

Reaffirmation of Faith

Remember your baptism and be thankful. **Amen.**

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 faithfulness of our covenant with 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, and our service, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, established and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

January 8, 2023

Psalm 29

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendor.**

³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, upon many waters.

⁴ **The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶ The Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷ **The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.**

⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oaks to whirl^[a]
and strips the forests bare;
and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as Ruler forever.

¹¹ **May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!**

St Matthew 3: 13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ And John *tried to prevent Him*, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

¹⁵ But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit *it to be so* now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and ^aHe saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

The Baptismal Covenant IV

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 confirmation, and 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.

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 faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

I will.

Apostles' Creed and Gloria Patri

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal Father: When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light.

In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water.

After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.

When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of the womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

Declare his works to the nations, his glory among all people.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and by this gift of water call to our remembrance the grace declared to us in our baptism. For you have washed away our sins and you clothe us with righteousness throughout our lives, and dying and rising with Christ we may share in his final victory.

All praise to you, eternal Father, though your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. Amen.