

Baptism of the Lord
January 9, 2022

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude		Laurie Knapp
Call To Worship	<i>“Freely, Freely”</i>	Choir
Centering Words		

Opening Prayer		
*Hymn	<i>“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”</i>	139

Prayer of the Day		
The Lord’s Prayer		895

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings		
Offertory		Laurie Knapp
*Doxology	<i>“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”</i>	95

Proclamation of the Word

Prayer of Illumination		
Old Testament Reading	Isaiah 43:1-7	Page 638 (O.T.)
Psalter	Psalm 29	761
New Testament Reading	Acts 8:14-17	Page 121 (N.T.)

*Hymn	<i>“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”</i>	500
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Gospel Reading	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Page 60 (N.T.)
Sermon	<i>Remembering Our Baptismal Vows</i>	Rev. John D. Jordan

Response to the Word

Congregational Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant		50-53
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*Hymn	<i>“How Firm a Foundation”</i>	529
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*Dismissal With Benediction

*Benediction Response	<i>”Lead Me, Lord”</i>	Choir
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*Postlude		Laurie Knapp
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*The Congregation May Stand

Leading in Worship Today

Pastor:	<i>John D. Jordan</i>	AV Director:	<i>Marie Stiles</i>
Pianist:	<i>Laurie Knapp</i>	AV Assistant:	<i>Chris Derrick</i>

VISITORS ARE WELCOME in the service of worship! Please make use of the visitor’s tags (located in the pew backs) to help us better welcome you as a visitor to Trinity this morning. We ask that you also please fill in the pew pad as it passes to register your attendance with us. **Large print hymnals** are available from the ushers.

You may join as a member into the life and work of this congregation by Confession of Faith or by Transfer of Membership from another church. If you would be interested in becoming a member, please speak to the pastor.

TODAY’S LOVELY FLOWERS are given to the ***Glory of God*** in loving memory of ***George L. Hardee*** by his family.

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

John Ballentine	Boots Morgan	Bill Perarson	Patsy Zeigler	Dale Wells	Charles McNeill
Jimmy Grahl	Oren Edwards	Latson Lewis	Irvin Wells	Steve Aiello	Patsy Shuler
George Taylor	Jimmy Grahl	Kay Jordan	Becky Derrick		

Shut-Ins: Shirley Butler; Esther Carter; Nell Cooke; Carolyn Hardee; Gillett Hipp; June Hutto; Georgeann Pace; Shirley Padgett; Jean Raynor; Claudia Sineath; Wayne Tallon; Irvin Wells; Pauline Wenner

Family and Friends: **Dolly Orth** (mother-in-law of Allison Frady Orth); **Alva Humphries** (friend of Marty Johnson); **Mildred Hart** (mother of Dee Senn); **Bill Areheart** (friend of Bonnie Ramsey); **Jane & Bob Bryant** (sister and brother-in-law of Patsy Zeigler); **Wessli-Ann Hardee Singleton** (niece of Lynn Martin); **Max Nova** (son of friend of Edwa Meek); **Addie Kinard** (cousin of coworker of Edwa Meek); **Stuart & Penny Lloyd** (son & daughter-in-law of Tom & Marilyn Lloyd); **Cindy Ellenberg** (friend of Ray Frady); **Megan Corby** (daughter of Carlis Edwards); **Mitch Kelly** (Dale Wells' nephew); **Chip Hooker** (Wayne Hooker's father); **Robert Bradley** (Business Associate of Simon Ross); **Dino & Wanda Moore** (friend of Tommy Gleaton); **Dave Burrell** (Business Associate of Tommy Gleaton); **Gary Becton** (friend of Mark Branham); **Wade Albert Payne** (friend of Mary Louise Robinson); **Audrey Cassady** (sister-in-law of Mary Louise Robinson); **Monnie Tiller** (friend of Chris Derrick); **Betty Jean Newton** (sister-in-law of Mary Kamoroff); **Jim Martindale** (uncle of Christopher McCroskey); **Beth Ann Feimster** (sister of Christopher McCroskey); **Adrin & Linda Hargett** (stepfather and stepmom of Christopher McCroskey); **Katelyn Rose** (daughter of co-worker of Kathy White); **Vickie Edwards** (neighbor of Kathy White); **Heather Stevens, Ty Moore, 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, Scott & Karen Nelson** (cousins of Gale Frady); **Dan Conner, Max Johnson** (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); **Vera Von Glahn** (sister-in-law of Jo Ann Heiting); **Debby Harden, Walt & Janet Beck** (friends of Jo Ann Heiting); **Jeff DuBrul** (son-in-law of Walt and Janet Beck); **Adam Lavender** (son of Phil Lavender)

