

Baptism of the Lord Sunday **January 10, 2021**

(If you are home read the prayers and scripture readings and recite the Creed aloud, even if you are by yourself, in order to hear with the ears each one. Sing or read the final hymn aloud. If you are worshipping in person, please follow along silently.)

Prepare for worship: Sit in silence or with soft music for a few moments

Call to Worship:

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.
Sweet Holy Spirit. sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.

From *The United Methodist Hymnal* Copyright 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, (334).

Centering Words:

Speaking words of love, God creates us, calls us, and claims us as God's own. Speaking words of love, we too can create, call and claim God's beauty and glory in the world.

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Prayer of the Day:

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Grant that all who are baptized into his name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, One God, in glory everlasting. This we pray as he taught us to pray:

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The Lord's Prayer:

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.

Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of Illumination:

Open our ears that we may hear and our hearts and minds that we may receive your word O Lord our rock and redeemer.

(After each reading take two to three minutes to reflect upon the meaning of the passage to you today.)

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 1: 1-5

Psalm 29

New Testament Reading: Acts 19:1-7

Special Music

Gospel Reading: Mark 1: 4-11

Sermon: *By Water and the Spirit*

Hymn:

Baptized in Water

1. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praises we sing.
2. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praises we sing.
3. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ, our King;
born of one father, we are his children,
joyfully now God's praises we sing.

From *The Faith We Sing* Copyright 2000, Abingdon Press, (2248).

Benediction:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
From *The United Methodist Book of Worship*. Copyright 1992 The United Methodist Publishing House. (561).

Response: *God Be with You till We Meet Again*
God be with you till we meet again;
by his counsels guide, uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

From *The United Methodist Hymnal* Copyright 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, 673

Leading in Worship Today

Pastor: *John D. Jordan* AV Assistant: *K. C. Warble*
Choir Director: *Christopher McCroskey*
Church Musician

“AS MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION, WE WILL FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE IN ITS MINISTRIES BY OUR PRAYERS...”

Francis Hipp Maurice Robinson Patsy Shuler John Ballentine Oren Edwards
Jimmy Grahl Steve White Esther Carter Latson Lewis Ellen Matthews
George Taylor Steve Aiello

Shut-Ins: Shirley Butler; Carolyn Hardee; Francis & Gillett Hipp; June Hutto; Georgeann Pace; Shirley Padgett; Jean Raynor; Grover Shuler; Claudia Sineath; Wayne Tallon; Irvin Wells

Family and Friends: **Kelly Knapp** (wife of Laurie Knapp’s nephew); **Paul Kidney** (son-in-law of Charles & Jackie McNeill); **Ruby Pennington** (friend of Laurie Knapp); **Rick Baldwin** (nephew of Tommy Johnson); **Judy Bauer** (cousin of Marty Johnson); **Iris Turlington** (aunt of John Zeigler); **Billy & Betty Jean Newton** (brother and sister-in-law of Mary Kamoroff); **Ellen Smith** (sister-in-law of Dee Senn); **Jimmy Brooks** (Brother-in-law of Boots Morgan); **Tonya Spires** (friend of the Derricks); **J. B. & Stephanie Martindale** (cousins of Christopher McCroskey); **Linda Hargett** (stepmom of Christopher McCroskey); **Ollie Shelly** (friend of the Derricks); **Brenlee Carnes**; **Danielle Spotts** (co-worker of Kathy White); **Vickie Edwards** (neighbor of Kathy White); **Maime Keels**, **Vicki Beatty**, **Connie Mason**, **Brenda Grier** (friends of Lynn Martin); **Allen & Lisa Fort** (cousins of the Jordans); **David Price & Family**, **Mark Leonhart**, **Ty Moore**, **Julie Stroud**, **Fran Huck**, **George Dorn** (friends of Kay Jordan); **Teddy Derrick** (uncle of Arvan Derrick); **Haidee Baehr** (friends of Ruth Frady); **Dianne Schmotzer** (sister-in-law of Gale Frady); **Denise Paul** (cousin of Gale Frady); **Billy Johnson**, **Max Johnson**, **Beth Branham** (friends of Gale Frady); **Ray Culbreth’s Group House**; **Nellie Gantt** (mother of friend of Ray Culbreth); **Amelia Zinski** (great-niece of Linda Maloch); **Wayne Blair** (son of Dot Johnson); **Xavier Crane** (grandnephew of John Ballentine); **Janet Beck** (friend of Jo Ann Heiting); **Vera Von Glahn** (sister-in-law of Jo Ann Heiting); **Michael Carter** (son of Esther Carter); **Adam Lavender** (son of Phil Lavender)

OUR PRESENCE ...

In-Person Attendance 01/03 Worship: 15

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 01/03 \$ 1,950.00

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS.”



Ministers
Pastor
Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

The Congregation
John D. Jordan
Jonathan Holston
Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our vision is to Connect, Nurture, Inspire and Transform



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When we think of baptism, we usually think of the rite where we either sprinkle, pour or immerse with water. We think of baptism as being a sign of God's grace that washes away the guilt of our sin and removes us from the state of sin. We may consider baptism to be an initiation rite in which one is initiated into the church universal. We may say that baptism is the means by which we are identified as a child of God, as Jesus was identified as God's Son in our reading from Mark.

