYMN**

*Jesus Loves Me (see below)*

**SHARING OUR PRAYERS** ("Oh God, hear our prayer")

## THE LORD'S PRAYER *(using these or whichever words are closest to your own heart)*

**Our Father in heaven, holy is your name. Your reign come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kin-dom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## OPPORTUNITIES TO BE PART OF THE GOOD NEWS SINGING OUR THANKS & PRAISE

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise God, all creatures here below!**

**Praise God above, you heavenly hosts! Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!**

## BLESSING & COMMISSION

## POSTLUDE

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TODAY! Budget Discussion 1/9 @ 11:11am:** The Finance Team will host an opportunity to discuss the draft budget for 2022 after worship NEXT SUNDAY, 1/9 @ 11:11am LIVE! in the sanctuary and via Zoom.

**Official Hearing 1/23 @ 11:11am:** The official Hearing for discussion of the proposed budget in advance of the Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held after worship Sunday, 1/23 @ 11:11am LIVE! in the sanctuary and via Zoom.

**SAVE THE DATE! Annual Meeting of the Congregation 1/30 @ 11:11am:** While the official Warrant for the meeting will be published in the coming week, please save the date for our annual congregational meeting after worship Sunday, 1/30 @ 11:11am LIVE! in the sanctuary and via Zoom.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED 1/17** in observance of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

"Much of the power of our Freedom Movement in the United States has come from this music. It has strengthened us with its sweet rhythms when courage began to fail. It has calmed us with its rich harmonies when spirits were down."

Join us for  
Needham's Celebration and Observance of

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

**Monday, January 17, 2022**

On Zoom

**10:30 AM- 11:30 AM**

**Zoom Link will open at 10:15 AM**

Free Registration: [Here](#)

For more information visit:

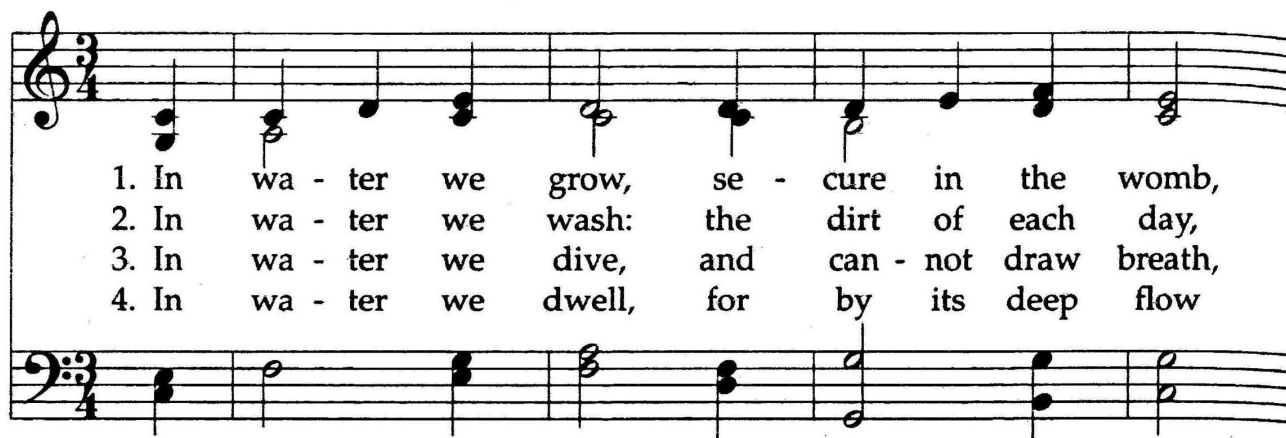
[www.NeedhamDiversity.org](http://www.NeedhamDiversity.org)




*Sponsored by the following Needham organizations:*

- Diversity Initiative
- Interfaith Clergy Association
- Human Rights Committee
- Public Schools and its METCO Program

