

FREED FROM “FINE”

January 8, 2023

Preaching: Michael Swartzentruber, Senior Minister



MATTHEW 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved,* with whom I am well pleased.’

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. Reflect and share about your baptism? When and where was it? What did it mean to you, or what has it come to mean to you now?
3. Why do you think John would have prevented Jesus from being baptized? Why does it matter that Jesus chose to begin his ministry in the waters of baptism?
4. Baptism is a kind of beginning—a movement into the church and into life driven by Christ’s Spirit. The New Year also marks a kind of beginning. Do you treat the New Year as a beginning, and if so, how (perhaps with resolutions, intentions, or words to focus on)? How has that worked for you before, or what have you learned from past efforts?
5. What opportunities for spiritual growth are you focusing on for this year?

South Elkhorn Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

4343 Harrodsburg Road, Lexington KY 40513

859-223-1433 southelkhorncc.org