Baptism is all these things. It is the sign of God's grace that washes away sin. It is the means by which we are initiated as a member of the church universal. It is the means by which we are identified as a child of God. Therefore, baptism is a one-time only event. As United Methodist we do not rebaptize. We may reaffirm our baptismal vows at times but we do not rebaptize. Baptism is a sign of God acting to transform us into being what God created us to be.

Baptism is a sign of regeneration, of new life. It is a sign of the new life we live as we receive God's grace through the waters of baptism. Our baptism is the marker by which we give up our life of the rule of the world and enter into the rule of God. By our baptism, through God's grace we are cleansed from sin and begin new life in Christ, following God's rule.

As we look at Jesus' baptism, we see that he was not just baptized with water. As he was coming up out of the water the Spirit descended upon him like a dove. Jesus was not only baptized by water, he was also baptized by the Holy Spirit. In Mark this marks the beginning of the Gospel. By the Spirit, Jesus was identified as God's beloved Son, and God was well pleased, actually delighted. God was delighted with the Son.

Jesus was baptized by water and the Spirit. Some question why Jesus had to be baptized by water for the repentance of sins since he was the sinless Son of God, but that is not the real issue of Jesus' baptism. What is being put forth in Mark's Gospel by Jesus' baptism is that Jesus is presenting a different way of living beyond repentance. The Good News is that Jesus was going to take the baptism by water for the repentance of sin, and by the baptism of the Holy Spirit present God's kingdom to the world.

Baptism by water takes away the sin in our lives and removes the taint of sin. It is a sign of the cleansing of God's grace which takes away all that keeps us from knowing God and God's rule in our lives. It takes away all the barriers- hatred, anger, resentment, guilt, prejudices, shame, arrogance, etc.- that keeps us from being in communion with God and with others. We are baptized by water to clean away all the dirt of sin in our lives.

As we are baptized by water, sin is removed from us but we are not left empty. As we truly repent and turn to God, we are baptized by the Holy Spirit. Through the waters of baptism, we are imbued with God's justifying grace and receive sanctifying grace through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We receive grace that forgives and grace that purifies. Through baptism by water and Spirit God gives the divine self to us. God imbues within us the divine essence which is love. We become God's children, beloved and with whom God is delighted.

But unlike the rite that we may have received at some point in our lives or will receive, our being baptized is not a once and done deal. I know that you may be saying wait a minute didn't you just say a few minutes ago that baptism is a one time only event? Yes, I did. While baptism is a one-time event, it marks the

beginning of the process of our being baptized. Baptism as a noun is a one time-event but baptism as a verb is the continuous action of God to cleanse us of sin, filling us with divine essence and purifying us to be who God created us to be.

We are continually being baptized by water and by Spirit. While the water is an outward sign of God's grace that cleanses us from sin, inwardly God is continually cleansing us from sin. This happens as we become aware of beliefs, thoughts, attitudes and feelings that prevent us from being what God created us to be.

When I failed in my interviews before the Board of Ordained Ministry in November, it was pointed out to me that my interviews and paperwork reflected the impact of an experience that kept me from doing me best work, keeping me from being what God wanted me to be. Through their comments I became aware of this and was able to begin to address these issues honestly. This issue that was keeping me from being the best God wanted me to be, was revealed to me by God's grace so that God's grace could remove it from me.

We are continually being baptized by the Holy Spirit as sin is washed away from us and we become empty vessels to be filled with God's grace by the Holy Spirit. Filled with God's grace by the Holy Spirit, we are able to become the person that God created each of us to be.

As Jesus came out of the waters of baptism and the Spirit descended upon him, the Gospel began. Jesus taught, demonstrated and, most of all, lived the kingdom of God. Jesus, being the Son of God, was of God's essence which is love. Jesus lived the life of love that we all were created to live.

In the passage from Acts, those disciples Paul met in Ephesus had been baptized in a baptism of repentance but had not received the Holy Spirit. Upon their believing in Jesus and being baptized in Jesus' name the Holy Spirit came upon them. The passage says that they spoke in tongues and prophesied, two manifestations of the Spirit. We may not speak in tongues or prophesy but the point is that after receiving the Holy Spirit they were able to do things that they were unable to do before.

As we receive God's grace through the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to do things we were unable to do before. I am by nature a quiet, introverted type. It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that I am able to stand in this pulpit and preach every Sunday Morning. It is not the power to preach that the Spirit gives me but the power to become what God created me to be. And that is what I am becoming.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we receive God's grace to become what God created each of us to be. We are all, as we are cleansed by the waters of baptism and purified by the Holy Spirit, becoming what God created us to be.

Baptism by water and the Spirit does not make us what we are but gives us the capacity to be what God created us to be. Through our baptism by water and the Spirit we are becoming what God created us to be, God's children created from love, to love.