If you have a friend or family member on the Prayer List, we ask you to please keep us updated. If no word is received, we will trust that our prayers have been answered and remove the name. To update us, please call the office or e-mail us at trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com.

OUR PRESENCE ...

In-Person Attendance 01/02 SS: 8 Worship: 14

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 01/02 \$ 3,600.00

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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Offering Envelopes

Offering Envelopes for 2022 can be found in the Gathering Area. If you would like envelopes but do not find a box assigned to you, please contact the Church Office and we will get them to you.

Announcements from the Pastor

As we begin the new year, there is a need for people to participate in the Sunday service. You may participate in the following ways:

- 1- **Greeters:** Being in the gathering area at 10:30 to greet people as they enter, especially visitors; to orient visitors- location of bathroom, to stay for time together, nursery etc.; to give visitors a visitor's card so we can have contact information; to check the attendance sheet (this is so we can have a record of attendance and for tracing if there is a COVID situation.).
- 2- **Nursery:** Since in our virtual visit video we say we do have a nursery available, we need volunteers to keep the nursery, at least 2, not from the same household, each Sunday. This is in accordance to Safe Sanctuary Guidelines and the volunteers would have to have a background check. If there are no children the nursery workers may come into the service at 11:15. The speakers in the nursery are working so you may hear the service.
- 3- **Readers:** To read the scriptures, except the sermon text, and lead the Psalter.
- 4- **Audio- Visual:** While Marie Stiles and Chris Derrick do a great job with this, we need more people to learn to use the system. It is fairly easy, even John can do it. You can learn it by sitting in with Marie and Chris a couple of weeks.

There will be sign-up sheets for these in the Gathering Area or contact John or Tom Geddens.

As the new Omicron variant is on the rise we strongly recommend wearing face coverings during Church services and other activities except when eating.



Due to the recent number of members that have tested positive or been exposed to COVID 19, the Church Council has decided to suspend Time Together and Wonderful Wednesdays for the month of January. Christopher has suspended Choir Practice for January and Becky has suspended the Exercise Class for January. Sunday School will not be held on the 9th and possibly the 16th. The Snacks and a Movie will remain on the 23rd for now. We will keep you apprised of any other changes in church activities.

Please wear a mask when out among people regardless of your vaccination status so we can curtail the spread of this virus.

Shalom,
John



Snacks & a Movie
Sunday, January 23
4 p.m.

Join us on Sunday, January 23, at 4 p.m. for Snacks and a Movie. The movie will be *Quo Vadis* from 1951 starring Robert Taylor, Deborah Kerr and Peter Ustinov. A synopsis of the movie appears below:

Returning from a military campaign abroad, General Marcus Vinicius (Robert Taylor) discovers that a new religion has taken hold in Rome: Christianity. When Vinicius encounters Lygia (Deborah Kerr), a follower of the strange religion, he tries to win her affections but she is reluctant due to their differing beliefs. Complicating matters is the crazed Emperor Nero (Peter Ustinov), who blames the Christians for his own burning of Rome, beginning a wave of persecution.

Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

Baptism of the Lord

Baptism is one of the two Sacraments Methodists recognize; the other is Holy Communion. These are the Sacraments considered to be ordained by Christ. The Sacraments are means of grace, ways in which we experience God's grace.

