



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT

BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY ☞ JANUARY 10, 2021 ☞

GUIDE FOR ONLINE WORSHIP

We Gather in God's Name

Gathering

As you prepare for worship at home, please have a candle nearby (wax or battery), representing the light of Christ. Please have a cup or bowl of water nearby, representing the waters of your baptism.

Welcome & Announcements

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Word as Prayer

Hymn – *God of Love, We've Known Division* (verses 1&2)

♪ God of love, we've known division and we've seen its awful cost.

♪ We have struggled as a nation, and there's much that we have lost.

♪ We have been a house divided — and, divided, we can't stand.

♪ May our nation be united; give us peace throughout this land.

♪ Turn us, Lord, from what divides us — fear that drives us far apart,

♪ greed that leads to great injustice, racist ways that break your heart.

♪ May we seek what brings together — hearts that bear each other's pain,

♪ care and mercy toward our neighbors, love that welcomes strangers in.

Silence

Old Testament – 2 Chronicles 7:12-15

¹²Then the Lord appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice. ¹³When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, ¹⁴if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. ¹⁵Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place.

Silence

Hymn – *God of Love, We've Known Division* (verses 3&4)

♪ May we all, in conversation, speak the truth and listen well.

♪ May we hear, across this nation, stories others have to tell.

♪ May we learn from other cultures and be blessed by their worldview;

♪ May we serve with one another — loving others, loving you.

*♪ You have challenged us to goodness; you have shown a kinder way.
♪ It's your love that now inspires us as we seek a better day.
♪ May we end our harsh division; may we stop the hate and fear.
♪ Make us one, Lord, as a nation; may we be united here.*

Silence

Psalm Reading – Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
 though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
³though its waters roar and foam,
 though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*
⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
 the holy habitation of the Most High.
⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
 God will help it when the morning dawns.
⁶The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
 he utters his voice, the earth melts.
⁷The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*
⁸Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
 he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.
¹⁰“Be still, and know that I am God!
 I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.”
¹¹The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

Silence

Prayer for Our Nation

**God of all the ages,
in your sight nations rise and fall, and pass through times of peril.
Now when our land is troubled, be near to judge and save.
May leaders be led by your wisdom;
may they search your will and see it clearly.
If we have turned from you way,
reverse our ways and help us to repent.
Give us your light and your truth, let them guide us;
through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of this world, and our Savior. Amen.**

Concerns & Celebrations of the People

Intercessory Prayer

The Word as Proclamation

Prayer of Illumination

Send down your Holy Spirit, O God –
tear open the veil of heaven
and speak to us as beloved children
so that we may hear and believe
the good news of your Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* Gospel Reading – Mark 1:4-1

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Musical Reflection – *Baptized in Water*

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our King;
born of one Father, we are his children,
joyfully now God's praises we sing.

New Testament Reading – Acts 19:1-7

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

Sermon – "A Spiritual Makeover"

Silent Reflection

The Word as Lived

Congregational Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

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 & Profession of Faith

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

I 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 has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

According to the grace given to you, will you remain a faithful member of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

I will.

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius 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.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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.

Reaffirmation of Faith

Remember your baptism and be thankful.

The Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born through water and the Spirit, you may live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving

Let us rejoice in the thankfulness of our covenant God.

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

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.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

Giving Our Tithes, Offerings and Other Gifts

Offertory Prayer

**We give you thanks, O God,
for every blessing and spiritual gift
you have poured out upon us.
Let the gifts of our lives
be a source of blessing in your world,
all to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Hymn – *Let There Be Peace on Earth

*♪ Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;
♪ let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
♪ With God our creator, children all are we.
♪ Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
♪ Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
♪ With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
♪ to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally
♪ Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

Benediction – Go forth in the light and love of God, giving glory to God in all that you do.

Flowers in memory of Mrs. Pauline Wyrwas – The Austin Flower Fund

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