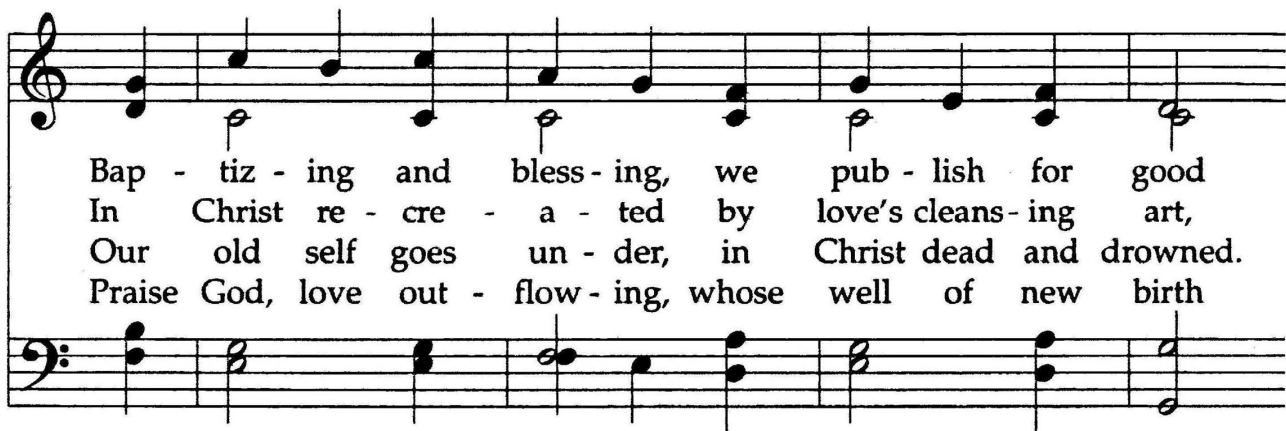
# In Water We Grow



1. In wa - ter we grow, se - cure in the womb,  
 2. In wa - ter we wash: the dirt of each day,  
 3. In wa - ter we dive, and can - not draw breath,  
 4. In wa - ter we dwell, for by its deep flow



and speech - less - ly know love's safe - ty and room.  
 its trou - ble and rush are car - ried a - way.  
 then sur - face a - live, re - bound - ing from death.  
 through blood - stream and cell, we live, think, and grow.

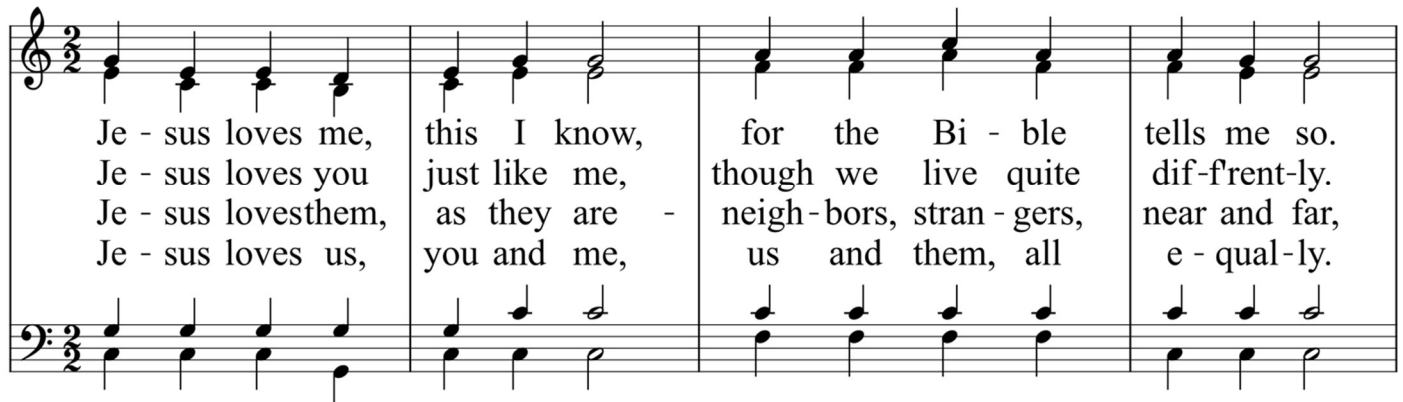


Bap - tiz - ing and bless - ing, we pub - lish for good  
 In Christ re - cre - a - ted by love's cleans - ing art,  
 Our old self goes un - der, in Christ dead and drowned.  
 Praise God, love out - flow - ing, whose well of new birth

