

# Order of Worship

January 7, 2024 10:00 AM

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Welcome to this time of worship, as we gather in the name of Jesus Christ.

Please fill out the red attendance pad located at the end of each pew.

*\* At this sign you are invited to rise in body or in spirit.*

**Prelude**

**Nun bitten wir den Heiligen Geist**

Dietrich Buxtehude

Annelisa Crabtree, organ

**Welcome**

Rev. Nilse Furtado-Gilliam

**Greeting**

Leader: Come to the river of life.

**People: Listen for the words of love.**

Leader: Come to the waters of grace.

**People: Receive the gift of acceptance.**

Leader: Come to the river of love,

**People: for all are welcome here!**

**Hymn**

**Here I Am to Worship**

**Prayer of Confession**

Leader: God of all glory, you look from heaven  
and see us as we are—  
not worthy to kneel at your feet,  
not ready to welcome your way.

**People: Forgive us, gracious God.  
In Christ, stoop down to save us;  
loosen the ties that bind us to sin  
and set us free to love and serve you;  
in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Words of Forgiveness**

Rev. Wines

Leader: Hear the good news of the gospel:  
As a voice from heaven said to Jesus,  
so God says to each of us:  
You are my beloved children,

and with you I am well pleased.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Children's Message**

#### **Scripture**

**Mark 1:4-11**

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Sermon**

**Name Calling**

Rev. Wines

#### **Reaffirmation of Our Baptismal Covenant**

Rev. Furtado-Gilliam

##### **Invitation**

Siblings 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**

And so I ask you, will you turn 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!**

Will you let the Spirit use you 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!**

Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ,  
his body on earth?

**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!**

Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?

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

Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

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

### **Thanksgiving Over the Water**

The Spirit of the Lord is with us.

**Even so, come Lord Jesus!**

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 us, Holy Spirit!**

Come upon these waters.

**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.**

Most Holy God, Abba, Father!

**Glory to you!**

Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord!

**Glory to you!**

Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness!

**Glory to you!**

Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!

**All glory is yours, now and forever.**

**Amen!**

## **Holy Communion**

Rev. Wines

*In the United Methodist tradition, all who seek to lead a Christian life,  
together with their children, are invited to receive communion.*

*The Great Thanksgiving prayer is offered, concluding with:*

All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**Amen.**

And now with the confidence of children of God,  
let us pray as our Lord taught us:

**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.**

*You are invited to come forward to touch the baptismal waters to your forehead  
and to receive communion.*

## **A Celebration of Leadership**

**Thanksgiving for 2023 Church Council**

**Installation of 2024 Leadership Board**

*The pastor addresses the leaders:*

Dear friends,

you have been called by God and chosen by the people of God  
for leadership in the church.

This ministry is a blessing and a serious responsibility.  
It recognizes your special gifts and calls you to work among us and for us.  
In love we thank you for accepting this leadership  
and we challenge you to offer your best  
to God, to this people, and to our ministry in the world.

*The pastor asks the leaders:*

Will you serve in faithful discipleship to Jesus Christ  
and devote yourself to the service of God in the world?  
Will you so live that you enable this church to be a people of love and peace,  
doing all in your power to be responsible to the task for which you have been  
chosen?

**I will.**

*The congregation is invited to raise their hands toward the new leaders as the pastor prays:*

Let us pray.  
Almighty God, pour out your blessings upon these your servants  
who have been given particular ministries in your church.  
Keep before them the example of Christ,  
who did not think first of himself, but gave himself for us all.  
Let them share his ministry and consecration,  
rewarding their faithfulness with the knowledge  
that through them your purposes are accomplished.  
Today we offer our commitment  
to do all we can to assist and encourage these leaders  
in the responsibilities to which they have been called,  
giving them our cooperation, our counsel, and our prayers;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Hymn** **Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine** UMH 606

**Benediction** Rev. Wines

**Postlude** **Allegro** Johann Christian Kittel

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The bulletin cover: Zelenka, Dave. Baptism of Christ, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the  
Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56385>  
[retrieved January 3, 2024]. Original source:

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Baptism-of-Christ.jpg>.

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