



# Jesus' Baptism

## Mark 1:1-11

### GATHERING

- **Opening Prayer**
- **Evening Song**

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod;  
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

- **Hear the Story...**

### READING

- **Read Text aloud [standing, sitting, walking – but don't go far away]**
- **Re-read silently and consider the questions that follow...**

### RESPONDING

- **What does 'gospel' mean?**
- **What does 'repentance', 'forgiveness', and 'confession' have to do with baptism?**
- **How was Jesus' baptism the same/different from our baptism?**
- **What is the difference between baptism by water and by the Holy Spirit?**

### SHARING

- **Do you have a memory of baptism – yours/someone else's?**
- **What other Bible stories involve water?**
- **What is the significance of baptism in the UCC?**

### CLOSING

- **Grace/Benediction**

Mark 1:1-11[NRSV]

The beginning of the good news

of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight” ’,

4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness,

proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

5 And people from the whole Judean countryside

and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him,

and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist,

and he ate locusts and wild honey.

7 He proclaimed,

‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me;

I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.

8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee

and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

10 And just as he was coming up out of the water,

he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

11 And a voice came from heaven,

‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’