



ORDER OF WORSHIP

VIRTUAL

1st Sunday after Epiphany
Baptism of Jesus

January 9, 2022

MEDITATION

*Some say the world will end in fire,
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favor fire.
But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.*

Robert Frost, "Fire and Ice"

PRELUDE: Noël ancien

Henri Doyen

Marjorie Ness, guest organist

WELCOME and CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Rev. Richard Edens

One: *Some say the world will end in fire, Some say in ice.*

Robert Frost

All: **But thus says God: Do not fear**

Isaiah 43:1,2

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through rivers,
they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be
burned, and the flame shall not consume you.*

One: God sits enthroned over the flood;

Psalm 29:10

All: **God sits enthroned forever.**

HYMN: How Firm a Foundation

Foundation

Hymns of Truth & Light (blue hymnal, front supplement), #H-21

PRAYER OF CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God's love calls us each by name. Trusting that we are beloved, let us confess.

All: O God, we too *have tasted desire* and *hold with those who favor fire*. We have known *enough of hate to say that for destruction ice is also great*. Fearful of getting over our heads or being burned, we avoid living in discipline and gratitude to your love. Free us, we pray, for service. Amen.

—silent confession—

One: God has redeemed us, claimed us, called us by name.

We are precious in God's sight. The assurances of God are without end.

SUMMARY OF THE LAW

GLORIA

Music by Alice Jordan

**Glory to God the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM: Lord, Make Us Servants

Robert Roth

Soloists of the Chancel Choir

*Lord, make us servants of your peace: where there is hate, may we sow love;
Where there is hurt, may we forgive; where there is strife, may we make one.
Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is gloom, may we sow hope;
Where all is night, may we sow light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.
Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek to be consoled, but to console,
Nor look to understanding hearts, but look for hearts to understand.
May we not look for love's return, but seek to love unselfishly,
For in our giving we receive, and in forgiving are forgiven.
Dying, we live and are reborn through death's dark night to endless day:
Lord, make us servants of your peace, to wake at last in heaven's light.*

(A Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi)

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LESSON: Isaiah 43:1-7, *NRSV*

The God who created and called Israel has also redeemed Israel and promises never to depart. In the promise to accompany through the ordeals of water and fire, Christians have drawn connections to baptism when God claims and names us as God's own.

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

"Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, every one who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22, *NRSV*

Jesus' baptism was an anointing. Jesus is anointed in baptism by the waters of chaos and death that will anoint every human life. Simultaneously, Jesus is anointed in baptism by rising into new life committed to service and mission.

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Reader: For the Word of God in scripture, among us, and within us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: "Fear not, for I am with you!"

Rev. Ann Marie Holloway

PRAYER CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

Liturgist: Rev. Judy Swahnberg

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and OFFERING

HYMN: Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

I Want to Be a Christian

New Century Hymnal (black hymnal) #454

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

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COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Noël Vosgien

Jean Bouvard

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Worship note: We welcome ***Marjorie Ness*** as our ***guest organist*** today. *Marjorie retired from Fitchburg State University in December 2015, having taught in the Humanities department, and directed the Choral Arts program. She served as interim Director of Music and Organist for Wesley United Methodist Church, Worcester for most of 2018, preceded by three other interims. Her degrees are in organ performance from Oberlin College, Northwestern University and the University of Iowa, Iowa City. She resides in Lancaster, MA.*

How Firm a Foundation

H-21

Unison

1. How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2. "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dis - mayed!
 3. "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4. "When through fier - y tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5. "The soul that to Je - sus hath fled for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!
 For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can he say than to you he hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 for I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell shall en - deav - or to shake,

to you that for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dress to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

WORDS: K. in John Rippon's *Selection*, 1787, alt.

MUSIC: *Foundation*, melody from *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. Calvin Hampton, 1938-1984

FOUNDATION

11.11.11

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Lord, I Want To Be a Christian

454

African-American spiritual

Deut. 6:5 6; 10:12 16

1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart,
3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;
4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

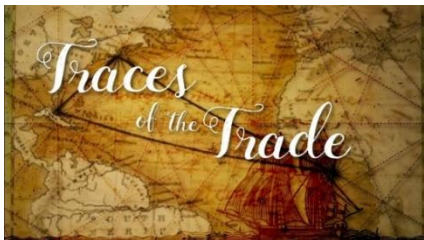
Refrain

In my heart, in my heart, in my heart,
In my heart, in my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Many of the enslaved of antebellum America did not want to become Christians because they did not want to adopt the religion of their captors. But this spiritual attests that the Christian faith was an internal strength and aim for many.

Tune: I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN
8.6.8.3. with refrain
African-American spiritual
Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992



TRACES OF THE TRADE: A Story from the Deep North Wednesday, January 19, 7pm REGISTER Today

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqd-qvqT8uHtwElvw2X7IeIBumbnnlHuwD>.

On Wednesday evening, January 19, beginning at 7pm, you are invited to engage in *A Sacred Conversation on Race*. Talking about race in this country is difficult as conversations on race are dynamic, always changing, and inevitably political, not partisan but political, as slavery, “Jim Crow” statues, voter disenfranchisement, and racial discrimination have all been legally sanctioned at various times.

Slavery has been described as our country’s “*origin sin*,” so to have a dialogue seeking reconciliation and healing must journey through the legacy of slavery and the traces of that heritage to this day.

We will watch and discuss the PBS documentary, **Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North** as it explores this untold legacy of the DeWolf family, a prominent slave trading family in Rhode Island from 1769 to 1820. It follows 10 current family members from Bristol, RI, to sugar plantations in Cuba, to Ghana as this history of trading enslaved people is revealed. The viewer sees the complicity of this nation in enslaving people and the pain of talking among descendants of the slave traders about its implications.

Our plan is to watch the one-hour documentary together on a Zoom shared screen beginning at 7pm and then engage in a conversation beginning at 8pm. **James DeWolf Perry** will join in our 8pm conversation. We will conclude before 9pm.

Please **register in advance** by clicking on <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqd-qvqT8uHtwElvw2X7IeIBumbnnlHuwD>. You will be taken to a site where you will be asked for your name and your email address. Once that information is given, you will be given a link to use on January 19 at 7am. This will aid our planning and provide the security of knowing who is on the Zoom call with us. Registration is possible at any time but the earlier the better for our planning.

You may also want to prepare by linking your computer to your television to watch the documentary on a larger screen as the film is 56 minutes. Please check out that option in advance.

James DeWolf Perry was nominated for an Emmy Award for his role as the principal historical consultant for this documentary. After the release of the film, James cofounded the Tracing Center and served for several years as its executive director. He now leads many public programs on racial healing and equity, as well as professional workshops for educators and public history professionals. James is also the co-editor of *Interpreting Slavery at Museums and Historic Sites* which is aimed at improving the interpretation of slavery and race in our nation’s history.

Our goal is to learn more about our own history and how to have a purposeful conversation for racial justice, healing, and reconciliation. For more information, contact the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church UCC (office@hillschurch.org or [781-235-4424](tel:781-235-4424)) or Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Co-Senior Minister (richard@hillschurch.org).

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
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Alto Soloist	Shannon Lebrón
Tenor Soloist	Christian Figueroa
Bass Soloist	Garrett Murphy
Sound Technician	Kenny Goshgarian
Sound Technician	Steven Hopkins

GOD
IS STILL
SPEAKING

WE ARE AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION.
NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE,
NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE
ON LIFE'S JOURNEY,
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.