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January 10, 2021
Baptism of the Lord Sunday



Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship:

Pastor: All who thirst, come to the water and drink deeply of these living streams. Come, all who are weary; come, all who yearn for forgiveness. Our gracious God beckons and blesses us. Let us give praise for new life in Christ.

All: Amen.

Opening Hymn:

When Jesus Came to the Jordan

(UMH 252)

Verse 1

When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John,
He did not come for pardon 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.

Verse 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.

Verse 3

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

Affirmation of Faith: Apostle's Creed

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, what is it that you believe?

**All: I believe in God the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontus 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.**

**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 Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

Doxology

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-22, NRSV

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

5

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

6

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

7 John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 9 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

10 And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" 11 In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." 12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" 13 He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." 14 Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 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. 17 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."

18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. 19 But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, 20 added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 22 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."

Sermon:

Identifying with Jesus

Rev. Shannon Blosser

Wesleyan Covenant Renewal

The Wesleyan Covenant Renewal is a liturgy intended to help us renew our commitment to God and one another. Its usage dates back to the Puritan movement in 1663, but was modified and popularized by John Wesley and the early Methodist Movement. We will use a portion of it today to renew commitment to God and to prepare us to remember our baptism vows.

Pastor: Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants. Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him. Christ has many services to be done. Some are more easy and honorable, others are more difficult and disgraceful. Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests, others are contrary to both.

In some we may please Christ and please ourselves. But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. It is necessary, therefore, that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ.

Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray:

All: Let me be your servant, under your command. I will no longer be my own. I will give up myself to your will in all things.

Pastor: Be satisfied that Christ shall give you your place and work.

All: Lord, make me what you will. I put myself fully into your hands: put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal.

Pastor: Christ will be the Savior of none but his servants. He is the source of all salvation to those who obey. Christ will have no servants except by consent; Christ will not accept anything except full consent to all that he requires. Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing.

Confirm this by a holy covenant.

To make this covenant a reality in your life, listen to these admonitions:

First, set apart some time, more than once, to be spent alone before the Lord; in seeking earnestly God's special assistance and gracious acceptance of you; in carefully thinking through all the conditions of the covenant; in searching your hearts whether you have already freely given your life to Christ. Consider what your sins are. Consider the laws of Christ, how holy, strict, and spiritual they are, and whether you, after having carefully considered them, are willing to choose them all. Be sure you are clear in these matters, see that you do not lie to God.

Second, be serious and in a spirit of holy awe and reverence.

Third, claim God's covenant, rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength, so you can keep your promise. Trust not your own strength and power.

Fourth, resolve to be faithful. You have given to the Lord your hearts, you have opened your mouths to the Lord, and you have dedicated yourself to God. With God's power, never go back.

And last, be then prepared to renew your covenant with the Lord.

All: Before all heaven and earth, I here acknowledge you as my Lord and God. I take you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for my portion, and vow to give up myself, body and soul, as your servant, to serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.

Jesus, I do here on bended knees accept Christ as the only new and living Way, and sincerely join myself in a covenant with him. O blessed Jesus, I come to you, hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy even to wash the feet of your servants. I do here, with all my power, accept you as my Lord and Head. I renounce my own worthiness, and vow that you are the Lord, my righteousness. I renounce my own wisdom, and take you for my only guide. I renounce my own will, and take your will as my law.

O mighty God, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant. So be it. And let the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Remembrance of Baptism

Lord's Prayer

Ecumenical Text

(UMH 894)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn:

O How I Love Jesus

(UMH 170)

Verse 1

There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth.
O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!

Verse 2

It tells me of a Savior's love, who died to set me free;
It tells me of his precious blood, the sinner's perfect plea.
O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!

Verse 3

It tells of one whose loving heart can feel my deepest woe;
Who in each sorrow bears a part that none can bear below.
O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!

Benediction

Postlude

MINISTRY IN THE LIFE OF PRUMC

January 10 through January 17

Sunday 10:45 Worship in the parking lot and online
Wednesday 7:00 Bible Study: Facebook
Thursday 6:00 Finance Meeting via Zoom
Thursday 7:00 Church Council via Zoom
Sunday (01/17) 10:45 Worship in the parking lot and online

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

Offering Last Week: \$3,444.46

Weekly Budgetary Needs: \$4,228.00

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:

Birthdays: Joe Daulton, Cagney Sargent, Lisa Barriteau, Vanessa Bailey

CONCERNS and PRAYERS

SHORT TERM

Sandy Hann, Roger Adkins, John Workman, Rev. Shannon Blosser and family, Carolyn Jarrell, and the Jarrell Family, Jim and Betty Gibbs, Ida and Rob Robinson (friends of Barbara and William Hale)

LONG TERM

Peggy Adkins, Sandy Pullin, Janet Mears, Louise Miller, Sharie Blackwell, Carolyn Dilcher, Ken and Lou Morris, Ted Henry, Garry and Nancy Ritchie, Edna Williams, (Village at Riverview), Marcia Anderson, Patty Doss (Chateau Grove).

NEXT WEEK LECTIONARY: Luke 4:14-30

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR: January 10 - 16

10 - Genesis 32-34

14 - Genesis 44-46

11 - Genesis 35-37

15 - Genesis 47-50

12 - Genesis 38-40

16 - Exodus 1-3

13 - Genesis 41-43

How To Contact Pastor Shannon

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You can also follow him on Facebook and Twitter.