

Welcome to Worship with Memorial United Methodist Church

Baptism of the Lord Sunday – Jan. 10, 2021, Worship Guide

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

We Gather to Worship God

Opening Prayer

God who calls us to wade in the water, gathered in worship around the baptismal font, may we experience your presence with us. Trouble the waters of our lives in ways that stir up our desire to follow the way of Jesus, to draw near to you and to one another. Trouble the waters of our lives in ways that awaken us to all we have to offer to a troubled world, as the Body of Christ. Trouble the waters of our lives in ways that help us to take each next step with trust and grace. Amen.

Hymn of Praise: “*Ever Fresh the Call*”

Jesus comes to River Jordan to be baptized there by John. Named by God as God’s beloved, one the Spirit rests upon. From the water to the desert, driven to be tested there. Back he comes to preach God’s kingdom, teaching all God’s love to share.

Jesus calls us to the water to be baptized in his name. And he calls us to confirm vows, for ourselves the promise claim. Ever fresh the call of Jesus fills us with God’s Spirit wild.

Free to share God’s love with others, named as God’s beloved child.

Jesus calls us all together to renew our covenant; be his body, serving others, go wherever we are sent. In his name we share the gospel, work for justice, offer grace. Faith passed down through generations, humbly still we run this race.

Words: C. Rafferty, 2011; Music: NETTLETON by Robert Robinson, 1758. Public Domain.

We Share the Story of God

Sharing from the Gospel of Mark 1:4-11

Laurie De la Garza

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Mark 1:9-11, from NRSV.

Message for Today

Pastor Cathy Rafferty

We Respond to God

Sung Response: “*I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*” TFWS 2051

Debbie Hubbard

Congregational Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

Introduction – Pastor Cathy Rafferty

Friends, family, siblings in Christ: 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. If you’ve not been baptized, you’re welcome to follow along anyway, inviting God’s grace to touch you with the water. Then, if you would like to be baptized, please contact me.

Lay Leader Laurie De la Garza: 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 – Pastor

Since the earliest times, the vows of the Christian Baptismal Covenant 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, and serving as Christ's representatives in the world? **We will**

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.

He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

Life-giving God: Pour out your Holy Spirit, and by this gift of water call to our remembrance the grace declared to us in our baptism, your grace freely offered to all. We trust you as the One to wash away our sins and to clothe us with righteousness throughout our lives, that dying and rising with Christ we may share in his final victory.

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

Reaffirmation with the Water – Pastor

Remember your baptism now by touching the water you have, perhaps using it to trace a cross on your forehead or hand, and be thankful.

Lay Leader: The Holy Spirit work within us, that being born through water and the Spirit, we may be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving – Pastor: Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of our covenant God.

Lay Leader/All:

We give thanks for all that God has already given us. As members together in the body of Christ, and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant to participate faithfully 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.

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.

Musical Reflection: “Wesley Covenant Prayer” [UMH 607]

Jim Strathdee

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

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

We Go, Blessed to Serve

Blessing: May we all be willing to be beginners every single morning in our awareness of God’s grace, our sharing in Jesus’ love, and our attentiveness to the Holy Spirit.

W&S (Worship & Song), TFWS (The Faith We Sing), UMH (United Methodist Hymnal), UMBOW (United Methodist Book of Worship).