

Great Thanksgiving  
(Baptism of Our Lord)

The Divine Love surrounds you.

**Love also surrounds you.**

Be baptized into the fire of this Holy Love.

**We have allowed it to kindle our souls.**

Let us move on towards perfect love.

**It is our purpose and calling in life.**

You are the Love that fills our universe.

We are immersed in Your love.

We are animated by Your love.

We are transformed by Your love as it burns away the chaff of our selfishness.

We are marked by your love as beloved members of Your family,

the very children who find safety as we crawl into Your lap.

This is why we have gathered to worship today,

to be baptized afresh into Your love, Your grace, Your unmerited favor.

This is why we join our hearts with the hearts of those who gather around Your throne on earth and in heaven to proclaim:

**Sacred and holy is Your love,**

**the Limitless Compassion that fills our universe.**

**It is Your love alone that saves us.**

**Blessed are all who follow Your way,**

**Your truth, and Your life of love.**

**It is Your love alone that saves us.**

You are Love and

compassionate is Jesus

who comes from Your heart to our own.

Jesus demonstrated to us how to turn the other cheek

and to walk the extra mile.

Jesus revealed Your truth that You never return evil with evil

but always find a way to do to all that is good and right.

Jesus taught us to look beyond the ignorant violence of others with mercy,

even when it is inflicted upon us,

because they do not really understand what they are doing.

Jesus became love incarnate

when he rejected the seat of privilege

to kneel to serve the one who would betray,

to kneel to serve the one who would deny friendship three times,

to kneel to serve those who would run and hide in fear.

Remember, Jesus invites us to become incarnate love.

Jesus became incarnate love  
when he took the bread that proclaims release to the captives,  
with prayers of gratitude, Jesus broke it, to share it with the world, saying:  
“Take and eat, this is my body broken and given for you.”  
Remember, Jesus invites us to become incarnate love.

Jesus became incarnate love  
when he took the cup that proclaims the cost of stubborn sin,  
with prayers of gratitude, Jesus shared it with the world saying:  
“Drink with me all of you, this is the cup of my blood,  
poured out as an offering to proclaim to you God’s eternal covenant of forgiveness, with you and  
with all the world.”  
Remember, Jesus invites us to become incarnate love.

We want to become just like Jesus.  
We want to become incarnate love, so that others can taste and find that God’s love is good for  
their souls.  
This is why we seek to be baptized into this holy mystery of divine love and proclaim before the  
world our testimony:

**Christ died loving us.**  
**Christ arose loving us.**  
**Christ returns to love us, because love never ends.**

Baptismal Wind, Baptismal Fire  
sweep across these gifts of bread and wine,  
allow them to become for us the body and blood of Christ, Love Divine.

Baptismal Wind, Baptismal Fire  
Sweep across the gift of our body, our soul, and our mind,  
allow them to become for the world,  
Your church, the sacrificed body and the sacred bride of Christ, Love Divine.

Baptismal Wind, Baptismal Fire  
renew and refresh Radnor United Methodist Church.  
Renew their love for You,  
their love for each other,  
and for every person they meet who also hunger for Your Love.  
Baptize them afresh with your life giving Spirit  
renewing their passion to live for You alone.

**We pray with the Christ who dwells in our hearts,**  
**With the Holy Spirit who strengthens our spirits,**  
**And with the Creative Love that fills us with life in all of its abundance. Be glorified in us**  
**now and daily. Amen.**

Now as the baptized let us pray with Christ:

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

(Prayer after Communion)

Thank you, O God, for the blessing of this Holy Mystery we find in Jesus Christ. We are reminded that we the baptized have been blessed to become a greater blessing to others. So send us out to touch the lives of others, so that they too might feel Your blessing and seek to join with us in our eternal worship of you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.