Baptism is a sign of washing away the guilt of our sin. In infant baptism, it is the guilt of the original sin, not individual sin. So, both infant and adult baptism are signs of God's grace being poured out upon us, cleansing us from sin. But baptism is much more than just a washing away of sin.

Baptism is a sign of our initiation into a covenant with God. We enter into the covenants God made with Noah, Abraham, Israel, Moses, and David. We enter into the new covenant made through Jesus. As we enter into the covenants, our relationship with God is restored.

As this relationship with God is restored, we become heirs to the Kingdom of God. We sinners are adopted by God into the family of God. Our relationship with God is not a contractual covenant but a familial covenant. It is a parent-child relationship.

As we enter into this familial relationship, we enter the Body of Christ, the church. We enter the church universal. We become brothers and sisters with all who follow Christ. Like most families, there are differences between siblings, thus there are many denominations but all have one God.

By Baptism God cleanses us from the state of sin and the guilt of our sins. God brings us into the divine covenant. God claims us as Children of God and brings us into the divine family. We are born anew and begin a new life in Christ. Baptism is a sign of God's cleansing, restoring, adopting, and renewing grace being continually poured out upon us from the time we leave the womb.

As we receive God's grace, we respond to God's grace. Baptism as a means of grace doesn't mean an end but a beginning. Baptism is a sign of the beginning of a new life in Christ. It is a sign that we are one with Christ and therefore we live a new life. This new life is represented in the vows we take at our baptism, the vows which we will reaffirm later in the service today. These are vows we take before the whole body of Christ, the church.

So let's take a look at these vows., these promises we make as we enter into the covenantal relationship with God as a member of the divine family.

We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness. We renounce the forces of Satan that lead us to sin. These forces may be temptations fueled by jealousy, greed, selfishness, and prejudices that lead to our propensity to sin.

We reject the evil powers of this world. We reject the political powers that oppress. We reject the social powers that keep people from being as God created them. We reject the cultural powers that attempt to use God's word to justify evil. These evil powers may be obvious, like Hitler, or may be very subtle, like when as a social worker at Bryan, I was pressured to discharge patients before the discharge plans were finalized, and patients ended up on the streets.

We repent. We turn away from those spiritual forces and evil powers and turn our faces toward God. We turn our backs to the world and live according to God's will.

We accept the freedom and power God gives to resist evil, injustice, and oppression. We understand we cannot resist evil, injustice, and oppression by our own power. Our propensity to sin is too great, so we receive God's power to resist sin. This power is only available for us when we freely ask for and receive it. The first step in any twelve-step program is to admit that one is powerless to overcome so it is turned over to a higher power. With God's grace, we receive the power to overcome evil, injustice, and oppression in our lives and the world. We freely accept God's power.

We confess that Jesus Christ is the one through whom we are saved and restored into a relationship with God. It is not just that we believe this, but we trust that God is saving us through Jesus.

In response to this saving grace, we serve him as our Lord. We turn our lives over to Jesus and follow His leading. We let go of our will and follow His will.

We do not follow Jesus alone. We become part of a community known as the church. We are joined with other followers in transforming the world. We participate in God's restoration of creation with people of all ages, nations, and races.

By God's grace we can remain faithful members of Christ's Holy Church. We did not make a vow to be faithful to the United Methodist Church but to the whole body of believers. By baptism we remain faithful in the work of the Church in making disciples. It is not so much how we participate in the working of the Church but that we do participate in the work of the church according to the grace God has given us.

Most of all we serve as Christ's representative in the world. We re-present Christ to the world. We re-present Jesus in all aspects of our lives. We re-present Jesus in every place we go. We live in such a way that others see Jesus in us and are drawn to Jesus.

These are the vows we made or were made for us at our baptism. These vows are our sacred promises to God in response to the outpouring of God's grace upon us. They are not empty words to which we respond without thinking. As we reaffirm our Baptismal Covenant today, let us ponder each of these vows and live our lives according to our baptism of God's grace.