

Sunday, January 9, 2022

Baptism of the Lord

Order of Service

Gathering Song..... “Sweet, Sweet Spirit” (*Hymnal, #334*)

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.

Greeting/Call to Worship **Cynthia / Ms. Cynthia**

Leader: The vast expanse of sky stretches in praise.

Ms. Cynthia: The waters and streams cry out in longing.

Leader: The earth now hardened, incubates life.

Ms. Cynthia: And we your people are awaken.

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings.

Ms. Cynthia: Ascribe to the Lord, glory, and strength.

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord glory of his name.

Ms. Cynthia: Let us Worship the Lord in holy splendor.

Hymn of Praise “Come Let us Worship the Lord”
(*sing along with Barnes United Methodist Church*)

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

Holy God, you were well pleased with your Son, Jesus. We know that you are not always well pleased with we who are your adopted children when we Sin. We prayerfully confess to you the times we should have loved and didn’t and the times we acted not out of love, but out of selfishness. Stir up your spirit within us, assure us of your forgiveness, and strengthen us to do your will, so that all we do in Jesus’ name is pleasing to you. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer (*song by Andrea Bocelli*)

The Invocation

Song of Meditation — “**Order My Steps**” (*featuring the GMWA Women of Worship*)

The Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)

Sustaining God, by the power of your Holy Spirit, open our eyes, open our ears, above all open our hearts to the Word this day that it may move us in a discipleship direction to do your will. Order our steps to put into practice the words that we hear in scripture this day. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Erica**
(*Isaiah 43:1–7, Common English Bible*)

Don't fear

43 But now, says the Lord—

the one who created you, Jacob,

the one who formed you, Israel:

Don't fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name; you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

when through the rivers, they won't sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire, you won't be scorched

and flame won't burn you.

³ I am the Lord your God,

the holy one of Israel, your savior.

I have given Egypt as your ransom,

Cush and Seba in your place.

⁴ Because you are precious in my eyes,

you are honored, and I love you.

I give people in your place,

and nations in exchange for your life.

⁵ Don't fear,

I am with you.

From the east I'll bring your children;

from the west I'll gather you.

⁶ I'll say to the north, “Give them back!”

and to the south, “Don't detain them.”

Bring my sons from far away,

and my daughters from the end of the earth,

⁷ everyone who is called by my name

and whom I created for my glory,

whom I have formed and made.

Scripture Reading #2 **Tiara**
(Acts 8:14-17, Common English Bible)

¹⁴ When word reached the apostles in Jerusalem that Samaria had accepted God’s word, they commissioned Peter and John to go to Samaria. ¹⁵ Peter and John went down to Samaria where they prayed that the new believers would receive the Holy Spirit. (¹⁶This was because the Holy Spirit had not yet fallen on any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) ¹⁷ So Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Scripture Reading #3 **Ms. Cynthia**
(Luke 3:15–17, 21–22, Common English Bible)

Responses to John

¹⁵ The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. ¹⁶ John replied to them all, “I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I’m not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can’t be put out.”

Jesus’ baptism

²¹ When everyone was being baptized, Jesus also was baptized. While he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit came down on him in bodily form like a dove. And there was a voice from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness.”

Doxology – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be low; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

The Baptismal Covenant IV

Congregational Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

This service is for use by a congregation when there are no candidates to be baptized, confirmed, or received into membership.

Introduction to the Service

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Through the Sacrament of Baptism

we are initiated into Christ’s holy church.

We are incorporated into God’s mighty acts of salvation

and given new birth through water and the Spirit.

All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

Through the reaffirmation of our faith
we renew the covenant declared at our baptism,
acknowledge what God is doing for us,
and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy church.

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?

Cynthia: I do.

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

Cynthia: 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 has opened
to people of all ages, nations, and races?

Cynthia: 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?

Cynthia: I do.

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?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**Cynthia: I believe 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, 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?

**Cynthia: 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

If water is to be used for reaffirmation, the water may be poured into the font at this time, and the following prayer offered:

The Lord be with you.

Cynthia And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal Father:

When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

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

Hymn of Preparation — “Let Your Healing Waters Flow” *(featuring Vinesong)*

Inspirational Message..... Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

“Grace, Day by Day”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection — “Grace” *(featuring Tasha Cobbs)*

Announcements

Benediction

Announcements

Pastor's Hrs. — Tuesday and Thursday (11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.)

Millicent Hrs. — Tuesday and Thursday (10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.)

Pray Daily at Noon

Please remember to pray daily at NOON. Some areas to include in your prayer, can include the pandemic, racial healing, government leaders, educational challenges, and most importantly for our sick and shut-ins and each other.



