Poem and final sentences from the sermon, *Creating Life From Chaos*, Jan 7, 2018

…The poet Denise Levertov

captures the blessing

that is part and parcel of

our affirmation of faith,

and the profound grace of baptism

in her poem:

***The Avowal***

***As swimmers dare***

***to lie face to the sky***

***and water bears them,***

***as hawks rest upon air***

***and air sustains them,***

***so would I learn to attain***

***freefall, and float***

***into Creator Spirit’s deep embrace,***

***knowing no effort earns***

***that all-surrounding grace.***

Let us rest in

God’s deep embrace,

as River is baptized

with water

into our Christian community.

May we embrace her

and be with her

in the chaos of life

as God embraces us

and is with us

in the chaos of this world.

Amen.