



Sunday, January 12, 2020 Baptism of Christ Sunday

Church Office: (330) 832-1891 / **Email:** richvilleucc@att.net
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Adult Bible Groups @ 9:15 AM
Updates in the Life & Work of the Church @ 10:30 AM
Worship Service @ 10:30 AM
Sunday School: Children Dismissed from Worship



Our accessible/family friendly restroom (equipped with changing table) is located at the back of the Fellowship Hall to the right of the kitchen.

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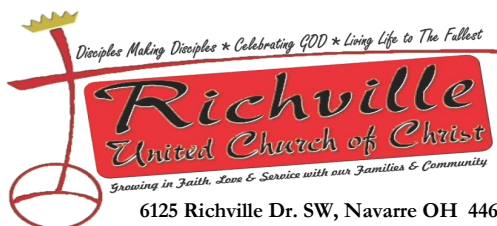
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*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!*

Baptism of Christ Sunday

Something to Think and Pray About:

"Bidden or unbidden, God is present." **-Karl Jung**

"Define yourself radically as one beloved by God. This is the true self. Every other identity is illusion." *and*
"Our identity rests in God's relentless tenderness for us revealed in Jesus Christ." **-Brennan Manning**

"Well, but you two are dancing around in your iridescent little downpour, whooping and stomping as sane people ought to do when they encounter a thing so miraculous as water." **-Marilyn Robinson**

"Sometimes grace works like waterwings when you feel you are sinking." **-Anne Lamott**

"The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us." **-C.S. Lewis**

"The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried." **-G.K. Chesterton**

GATHERING OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY

+ **Designates all who are able please stand.**

10:30 am - Updates in the Life and Work of the Church

10:30 am - Ringing of the Church Bell

Prelude **"Pastorale"** Michael Calabris, b. 1984

WELCOME

+ Opening Hymn #741 **"Come, Holy Spirit, Dove Divine"**

+ **Call To Worship** (with Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon) *(responsive)*

[inspired by Isaiah 42:1-9]

Leader: We gather as followers of YOUR Servant, Dearest GOD.

PEOPLE: May we uphold his Will and Way just as YOU do -taking delight in him and recognizing YOUR Spirit within him.

Leader: Help us to understand his call to bring forth justice to the nations. Strengthen us to be more like him -never making a fuss or causing a scene over silly, selfish matters.

PEOPLE: Instead, grant us his gentleness, we pray. Keep us from further injuring that which is already wounded.

Leader: Empower us to protect lights which are growing dim and give us strength to persevere even against crushing odds.

PEOPLE: For we know that YOU would have YOUR Just and Holy Kingdom spread over the whole earth (where people long to hear YOUR True Teachings).

Leader: Forgive us then, we humbly ask, when we fail to listen to (or are unable to hear) what YOU have said. Open us afresh to YOUR Creative and Life-giving Spirit. Fill us anew with YOUR Breath -that we would be reminded of YOUR Authority.

PEOPLE: YOU, O GOD, are our LORD; and YOU call us to righteousness. So, take us by the hand once more -and keep us on the path YOU intend for us.

Leader: Restore us to the knowledge that YOU have given us to others -that we are to be a living expression of YOUR Law and Promises for all the people.

PEOPLE: Then, through the power of YOUR Servant (our Savior), we will both receive and share YOUR Gifts -having our eyes opened, and restoring sight to the blind; being set free from bondage, and liberating other prisoners of darkness.

Leader: YOU are our Sovereign, Holy One. Help us respect and protect the sanctity of YOUR Name. Keep us from misapplying YOUR Glory, and correct us if we give YOUR Praise to idols.

ALL: *Fill us, then, with the power and integrity to let go of that which no longer works, because we know YOU have said, "See, the former things have come to pass." And give us ears to hear the new things YOU declare -joyfully accepting them in the knowledge that YOU have told us of their coming before they ever even come to pass; AMEN!*

+ Sung Response #9 **"Glory Be to the Father"** (Gloria Patri)

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

GATHERING AROUND THE LIVING WORD OF GOD

The Christian Scriptures (New Testament)

The Good News According to Matthew 3:13-17

Children's Message

(Children up to grade 6 are dismissed for Sunday School. Confirmation age children and above are to stay in worship, unless they are requested to help in Sunday school.)