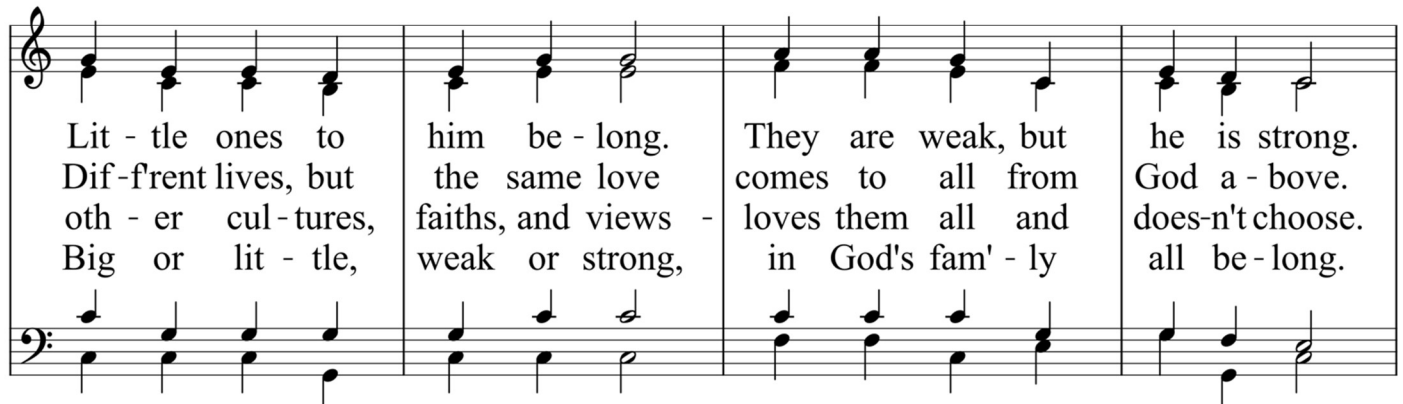


the free - ing, ca - ress - ing safe - keep - ing of God.  
 self - will and self - ha - tred dis - solve and de - part.  
 We rise, washed in won - der, by love clad and crowned.  
 bap - tiz - es our know - ing, and wa - ters the earth.

# Jesus Loves Me



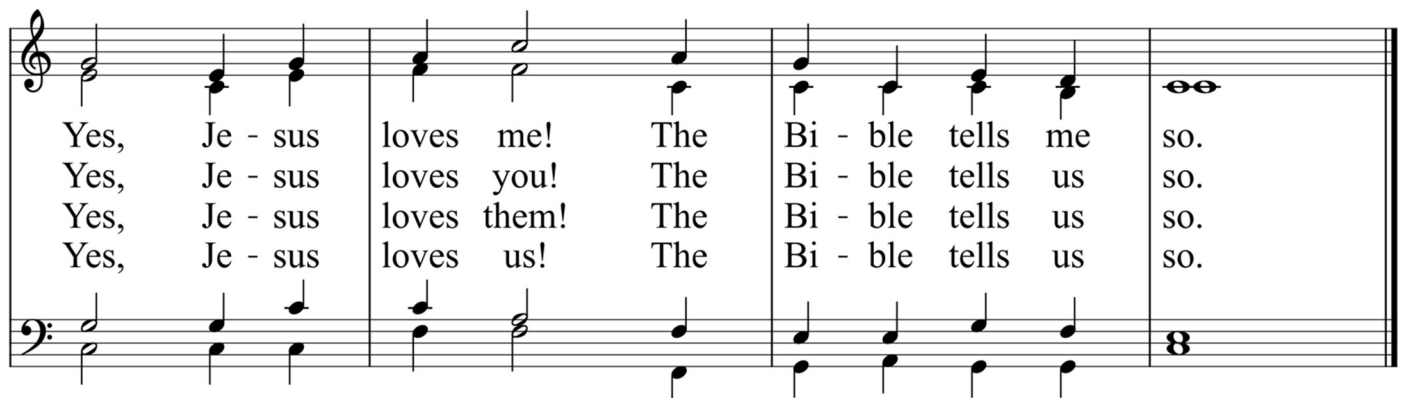
Je - sus loves me, this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.  
 Je - sus loves you just like me, though we live quite dif-frent-ly.  
 Je - sus lovethem, as they are - neigh-bors, stran-gers, near and far,  
 Je - sus loves us, you and me, us and them, all e - qual-ly.



Lit - tle ones to him be - long. They are weak, but he is strong.  
 Dif-frent lives, but the same love comes to all from God a - bove.  
 oth - er cul-tures, faiths, and views - loves them all and does-n't choose.  
 Big or lit - tle, weak or strong, in God's fam' - ly all be - long.



Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!  
 Yes, Je - sus loves you! Yes, Je - sus loves you!  
 Yes, Je - sus loves them! Yes, Je - sus loves them!  
 Yes, Je - sus loves us! Yes, Je - sus loves us!



Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.  
 Yes, Je - sus loves you! The Bi - ble tells us so.  
 Yes, Je - sus loves them! The Bi - ble tells us so.  
 Yes, Je - sus loves us! The Bi - ble tells us so.