

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY
Woodridge United Methodist Church
Sunday, November 17th, 2024 26th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Jiwon

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Martine Nelson: Children of God, when wars and rumors of wars circle all around, Jesus says:

Many Voices: Do not be alarmed. This is not the end.

Martine Nelson: When earthquakes, hurricanes, fires, famines, and floods produce chaos and destruction, Jesus says:

Many Voices: Do not be alarmed. This is not the end.

Martine Nelson: When misinformation and disinformation try to dismantle relationships of trust in our families, churches, cities, and nation, Jesus says:

Many Voices: Do not be alarmed. This is not the end.

Martine Nelson: Children of God, whatever leaves you feeling unsteady, insecure, scared, and confused today--do not be alarmed. This is not the end.

Many Voices: We come to worship God who inscribes our ending, our beginning, and everything in-between in Love. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

UMH #140

*Passing the Peace

Opening Prayer

Martine Nelson: God of peace, fill us with your hope and faithfulness. Listen to us as we pour out our souls before you. Grant us the grace to be your people and to live your teachings. Live in us, that we may arise with hope and walk in love and compassion. In the name of Jesus Christ our rock, we pray.

All: Amen!

Blessing Our Children

Karen Miller

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Preamble

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Holy 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 by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, offered to us without price.

Presentation

Tyler: We bring our son, *Marshall*, here with joy, accepting the trust that has blessed us with his life, and asking for God's guidance and blessing in raising him in the knowledge and love of God.

Ashley: We present our son, *Marshall*, for the Sacrament of Baptism.

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

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

Parents and sponsors: We do.

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

Parents and sponsors: We do.

Pastor: 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?

Parents and sponsors: We do.

Pledges

Pastor: On behalf of the whole Church, I ask *Parents*, will you nurture *Marshall* in Christ's holy Church, that by your teaching and example he may be guided to accept God's grace for himself, to profess his faith openly, and to lead Christian lives?

Parents: We will, by the grace of God.

Pastor: On behalf of the whole Church, I ask *Sponsors*, as sponsors of him do you promise, through prayer, guidance, and example, to support and encourage him to grow in his Christian faith and knowledge of God?

Sponsors: We do, by the grace of God.

Pastor: Now I ask you, *the congregation*. There are many persons who touch the life of a child beyond their parents. It takes an entire village to raise a child. Will you renew your baptismal covenant and nurture one another in the Christian faith and life, including this child now before you in your love and care? If so, would you please respond with the words below?

Congregation's Covenant

Congregation: With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround *Marshall* with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow as child of God and walk in the way that leads to life. We will give our support to *Marshall* and his family, and take him into our care, our prayers, and our daily lives, that we may grow together as the body of Christ. Amen.

Apostle's Creed

Thanksgiving Over the Water

Pastor: We thank you, O God, for the water of Baptism. In it, we are buried with Christ in his death. By it, we share in his resurrection. Through it, we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and on *Marshall* who receives it, to wash away his sin and clothe him in righteousness throughout his life, that, dying and being raised with Christ, he may share in his final victory. All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever more.

All: Amen.

Song

"Jesus Loves Me" (*verse 1*)

UMH #191

The Baptism

Prayer

Presentation of Candle

Declaration and Welcome

Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music

*Doxology

*Offering Prayer

All: Merciful God, whose wisdom surpasses all understanding, we offer these gifts as a token of our faith and devotion. In a world full of uncertainties, may these offerings be used to spread your hope and love. Teach us to listen to your voice amid the noise and to trust in your steadfast presence. Bless our giving, that it may build your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson

1 Samuel 1:4-20 (NRSVUE)

Gospel Lesson

Mark 13:1-8 (NRSVUE)

**Martine Nelson: The Word of God for the People of God.
Many Voices: Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Song

"Stand By Me" (verses 1, 3, & 5)

UMH #512

Proclaiming

"When I Am Deeply Troubled"

Pastor Dave

Joys and Concerns

Text Pastor Dave (224.600.0446) with your prayer requests or give him a note before worship service.

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

*Closing Hymn

"Since Jesus Came into My Heart" (verses 1-3)

TFWS #2140

Benediction

Postlude