Message:

"What It Means to Be 'Christian'"

+ Hymn of Response #678 **"In Christ There Is No East or West"**

Responding to God's Grace (Committing Ourselves and Our Gifts)

Prayers of The People (Joys and Concerns) and The Lord's Prayer
(using "sins" and "those who sin against us")

Prayer Response **"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"**

*Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord,
Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace. Amen.*

Bringing our Gifts and Thanksgiving Before The LORD

Call to Offering

Offertory **"Offertoire bref"** Ernest Grosjean, 1844 – 1936

+ Offertory Response #7 **"Doxology"**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

+ **Prayer of Dedication** [informed by Acts 10:34-43] (responsive)

Leader: In reverence for what YOU spoke through Peter in the earliest days of The Church, we bring our offerings.

PEOPLE: Out of thanks for the radically inclusive nature of YOUR Grace, we present these tithes.

Leader: Receive them, then, we pray, in such a way that they would rightly honor that message. May they and we echo what was said so long ago -telling the world that YOU show no partiality.

PEOPLE: And allow our living and giving to proclaim, that in every nation, anyone who stands in awe of YOU and strives to do what is right is accepted by YOU.

Leader: Just as YOU first used Israel to tell the world of the Peace found in Jesus Christ, use us and our gifts today, we pray, to share with all people about The Good News found in him, and that he is Lord of all.

PEOPLE: Take our time, talents, and treasures and anoint them with the same Holy Spirit by which YOU empowered Jesus of Nazareth at his baptism by John.

Leader: Then, YOUR Ancient-but-Ever-New will spread afresh and afar. Then, our contributions will do the work Christ first did -going about doing good and healing all who are oppressed by the devil.

PEOPLE: Indeed, may we be filled with that same Wisdom and Discernment -so that we would administrate these resources in ways that present a faithful witness to those nearer and those further away.

Leader: For we know that YOU wanted Salvation preached to both those who knew Jesus intimately and those who were instrumental in his death. So help our contributions to lead people in rejoicing over the proof of YOUR Redeeming Love -Christ's Resurrection on the third day.

PEOPLE: As those who have been blessed to eat and drink at his Table already, may we be like the apostles before us who were commanded to preach and testify to everyone else.

Leader: Empower us and what we bring to tell the whole world that YOU ordained Jesus as the sole Judge of the living and the dead.

ALL: And, in turn, may we and them say again what all the prophets testify about him -that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his Name; AMEN!

Proclaiming Emmanuel to the World

+ Charge and Benediction (Challenge & Blessing)

+ Sending Hymn #677 “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

+ Carillon Postlude on Hymns of the Day Michael Calabris, b. 1984

WELCOME GUESTS:

If you are visiting us today, our prayer is that you would see and experience the whole-life transformation offered us in Jesus.

Large print bulletins are at the entry doors of the sanctuary.

Please visit our Welcome Center. Most any information you would want to know about our ministry and/or all sign up sheets are centrally located there. Also make sure to pick up your welcome gift!

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN:

Please remember to visit our Children's Area located to the right of the sanctuary doors. There you may sign your kids in, as well as grab a children's bulletin and a busy box.

Our education wing is located downstairs in the lower level. We have education classes for children (during worship) and also have a nursery.

COMING NEXT WEEK:

Ecumenical & Rev. Dr. Martin
Luther King Jr. Sunday

Monthly Youth Service Sunday
& Noisy Offering

Theme/Message:
“To Be Continued...
(Better Together)”

Focus Text:
John 1:29-42
(with Isaiah 49:1-7
and 1st Corinthians 1:1-9)

Please join us for our hospitality social after worship in our Fellowship Hall directly behind our sanctuary.