

**First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge  
January 7th, 2024**

**Praise Medley:** Peace Is Flowing Like a River, Sing A New  
Song, Sometimes Alleluia, Wide as the Ocean

**Greeting and Announcements**

**Introit:** God, Whose Almighty Word **VU 313 vs 1 & 2**

**Call to Worship:**

Beginning, God created all that is. The heavens and the earth,  
water and dirt, fire and air.

**Beginning, God breathed all that is. Light breaking  
the darkness, creation filling the emptiness.**

Beginning, God spoke all that is and it was. God spoke and God  
saw that this creation was good.

**Beginning today, in this season of Epiphany, may our  
thanks and praise glorify God as we worship.**

**Prayer of Approach:**

**God, before you formed us in the womb you knew us as  
your own. You consecrate us and appoint us to do your  
work. You call us by name and hear the deepest longings of  
our hearts. As we remember the baptism of your son,  
remind us of the promises of our own baptism. Empower us  
with your spirit to serve you with faithfulness and  
joy. Amen.**

**Hymn:** On Jordan's Bank **VU 20**

**Prayer of Confession:** (Based on Psalm 29)

The Holy Voice is over the waters

**but when the waters are rough our fear can beat a  
rhythm louder than the pulsing of the Spirit.**

The Holy Voice is powerful

**but voices of desire, comfort, success and power call  
to us seductively and persuasively, and we turn from  
God.**

The Holy Voice flashes forth flames of fire,  
**to light our path, and warm our hearts, but there are  
times when we prefer the shadows, when we prefer  
to linger in the cold of night.**

**Words of Affirmation:**

The Holy Voice shakes the wilderness into which we roam and  
calls to us, coaxing us out of fear, driving idols away, guiding us  
home.

**May God's spirit always guide us helping us to affirm  
that we are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism**

**Hymn:** Out of Deep, Unordered Water **VU 453 vs 2 & 3**

**Offering:** A Gift From Your Children

**Offertory Prayer:**

**We have heard the Holy Voice call to us, as God called to  
Jesus. We respond as we are able, and offer these gifts and  
ourselves as we speak and act your message of love into  
the world. Amen.**

**Scripture Readings:** Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm 29 (on page **756** of **VU**)  
Mark 1:4-11

**Ministry of Music**

**Meditation**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Hymn:** Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters **VU 442**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sharing the Bread and the Wine

**Hymn:** Shall We Gather at The River **VU 710**

**Benediction**