

Welcome to Worship with Memorial United Methodist Church

August 16, 2020, Worship Guide

(On-line Worship Video available any time after 8:30 a.m. Sunday, www.gladstonechurch.org)

We Gather to Worship God

Welcome and Opening Prayer

As we gather to worship, to recognize your grace, Lord Jesus, at work in our lives and the life of yet another child of God, whom you have gifted to us, we bring you praise, we seek your pardon and compassion, and we celebrate each other, all to your glory. Amen.

Opening Praise Song: “*Shall We Gather at the River*” UMH 723

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain: Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;

Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
We will talk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.

“Shall We Gather at the River” Words and Music by Robert Lowry, 1864. Public Domain

Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Sophia Lynn Trotter (baptized Aug. 9, 2020, Parents: Alex Trotter & Emily Johnson)

Introducing the Sacrament – Pastor Cathy Rafferty

Friends and family, we celebrate baptism as an outward and visible sign of the grace we share in Jesus Christ. Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are initiated into the Christian community of faith. We acknowledge God’s gracious acts of salvation, and we are given new birth through water and the Spirit. All of this is God’s gift, offered to us without price.

Presentation of the Child – Lay Leader Laurie De La Garza

Today we present Sophia Lynn Trotter for baptism. In baptism we look back with gratitude on what God has already accomplished in Sophia’s life, we look forward to what God will accomplish in the future, and we recognize and celebrate Sophia’s place here and now as a beloved child in the family of God.

Vows of Baptism – Pastor

Since the earliest times, the vows of Christian baptism have consisted first of the renunciation of all that is evil and then the profession of faith and loyalty to Jesus Christ. And so, on behalf of the whole Church of Jesus Christ, I ask the baptized among us gathered here today to reaffirm these vows for ourselves:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sins? **We do**

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

Will you, according to the grace God gives you, remain faithful to Jesus Christ and to his holy Church, following God’s command to love God and to love one another? **We will**

In light of your own baptismal vows, will those of you who stand in support of Sophia continue to support and encourage her in her Christian life, living your own lives, by God’s grace, following the example of Jesus Christ? **We will**

Will you of the congregation, as Christ’s body, the Church, nurture one another in Christian faith and life, and include this child now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the love of God and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround this child with a community of love and forgiveness that she may grow in her service to others. We will pray for her that she may walk in the way that leads to life.

Profession of Faith – Lay Leader

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith (*all who believe should answer*):

Do you believe in God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth? **We do**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord? **We do**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? **We do**

Prayer of Thanksgiving Over the Water – Pastor

Let us pray – Eternal God: 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.

Jesus called a child to stand among them, and taking the child in his arms, Jesus said,

“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome only me but also the one who sent me.”

Life-giving God: 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 and know your everlasting love.

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

Baptism with Water and the Laying on of Hands

Pastor: Sophia, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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

Declaration and Welcome

Pastor: Sophia, you are a child of God, sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. Thanks be to God.

Lay Leader: We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome Sophia, our new sister in Christ. I commend her to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.

***Congregation:* Sophia, we give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together 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, and our service, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

Concluding Blessing – Pastor

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.

We Share the Story of God

Sharing the Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

Rachel Johnson

Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds. When he sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening came and he was alone. Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land.

Very early in the morning Jesus came to his disciples, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, "It's a ghost!" They were so frightened they screamed.

Just then Jesus spoke to them, "Be encouraged! It's me. Don't be afraid."

Peter replied, "Lord, if it's you, order me to come to you on the water."

And Jesus said, "Come."

Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened. As he began to sink, he shouted, "Lord, rescue me!"

Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, "You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?" When they got into the boat, the wind settled down.

Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, "You must be God's Son!"

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Song Response: "Walk On The Water"

Walk on the water, walk on the raging sea; Sweet Jesus, while you're walking on the water, won't you walk on out to me?

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Message for Today: We Aren't Afraid of the Water

Pastor Cathy Rafferty

We Respond to God

Offering Our Gifts and Commitments

Please give online at www.gladstonechurch.org

Or mail checks payable to: Memorial UMC, 1920 Lake Shore Dr., Gladstone, MI 49837

Offering Our Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

Please email prayer requests to mumc@gladstonechurch.org or call (906) 428-9311

Blessing

Thank you for worshipping with us. I hope you'll join us next time for on-line worship as we consider who we say Jesus is and who Jesus calls us to be. Until then, remember we are ... Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod, grateful to be part of the family of God, especially grateful today for our newest family member, Sophia Lynn Trotter. Together may we keep on courageously proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ.

We Go, Blessed to Serve

Sung Response: "The Family of God"

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God; I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by his blood! Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod, for I'm part of the family, the family of God.

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