

*As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.*

*May we together experience the presence of God*

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**We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord**



**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Announcements/Joys & Concerns**

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, it is the first step in response to God's love. It is a joyful moment when we rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ, as we come to the living waters, we commit ourselves to accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior it is an act of grace to make such a serious promise to declare our faith. We, the wider community gather to bear witness and to welcome our new Christian brothers/sisters, we also promise support and prayer for their future. The act of hearing and doing these things provides an opportunity to remember our own baptism and reflect on the progress made on that journey, which is now to be shared with this new member of the Church.

Our "washing" in the living water of baptism, we believe we die to sin and are raised to new life, this ritual unites us to Christ's dying and rising. Water is also a sign of new life, as we are born again by water and the Spirit. This also reminds us of Jesus' baptism. So, as we gather in honor of our Lord and with commitment to Him in our hearts we light this candle in the celebration that from this day forward Christ beloved child who has come to His alter to be baptized will walk in the light of Jesus Christ for the rest of their life.

Jesus Christ said, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.' John 10.10

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

**the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

**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."

## Opening Prayer

Lord, thank you for the precious gift of baptism, that we can publicly declare our love and passion for you. Lord, we ask for your goodness and blessings to be poured out on this faithful servant. We pray that you would work deeply within their heart and soul to renew and refresh them each day. Come guide their footsteps, give them a hope and a vision for the future. Today, the past is gone. They stand free and whole, loved and forgiven within the kingdom of God. Father, cover and protect them now, encircle them with your promises and fill their hearts with joy. May this day be one they cherish and remember forever! Amen.

## **\*HYMN OF PRAISE UMH #400**

## **"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"**

*Author: Robert Robinson (1758)*

*Alterer: Martin Madan (1760)*

*Meter: 8.7.8.7 D*

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**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 God's redeeming love.**

**2 Here I find my greatest treasure;  
hither by thy help I've 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,  
bought me with his precious blood.**

**3 Oh, 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***

**Gospel Reading..... John 1:1-34 (NRSV)**

### **The Word Became Flesh**

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life,[a] and

the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.[b]

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own,[c] and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,[d] full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.[e] 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who[f] is close to the Father's heart,[g] who has made him known.

### **The Testimony of John the Baptist**

19 This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, "I am not the Messiah." [h] 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." 22 Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord,' "

as the prophet Isaiah said.

24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25 They asked him, "Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah,[i] nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" 26 John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, 27 the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal." 28 This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

### **The Lamb of God**

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' 31 I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." 32 And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to

me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One." [j]

This is the Word of God for the people of God, **Thanks be to God!**

### **"Congregational Bringing Forth the Living Waters"**

#### **FAITH HYMN FWS #2051**

#### **"I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"**

*Author: John Ylvisaker*

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**"I was there to hear your borne cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.  
I was there when you were but a child,  
with a faith to suit you well;  
In a blaze of light you wandered off  
to find where demons dwell."**

**"When you heard the wonder of the Word  
I was there to cheer you on;  
You were raised to praise the living Lord,  
to whom you now belong.  
If you find someone to share your time  
and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
from dusk 'till rising sun."  
In the middle ages of your life,  
not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night,  
complete what I've begun.  
When the evening gently closes in,  
and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been  
with just one more surprise."**

**"I was there to hear your borne cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold."**

### **"Message"**

#### **THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT II**

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.

Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me. Do not stop them'.

Today I present Madison Diane, Sophia Brielle, Maycie Grace, and Paisley Mae for baptism.

We thank God for them as Christ loves them and welcomes them into his Church.

### **RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH**

#### **The pastor addresses parents and sponsors:**

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.**

Will you nurture these children (persons) in Christ's holy Church, that by your teaching and example they may be guided to accept God's grace for themselves, to profess their faith openly, and to lead a Christian life?

**I will.**

#### **The pastor addresses the congregation, and the congregation responds:**

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

**We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.**

#### **Congregation joins the parents and sponsors in responding:**

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 baptism and reaffirmation into the font at this time in such a way that the congregation can see and hear the water.**

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.

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.

**The pastor may place hands in or over the water, stir the water, or lift the water.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and those who receive it, to wash away their sin and clothe them in righteousness throughout their lives, that, dying and being raised with Christ, they 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 forever. Amen.

### **BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS**

Madison Diane –

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sophia Brielle –

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Maycie Grace-

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Paisley Mae-

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

**Candidate's family may join the pastor in this action.**

**Pastor, laying hand on the newly baptized:**

The Holy Spirit work within you,  
that being born through water and the Spirit,  
you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **The Welcoming**

Now it is our joy to welcome our new sisters and brothers in Christ. Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you as members of the family of Christ. **The pastor addresses the congregation:**

Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care.

Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

**The congregation responds:**

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to 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 pastor addresses the parents and sponsors using an appropriate gesture of blessing:**

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

**Departing Hymn FWS #2248 "Baptized in Water"**

*Author: Michael Saward*

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*Tune Information*

*Harmonizer: Carlton R. Young*

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**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.**

**Benediction**

May the waters of God's grace surround you and uphold you.  
May your baptisms strengthen you for the work ahead.  
And may the Spirit that descended upon Jesus at his baptism  
fall upon your shoulders as you seek to do God's will.  
Amen.

**\*POSTLUDE**