Monday, January 10th (6:00 p.m.) — **Church Council meeting.** Zoom information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87054645213?pwd=TVdQbXB6ZDAzR2V0L1JLcy9uZlZ4QT09>; **Meeting ID:** 870 5464 5213; **Passcode:** 574220; **Phone Option** — +13017158592,,87054645213#,,, *574220# US (Washington DC)

Tuesday Men's Bible Study (7:00 p.m.) — Zoom information/call in: [Click Here To Join Zoom Meeting.](#) Copy and paste into your browser if the link above does not work:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84876087048?pwd=K201NEwzWmplMFZMenVqTnJlL0d0QT09>; **Meeting ID:** 848 7608 7048, **Passcode:** 803201; **Phone Option** — One tap mobile: +13017158592,,84876087048#,,, *803201# US (Washington DC)

Wednesday Night Experience (7:00 p.m.) — This is our weekly Bible Study, based on the Wednesday reading in Upper Room. **Call in #267.807.9611; Access Code: 331960**

The pastor invites all members to participate in a 365-Day plan to read the bible during the year (2022) as part of our “**FRESH START NOW**” emphasis. The following Bible selections are provided for this week:

January 10th thru January 16th

Day 10 – Genesis 18:1–15

Day 14 – Genesis 24:1–27

Day 11 – Genesis 19:15–29

Day 15 – Genesis 24:28–67

Day 12 – Genesis 21:8–21

Day 16 – Genesis 25:19–34

Day 13 – Genesis 22:1–19

Jaylah & Jalani, Troop 23015 are selling Girl Scout Cookies, orders will be collected until **January 9th**, monies are not due until the cookies are received. You can contact Tiara (202.603.9800).





**SPECIAL
SUNDAY**

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

—1 CORINTHIANS 12:7, NRSV NRSV

These testimonies reflect how partnering with the Spirit through our Human Relations Day offering brings together gifts that work for the common good:

“A lot of people say where God has brought them from. God dug me out of the mud. Coming to Better Community Development’s Hoover Treatment Center changed my life.”

— SANDRA DAVIS

“The Human Relations Day [offering] allows our ministry to thrive in places that we would not otherwise be available to impact.”

— STEVELYN LEVIGNE, COMMUNITY DIRECTOR FOR THE UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY DEVELOPER’S PROGRAM

“It’s a community effort. You have to not just reach the child, you have to reach the entire family and the entire community, because it takes everybody... If a piece of the puzzle is missing, then the puzzle is incomplete.”

— PAMELA BUTLER, SENIOR MANAGER FOR THE HARRIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HUMBLE TX HEAD START PROGRAM

Please give generously: [UMC.org/SSGive](https://umc.org/SSGive)



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®



**SPECIAL
SUNDAY**

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

On Human Relations Day, we partner with other UMC congregations in a special offering to support neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. Our gifts work together for the common good, building community and sharing God's love.

HOW TO GIVE:

Write a check to your local church and write "Human Relations Day offering" in the memo line.

To give online or set up monthly giving, go to [UMC.org/SSGive](https://www.UMC.org/SSGive).

The United Methodist Church, the world and our communities are in a time of transition. Together, God's church can be a beacon to navigate the ongoing global trauma of the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of a tumultuous political climate in the US and the anxiety of a looming denominational separation.

Now, perhaps more than ever, we are called to be part of extending healing and hope that can guide us to becoming a new creation in Christ. Through our gifts and support, we partner with God and God's people to strengthen Christ's loving presence in a hurting world.

United Methodist Special Sunday celebrations invest in servant leadership, community building and ministries of peace with justice. Concentrating our resources to support shared ministries equips us to step into a grace-filled new beginning with faithful determination.

We know how systemic inequality affects the most vulnerable people. When neighbors experience poverty and live in communities that have less access to resources, as a denomination, our gifts on Human Relations Day work together to empower faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens.

Thank you for partnering your spiritual and financial gifts to build up what the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. called "the beloved community."



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Note from Finance: First, let us give a big thank you to all that have been giving. This is a reminder that there are several ways to get your offering to the church:

1. You can drop it off at the church and place it in church mailbox
2. You can mail it to the church (601 Eighth Street, Laurel, MD 20707)
3. You can use on-line giving (Give–St. Marks — <https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/stmarkslmd>)

Again, thank you. Just remember, even during the pandemic, the church building still has obligations that need to be met.



*“Proclaiming Christ to the generations..
Equipping disciples to transform the world”*

Special Prayers / Sick and Shut-In List: If you hear of anyone that needs special prayer or is taken to the hospital, please contact: Rev. Eugene Matthews (443.257.2730 (cell), 410.379.0600 (home), reveugene@comcast.net)

Charles Gregg, Chantel Ashley, Beverly Wright, Phillip Reese, Larry Powell, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia’s Mom); Hayden Harris (Gemma’s cousin), Floyd Hughes Sr., Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Marvin Hebron, Shelford Henry, Francis Desouza (Gemma’s son), Eric Smith, Nena Hughes, Gloria Thomas, Jeanette Reeves, Rev. George F. DeFord, Wanda Dumas, Tyrone / Pat Mundell, Joan Moore, Ernestine Gibson, Mildred Awkward, Grace Elaine Catchings, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Nancy Daniels, Hannah Polk

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