

Gospel **Matthew 3:13-17**
 Mathew's story of Jesus' baptism

ANTHEM *This Child of Ours*
 Words: Jaroslav Vajda Music: Paul D. Weber
 Flute - Margo Junk



REFLECTION

HYMN - *Like a Healing Stream* (MV 144)

MISSION MESSAGE & OFFERING

EPIPHANY COMMUNION

HYMN - *Arise, Your Light is Come*
 (VU 79)

CHOIR BENECTION *Go Now In Peace*
 Words: Don Besig & Nancy Price, Music: Don Besig

POSTLUDE

KNOX UNITED CHURCH
January 8th, 2017

EPIPHANY SUNDAY
and
BAPTISM OF JESUS

SINGING THE SPIRIT (MV 19)

Maranatha

**Maranatha, Maranatha,
 come Lord Jesus come.
 Maranatha, Maranatha,
 come Lord Jesus come.*



* "Maranatha" is Aramaic for "Come, Lord"

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CALL TO WORSHIP & GATHERING PRAYER

LIGHTING THE TRINITY CANDLES

HYMN - *Will You Come and See the Light*
 (VU 96)

GREETING GOD'S PEOPLE

*(Children and Youth may join Sunday School
in the lower church hall)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY CONVERSATION



Even though we hear God's voice speak to us in so many ways, even though we know God's touch throughout our lives, even though we see the ways God's place in the world is known, still we find it easy sometimes to feel lost and alone. God can feel very distant.

In the dark days of mid-winter, and in the dark times of our spirits, we let that distance grow. We retreat from God, because being close is too much work, and takes too much of our time and energy that we would rather put toward ourselves and our own interests. We pull back from acts of generosity and service as Jesus' disciples, because the world is too big and too cold to feel like our little actions will make any difference. We hunker down

with our own spirits' coldness, because lifting our eyes to new horizons in the Spirit would call us into new ways that are uncomfortable and difficult.

May this time of looking back and looking ahead be for us a time of beginning anew in the ongoing unfolding of God's creation. May we find in ourselves the light of Christ newborn, with a will toward transforming our own lives and those of others. May we be lifted on the wings of the Spirit to see over our own barriers to new possibilities for life's fullness.

In all of this, may Christmas continue in us and through us, every day. Amen.

HYMN - *A Light Is Gleaming* (VU 82)

WORDS FROM OUR SCRIPTURES

Hebrew Scriptures Isaiah 60:1-3

The light of the world

Hebrew Scripture Isaiah 42:1-5

God's servant is called

