

Baptism of Our Lord
January 9th at 10:00 a.m.

“And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’”

Luke 3:22

Greeting and Welcome

Prelude Music “He is Born” Arr. G. Smith *Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

****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*** “Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine” UMH#611 Words: Charles Wesley, 1762. Music: English Melody. Arr. by Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906. *Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

**1. Come, let us use the grace divine, and all with one accord,
in a perpetual covenant join ourselves to Christ the Lord;
Give up ourselves, thru Jesus' power, his name to glorify;
and promise, in this sacred hour, for God to live and die.**

**2. The covenant we this moment make be ever kept in mind;
we will no more our God forsake, or cast these words behind.
We never will throw off the fear of God who hears our vow;
and if thou art well pleased to hear, come down and meet us now.**

**3. Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, let all our hearts receive,
present with thy celestial host the peaceful answer give;
to each covenant the blood apply which takes our sins away,
and register our names on high and keep us to that day!**

Prayers of the People

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "Here, Shepherds, Let Us Gather" C. Louis Daquin *Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

****Doxology*** UMH #94 *Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

Praise God from Whom all Blessings flow!

Praise God all creatures here below!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

****Hymn*** "When Jesus Came to Jordan" #252 UMH Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1973. Music: Attr. to William Walker, 1835. Harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1988. *Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

**1. When Jesus came to Jordan
to be baptized by John,
he did not come for pardon,
but as the sinless one.**

**He came to share repentance
with all who mourn their sins,
to speak the vital sentence
with which good news begins.**

**2. He came to share temptation,
our utmost woe and loss,
for us and our salvation
to die upon the cross.
So when the dove descended
On him, the Son of Man,
the hidden years had ended,
the age of grace began.**

**3. Come, Holy Spirit, aid us
to keep the vows we make,**

**4. This very day invade us,
and every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction,
the gift we covet most:
to share the resurrection
that leads to Pentecost.**

Gospel Reading Luke 3:15-17; 21-22 NRSV

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The word of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God

Sermon "Well Pleased" Rev. Matthew B. Sergent

****Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant***

Sisters and brothers in Christ: through the sacrament of baptism God's Spirit has been poured out upon water, water poured over and immersing us, water that flows freely for all who will receive it, water from the streams of God's saving power and justice, water that brings hope to all who thirst for righteousness, water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth.

Today we come to the waters, to renew our commitments in each other's presence to Christ who has raised us, the Spirit who has birthed us, and the Creator who is making all things new.

And so, I ask you, will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin.

Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?

We accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ, his body on earth?

We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, put our whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as our Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races.

Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?
We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.
Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?
We affirm and teach the faith of the whole church as we put our trust in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, his only Son, and in the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

The Spirit of the Lord is with us.

Even so, come Lord Jesus!

Let us pray: Almighty God, the life you birthed in us by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die. Your justice never fails. Your mercy is everlasting.

Your healing river flows. Your Spirit blows where you will. We cannot stop you, God!

But sometimes we try. We try to block the flow, we redirect the winds of the Spirit, or we walk so far away from the life-giving stream that we do not hear its sound, and we forget its power. We parch ourselves.

We are dry and thirsty, O God. Come, refresh us!

Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

Come upon these waters.

Come upon these waters.

Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.

Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.

Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.

Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.

Most Holy God, Abba, Father!

Glory to you!

Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord!

Glory to you!

Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness!

Glory to you!

Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!

All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!

Note: The Pastor and Ministry Intern will use an evergreen branch to sprinkle small amounts of water toward the congregation. This parallels sprinkling with hyssop for purification (Exodus 12:22; Psalm 51:7) and sprinkling as a sign of renewal (Ezekiel 36:25-26).

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

***Sending Forth Hymn** “Child of Blessing, Child of Promise” #611 UMH. Words: Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1981. Words: Att. To C.F. Witt, 1715. Adapt. by Henry J. Gauntlett, 1861. *Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

**1. Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign,
with this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.**

**2. Child of love, our love's expression,
love's creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits,
into joy and laughter lead.**

**3. Child of joy, our dearest treasure,
God's you are; from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you:
live as one who bears Christ's name.**

**4. Child of God, your loving Parent,
learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,
trust and love God more than all.**

***Benediction**

Go forth and proclaim the good news: God calls us by name and fashions us for glory.

We go as people washed clean in the waters of our baptism,

Go forth and live the good news: the Holy Spirit blesses us and seals us in God's love.

We go as people blessed by God, that we might be a blessing to others.

Postlude “Once in Royal David's City” Arr. V. Collinsworth *Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer by Nancy C. Townley, Worship Connection, January 9, 2022. Affirmation of Faith, Homiletics Online, adapted. Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant by umcdiscipleship.org. Benediction by B.J. Beu, Abingdon Worship Annual, 2022.