I WAS THERE TO HEAR YOUR BORNING CRY

1. "I was there to hear your born- ing cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.
2. If you find some-one to share your time and you have faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your shut your weary eyes, I'll be there as I have wandered off to find where demons dwell.
3. "God will forgive! Show that you'll change how you live! "No!" John replied. "He who is mightier than I! Then with great love, God's Spirit came as a dove! This is God's sign! This is how God says, "You're mine!"
4. Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God's Spirit. Freed and forgiven, we're people found bold and surprising; sinners, God's lost sons and daughters, welcomed with joy! Can you hear it?

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DOWN BY THE JORDAN

1. Down by the Jordan, a prophet named
   John was baptizing, preaching a message the great expectation? "Are you God's Chosen One, long with the others, taking your place among people found bold and surprising; sinners, God's lost sons and daughters, welcomed with joy! Can you hear it?
2. There by the river, the crowd came with
   John was baptizing, preaching a message the great expectation? "Are you God's Chosen One, long with the others, taking your place among people found bold and surprising; sinners, God's lost sons and daughters, welcomed with joy! Can you hear it?
3. Jesus, you went to be baptized and
   "No!" John replied. "He who is mightier than I! Then with great love, God's Spirit came as a dove! This is God's sign! This is how God says, "You're mine!"
4. Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God's Spirit. Freed and forgiven, we're people found bold and surprising; sinners, God's lost sons and daughters, welcomed with joy! Can you hear it?

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
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Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
Music: LOBE DEN HERREN - Erneuerten Gesangbuch; harm. by William Sterndale Bennett
THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Spirit of the Lord is with us.

Even so, come Lord Jesus!

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
the life you birthed in us
by baptism into Jesus Christ
will never die.

Your justice never fails.
Your mercy is everlasting.

Your healing river flows.

Your Spirit blows where you will.

We cannot stop you, God!

But sometimes we try.

We try to block the waters,
we redirect the winds of the Spirit,
or we walk so far away from the life-giving Stream
that we do not hear its sound,
and we forget its power.

We parch ourselves.

We are dry and thirsty, O God.

Come, refresh us!

Pour out your Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.

Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.

Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.

Most Holy God, Abba, Father!

Glory to you!

Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord!

Glory to you!

Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!

All glory is yours, now and forever.

Amen!

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION

Siblings in Christ:
through the sacrament of baptism
God's Spirit has been poured out upon water,
water poured over and immersing us,
water that flows freely for all who will receive it,
water from the streams of God's saving power and justice,
water that brings hope to all who thirst for righteousness,
water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth.

Today we come to the waters,
to renew our commitments
in each other's presence
to Christ who has raised us,
the Spirit who has birthed us,
and the Creator who is making all things new.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND
PROFESSION OF FAITH

And so I ask you,
will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,
reject the evil powers of this world,
and repent of our sin!

Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets
to the powers that be?

We accept the freedom and power God gives us
resist evil, injustice, and oppression
in whatever forms they present themselves!

Will you proclaim the good news
and live as disciples of Jesus Christ,
his body on earth?

We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior,
put our whole trust in his grace,
and promise to serve him as our Lord,
in union with the church which Christ has opened
to people of all ages, nations, and races!

Will you be living witnesses to the gospel,
individually and together,
wherever you are and in all that you do?

We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church
and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.

Will you receive and profess the Christian faith
as contained in the Scriptures
of the Old and New Testaments?

We affirm and teach the faith of the whole church
as we put our trust in God,
in Jesus Christ, his only Son,
and in the Holy Spirit,
one God now and forever.