

Baptism of the Lord Sunday, January 10, 2021

Greeting: God is good **all the time**. All the time **God is good**.

Question of the Day: Reaffirming our baptism is:

- a) To be baptized again.
- b) UMC requirement.
- c) Never done.
- d) To remember our baptism covenant.

Call to Worship

The powerful voice of God created all worlds.

That same voice calls us to worship.

Ascribe to our God glory and strength.

Come before God's glorious majesty.

God's strength shakes the wilderness.

That same strength is offered to people of faith.

The flames of God penetrate our cold hearts.

May God bless all people with true peace.

Come together to remember our baptism.

Gather to celebrate the Spirit's gifts.

The heavens open to us at the Word of God.

Surely God forgives and makes whole.

Prayer of Invocation

Send down your Holy Spirit, O God – tear open the veil of heaven and speak to us as beloved children so that we may hear and believe the good news of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn “Down to the River to Pray”

Genesis 1:1-5 NRSV

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Psalm 29 NRSV

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.

The voice of the LORD is over the waters;

the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters.

The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;

the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare;

and in his temple all say, “Glory!”

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.
May the LORD give strength to his people!

May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Mark 1:4-11 NRSV

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Response: *The Word of God, for the people of God! Thanks be to God!*

Time of Prayer

How Is It With Your Soul?

Call to Confession

A prophet appeared in the wilderness, calling the people to repent, and be baptized, and prepare the way of the Lord. We return to the water to confess our sins, giving thanks for the grace of Jesus Christ, the one who has come to save us.

Prayer of Confession

God of all glory, you look from heaven and see us as we are – not worthy to kneel at your feet, not ready to welcome your way. Forgive us, gracious God. In Christ, stoop down to save us; loosen the ties that bind us to sin and set us free to love and serve you.

(Time of Silent Prayer)

Assurance

Hear the good news of the gospel: As a voice from heaven said to Jesus, so God says to each of us, "You are my beloved child, and with you I am well pleased." In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. And with Jesus we pray:

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.

Answer to the Question of the Day

Time of Offering *Thank you to everyone for your faithful generosity.*

Offering Prayer

We give you thanks, O God, for every blessing and spiritual gift you have poured out upon us. Let the gifts of our lives be a source of blessing in your world, all to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Sermon "The Face of the Waters" Rev. Joyce Rich

Reaffirmation of Baptism

Introduction

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? **I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? **I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? **I do.**

According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world? **I will.**

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, [who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontious Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.]

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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.]

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. . . . to the land which you promised.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.

In the fullness of time . . . and to make disciples of all nations.

Declare his works to the nations, his glory among all people.

Pour out your Holy Spirit . . . we may share in his final victory.

All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. Amen.

Reaffirmation of Faith *Symbolically use water to:*

Remember your baptism and be thankful. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving

Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of our covenant God.

We give thanks for all that God has already given us. As members of the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we will faithfully participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish and strengthen us by the power of the Holy Spirit that we may live in grace and peace. **Amen.**

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low by thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and

disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Commission and Blessing

Listen to the majesty of God's voice, calling you!

Glorify God's name in your work and worship.

We have been baptized in the name of Jesus.

The triune God has blessed and empowered us.

Then go out as a new creation in Christ.

Let others see how God is changing you.

We are unworthy servants of the Most High.

Yet we are ready to do what God expects.

Amen. **And Amen.**

Hymn "I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"

Announcements

Readings For Next Week: John 1:29-51; Psalm 139:1-18

*Liturgical resources drawn from: **Led by Love: Worship Resources for Year B**, Lavon Bayler © 1996 United Church Press; **Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1**, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor © 2014 Westminster John Knox Press; **The United Methodist Hymnal** © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House.*