



United Methodist Church
of Westport and Weston

January 10, 2021
Baptism of the Lord Sunday

*Our Vision is to Know, to Live
and to Share the Love of Jesus Christ.*

Livestream Worship – 10:00am

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

Genesis 1:1-2 (NRSV)

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

PRELUDE

I Sing the Almighty Power of God
Ahyoung Son, organ

Trad. English Melody
arr. R. V. Williams

OPENING PRAYER

Grace Sinclair & Sophia Sinclair

We have come together today as the children of God
To praise and worship God, the Creator of heaven and earth.

We gather as people from all walks of life

But while we are together, we have two things in common:

We all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and

We worship a God who specializes in forgiveness.

Let us come repenting of our sins, being baptized

No longer of water,

But of the Holy Spirit.

Here we are God.

We are your beloved children.

Be pleased with our worship today.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

HYMN

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

TFWS 2171

Verse 1

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Verse 2

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring you hope.
Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.

Verse 3

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Verse 4

Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

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PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:1-11

Cindy Glover

1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

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

5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. **6** Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7** 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. **8** I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** 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.

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

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

SERMON

“In the Beginning”

Rev. Heather A. M. Sinclair

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

UMH 420

Verse 1

Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what you would do.

Verse 2

Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.

Verse 3

Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,
till all this earthly part of me glows with fire divine.

Verse 4

Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL COVENANT

INTRODUCTION

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.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Turning 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.**

Letting the Spirit use us 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.**

Proclaiming the good news and living as disciples of Jesus Christ:

**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.**

**We confirm our covenant to be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together,
wherever we are, and in all that we do.**

**We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church
and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.**

**We will receive and profess the Christian faith as contained
in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.**

**We will affirm and teach the faith of the whole church as we put our trust
in Almighty God, in Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Spirit of the Lord is with us.
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 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.
Glory to you, Creator, Christ and Spirit!
Eternal God, all glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!
Remember that you are baptized, and rejoice!

GIVING THANKS FOR OUR GIFTS

The ministry of the church is ongoing during these days. Your gifts, tithes and offerings continue to allow us to “be the church.” Checks may be sent to the church office or given online through our website. Your generosity is a blessing. Thank you.

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

*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!*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER *You are invited to pray in the version and language of your heart.*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the kingdom, and the glory, forever. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE

SUNG BENEDICTION

Peace I Leave With You

arr. G. Weigle

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

How Great Thou Art
Ahyoung Son, organ

S. K. Hine

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Portions of the Order of Worship are adapted from:
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Curry F. Butler, “Baptism of the Lord, Year B,” umdiscipleship.org

“New Service of Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant,” umdiscipleship.org

WELCOME! We joyfully welcome all visitors to our worship service this morning. You are welcome to make this your community of faith and participate in any of the activities of our congregation.



Our Mission is:

To Know the love of Jesus in personal ways through worship, prayer and study
To Live the love of Jesus through acts of compassion, gentleness and justice
To Share the love of Jesus in our homes, our community and the world
To Welcome all of God's children regardless of age, race, ability,
sexual or gender orientation, and economic circumstance.

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OUR MINISTERS

EVERY PARTICIPANT IN THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION

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REV. HEATHER A. M. SINCLAIR, PASTOR

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