

*As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.
May we together experience the presence of God*

*****.

We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord



Prelude

Welcome

Announcements/Joys & Concerns

At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus presented himself to John to be baptized in the Jordan. So let us find our center on this Baptism of the Lord Sunday in Matthew's account of this glorious day:

The Baptism of Jesus

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved,[a] with whom I am well pleased."

At this festival of the Christian year, we not only remember Jesus' baptism, but we celebrate our own: the baptism we share with Christ. Accordingly, today we gather to celebrate the reaffirmation of our baptismal covenant.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are marked as God's beloved ones.

What have we done to deserve God's love.

God's love is God's free gift to us, always and forever.

Even when we are difficult and turn away from God,

God's love never vanishes from us.

Thanks be to God who is ever faithful to us, AMEN.

Opening Prayer

Lord of Hope and Light, in the midst of Darkness you offered light to people who lived in fear. Today that light comes to us as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Open our hearts this day and remind us that you have marked us as people of hope and light. Prepare us to serve you by serving your world. AMEN.

***HYMN OF PRAISE UMH#400**

“Come, Thou Fount of every blessing”

Author: Robert Robinson (1758)

Publication Date: 1989

**1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of thy redeeming love.**

**2. Here I raise mine Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.**

**3. O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.**

We Hear God’s Word

New Testament Reading..... Acts 10:34-43

New Revised Standard Version

Gentiles Hear the Good News

*34 Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality,
35 but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness[a] is
acceptable to him. 36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching
peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. 37 That message spread throughout Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38 how God anointed Jesus
of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and
healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39 We are witnesses
to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him
on a tree, 40 but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41 not to
all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank
with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commanded us to preach to the people and
to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43 All
the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of
sins through his name.”*

The Word of God for the People of God, **Thanks be to God!**

Message

HYMN UMH #605 "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters"

Author: Ruth Duck (1987)

Publication Date: 1989

Copyright: Words © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

**1. Wash, O God, our sons and daughters,
where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people;
bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling;
compass them with love and light
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit,
holy dove and heart's delight.**

**2. We who bring them long for nurture;
by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking
cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps;
free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying,
by your Spirit, children, heirs**

**3. Oh, how deep your holy wisdom!
Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor!
With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you,
water washed and Spirit born.
By your grace, our lives we offer.
Recreate us; God, transform!**

THE REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

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

Since the earliest times, the vows of the Baptismal Covenant have consisted first of the renunciation of all that is evil and then the profession of faith and loyalty to Christ.

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 has 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 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?

**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

pour water for reaffirmation into the font at this time

The Lord be with you.

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.

****Sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

Tell of God's mercy each day.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus,
nurtured in the water of a womb.
He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit.
He called his disciples
to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection
and to make disciples of all nations.

****Declare Christ's works to the nations,
his glory among all the people.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit,
and by this gift of water call to our remembrance
the grace declared to us in our baptism.

For you have washed away our sins,
and you clothe us with righteousness throughout our lives,
that dying and rising with Christ
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

*the people to come to the water as the pastor says:
Remember your baptism and be thankful. Amen.*

The Holy Spirit work within you,
that having been born through water and the Spirit,
you may live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.
Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of our covenant God.
Let us 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,
may we 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.
who taught us to pray...Our Father...

Offertory (UM Hymnal 95) Doxology

(Wykoff only)

Offertory Prayer

Loving God, Fill us with your Spirit to speak as faithful witnesses of Christ's resurrecting power. Use our gifts and offerings to fulfill your mission in our wider community. We ask this through Jesus, your Beloved Son. Amen. (Acts 10:34-43)

Departing Hymn UMH #334 "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

Author: Doris Akers (1962)

Publication Date: 1989

Copyright: © 1962 Manna Music, Renewed 1990 by Manna, Music, Inc. (ASCAP)

**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 that it's the presence of the Lord.
Sweet Holy Spirit
Sweet heavenly dove
Stay right here with us
Filling us with your love.
And for all 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.**

Benediction

People of hope and peace, go into the world. Bring God's healing love to all whom you meet. Help with ministries, which promote justice and compassion. In Jesus' Name, go in peace. AMEN.

***POSTLUDE**