

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY

Woodridge United Methodist Church

Sunday, January 12th, 2025

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Music to Prepare Our Hearts

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Jiwon

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Glenn Nelson: When we pass through the cleansing waters of baptism and the troubled waters of our lives, God declares:

Many Voices: I will be with you.

Glenn Nelson: When we go through the fires that refine us and the fires that threaten our livelihoods, God declares:

Many Voices: I will be with you.

Glenn Nelson: Even when we travel to the far corners of the earth or down into the depths of our souls, God declares:

Many Voices: I will be with you.

Glenn Nelson: So come, let us worship God whose love never fails, whose presence never leaves, whose mercies never end.

Many Voices: Praise be to God who, in the form of Jesus, waded into the waters of baptism to prove God's solidarity with us! Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"Gather Us In"

TFWS #2236

*The Apostle's Creed

UMH #881

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And 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, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

Opening Prayer

Glenn Nelson: Loving God, sometimes life seems overwhelming. There is so much happening that we can't control. We feel like we are drowning. Then we hear your voice saying, "Don't fear," and we remember that your love supports and sustains us. God of love, surround us with your love. Gather us in as your beloved children. Open our ears to hear your voice. Open our hearts to the power of your transforming love. May your waters of grace pour over us, renewing us for your work in the world. Bless us in this holy time. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

All: Amen.

Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music

*Doxology

*Offering Prayer

All: Loving God, who guides us with your everlasting presence, we offer these gifts with grateful hearts. As Jesus stood with us in the waters of baptism, may these offerings stand as a testament to your love and grace. Use them to bring hope, healing, and transformation to our world. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 43:1-7 (*Common English Bible*)

Gospel Lesson

Luke 3:21-22 (*Common English Bible*)

Glenn Nelson: The Word of God for the People of God.

Many Voices: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Song

"Christ Has Broken Down the Wall"

W&S #3122

Proclaiming

"I Find Happiness in You"

Pastor Dave

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for the People

Holy Communion

Invitation

Pastor Dave: Siblings in Christ, the heavens are opened, God's love and the Spirit's presence are pouring down on us. Give thanks, Church! And this same Jesus Christ, God's beloved, invites to his table of love all who love him, all who have turned from their sin as you have just done, and seek to be at peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession & Pardon

Many Voices: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Silent Prayer]

Pastor Dave: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners: that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ; you are forgiven!

Many Voices: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to God. Amen.

*Passing the Peace

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor Dave: The Lord be with you.

Many Voices: And also with you.

Pastor Dave: Lift up your hearts.

Many Voices: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor Dave: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many Voices: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor Dave: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, the Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Before you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Many Voices: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor Dave: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born; and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world, you have led your people from far places to his light.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you." Do this in remembrance of me.

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Many Voices: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pastor Dave: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and juice. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

Many Voices: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread

Sharing the Bread and Cup

***Closing Hymn**

"One Bread, One Body"

UMH #620

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Going Forth to the World