

Newtonville United Methodist Church

Sunday Worship for January 10, 2021 – Baptism of the Lord

Centering Music (*please be in silence as we prepare to worship*)

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: (by Rev. Viki Flippin)

I emerge from the waters, and God says,

“You are my child, the Beloved. I delight in you.”

I am driven into the wilderness, and still God says,

“You are my child, the Beloved. I delight in you.”

I work and I live. I am loved. I am abused. And still God says,

“You are my child, the Beloved. I delight in you.”

I rise. I fall. I weep. I rage. And still God says,

“You are my child, the Beloved. I delight in you.”

I come to my last breath, and still God says,

“You are my child, the Beloved. I delight in you.”

Litany of Praise: (from Ashanti of Ghana)

O Lord, our God, creator of our land, our earth, the trees, the animals and humans, all is for your honor.

The drums beat it out, and people sing about it, and they dance with noisy joy that you are the Lord.

You also have pulled the other continents out of the sea. What a wonderful world you have made out of wet mud and what beautiful men and women! We thank you for all the beauty of this earth.

The grace of your creation is like a cool day between rainy seasons. We drink in your creation with our eyes. We listen to the birds’ jubilee with our ears.

How strong and good and sure your earth smells, and everything that grows here. We drink in your creation and cannot get enough of it.

Bless our land and people. Prepare us for the service we should render.

Musical Reflection

Prayer: (by Bruce Prewer)

Today we celebrate a special baptism; the baptism of Jesus of Nazareth. God says: Look! See my chosen servant, the One in whom I utterly delight;

I have placed my Spirit on him, he will bring true justice to the nations.

When Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened up, and Spirit came down like a dove; and there was a voice from heaven saying:

“This is my dearly loved Son, with whom I am delighted.”

The joy of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Most wonderful God, foolish and flawed though we are, we too delight in your beloved Son. As in his name we gather in the house of many praises, may the heavens be opened for us, that we may catch a glimpse of that Light and Love that transforms our common days with a beauty not of our making.

Through Christ Jesus our Lord, who taught us to pray: 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.

Children's Message

Scripture Lessons: Genesis 1:1-5 & Mark 1:4-11

Message: "No Boxes"

Musical Reflection

Prayers of the Community: (from Vanderbilt Divinity Library and the Taize' Community)

Sisters and brothers and siblings, our baptismal vows call us to compassion and mercy on behalf of those in need. We offer our prayers for the church and the world.

For your church around the world,

we ask new life.

For all who carry out ministries in your church,

we ask grace and wisdom.

For Christians of every land,

we ask new unity in your name.

For Jew and Muslims and people of other faiths,

we ask your divine blessing.

For those who cannot believe,

we ask your faithful love.

For governors and rulers in every land,

we ask your guidance.

For people who suffer and sorrow,

we ask your healing peace.

Lord God, you revealed your Son in the waters of the Jordan and anointed him with the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim good news to all people. Sanctify us by the same Spirit, that we may proclaim the healing power of the gospel by acts of love in your name. **Amen.**

Closing Litany: (by Scott A. Ressman in "Immerse Yourself")

God of the waters. Water of birth,

moving us from safety into the world.

God of the waters. Water of connection,

engaging the playful Spirit, the passionate Christ, the challenging God.

God of the waters. Water of life,

sustaining, quenching, cleansing.

God of the waters. Water of trouble,

journeying us from here to there, from the known to the unknown.

God of the waters.

Birth us. Connect us. Live in us. Trouble us.

Sending Forth

Postlude

Check our Facebook group and www.numc.net regularly for the latest News & Updates.