



NEWTOWN United Methodist Church

January 12, 2025 – Baptism of the Lord

Worship is a time to move close to God and receive spiritual energy for living courageously and serving others faithfully.

Prelude "Three Kings" Held

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship *based on Proverbs 16:9*

Leader: We gather to worship the One who calls us through the waters of baptism into a life of purpose.

People: We remember our baptism and give thanks for the Spirit who renews and guides us.

Leader: In our hearts, we make our plans, but the Lord establishes our steps.

People: With faith and hope, we align our lives with God's purpose and walk in trust.

Leader: Let us lift our voices in praise to the God who makes all things new.

People: We rejoice in God's promise and celebrate the call to live with purpose.

*Hymn "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" UMH #127

**Opening Prayer

Gracious God, you have called us through the waters of baptism into a life of purpose and grace. As we gather in Your presence, align our hearts with Your will. Renew our spirits with Your wisdom and fill us with the courage

to seek Your kingdom first. May this time of worship inspire us to walk in love and trust, knowing You guide each step we take. Open our hearts to Your transforming power, and lead us to live as Your people, called and equipped for Your glory. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*Affirmation of Faith ***The Promise of Renewal and Hope***
We believe in God, who creates and renews, who calls us through the waters of baptism to a life of grace and purpose, replacing hearts of stone with hearts of flesh, and breathing new life into weary souls.

We believe in Jesus Christ, through whom we are made new creations. The old has gone, the new has come, and in Christ, we are reconciled to God and one another.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who transforms and empowers us, marking us as God's own in baptism, guiding us to walk in God's ways, and filling us with hope, love, and purpose.

We believe that God's promise of renewal is for all generations: children, youth, adults, and all who seek God's grace.

With faith and trust, we embrace God's renewing work in our lives and rejoice in the Spirit's power within us. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Prayer for the Pastor Gerry Hixson, Lay Leader

Epistle Reading Colossians 3:1–4, 12–17 Pew Bible pg. 201

Special Music "What Child" arr. Haines

*Gospel Reading Matthew 6:25–34 Pew Bible pg. 6

Message "Baptized with Purpose" Pastor R. Brailsford

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

Our Father, 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. Amen.

*Hymn "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" TFWs #2129

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory Prelude in C Haines

*Response Doxology, UMH #94

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Offertory Prayer

*Hymn "Victory in Jesus" UMH #370

*Dismissal and Blessing

Postlude Voluntary in C Arne

*Please Stand if able

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