

BAPTISM SUNDAY | APRIL 8, 2018

Gathering together, is what we do. Worship, stories, and baptisms are symbols of the substance of the Body of Christ. The symbol of water has always been about the substance of God and his actions to break the barrier between us and him. We gather around a symbol, to recognize and participate in the substance of God.

Water - Symbol of a substance

- In the beginning... - God parted the water to raise up new life.
- Exodus - God parted the Red Sea so that the Israelites could enter the 'new life' of the Promised Land.
- The Jordan River - water is again, a barrier to 'new life.'

The Ultimate Barrier is Sin

- John the Baptist took this ritual further. Repent & belong, by being immersed in the very Jordan River that God had parted.
- Be washed of sin and belong to group waiting for the Messiah who will 'wash you for real and baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

Jesus & Baptism

- Yahweh, Himself is in the water.
- A new symbol of death and resurrection - an entrance into NEW LIFE.
- Romans 6:1-4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stands out as you reflect on baptism (your baptism journey, or others baptism journeys you've watched)?
 2. What might be barriers for people in experiencing 'new life?'
 3. What are some important symbolic traditions to you? why?
 4. Have you been baptized in water? Is that something Christ is calling you to?
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