



ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 24, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

The Witness of the Early Church – Acts 2:36-47

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Today we come together to praise God, to hear the Word, and to witness to the miracle of faith passed from one generation to the next. 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, in the same way that Christ's Church was formed at Pentecost. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price. Through the remembrance of our baptism and confirmation, we renew the promise declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's Holy Church. As we worship together, all are invited to join with our confirmands in a profession of faith.

Hymn of Praise – “The Church’s One Foundation” v. 1,2,4,5 (UMH #545)

The church’s one foundation

is Jesus Christ her Lord;

She is his new creation by

water and the Word.

From heaven he came and sought her to
be his holy bride;

With his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth;
She waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
Till, with the vision glorious,
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious
Shall be the church at rest.

Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
Her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.

Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.

O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

A PRAYER FOR OUR CONFIRMANDS (unison)

Creator God, strengthen these young people with your gifts of grace, to love and serve as a disciple of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that they may grow into the fullness of the stature of Christ. Fill them with the joy of your presence. Increase in them the fruit of your Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of love, patience and gentleness, the spirit of wonder and true holiness. In the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

INVITATION TO CONFIRMATION

Congregational Promises

Pastor: To the congregation: Before you stand God's people, God's gift to you, as you are to them. Will you welcome these young people with open hearts? Will you confirm the promises made at the time each one was Baptized, to teach them by your word and example, to guide them in the ways of prayer and service, and to offer them the love and support of their church family?

Congregation: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you receive the challenges and questions, the insights, and the gifts that these Confirmands bring? Will you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with them in the Christian faith, that together we might make God's love believable in the world that waits beyond these doors?

Congregation: We will, with the help of God.

Confirmands Acceptance of Promises To Our Confirmands . . .

Pastor: Before you are God's people, a community that is God's gift to you, as you are to them. Will you receive these promises that were made at the time of your baptism and confirmed here again today? And will you accept the love and support, guidance and fellowship offered to you within this community as you continue on your journey of faith?

Confirmands: I will, with the help of God.

Confirmands Acceptance of Gifts

Pastor: Through the guidance given you by your family and this community, and having explored your faith throughout your Confirmation classes and experiences, do you gratefully affirm the unique gifts you have received by the grace of God, and promise that you will strive to be the person that God has created you to be?

Confirmands: I will, with the help of God.

Pastor: And will you promise to humbly share your gifts with this community, in all the places of your life, and in all faith communities of which you will be a part, that together we might make God's love believable in the world that waits beyond these doors?

Confirmands: I will, with the help of God.

Extending the Peace of Christ

Choir – “I Was There to Hear Your Burning Cry” (The Faith We Sing #2051)

I was there to hear your burning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your burning cry,
I'll be there when you are old,
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

I was there to hear your burning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

Doxology – “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow” (UMH #95)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord’s Prayer

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.

Hymn of Praise – “Pass It On” (UMH #572)

It only takes a spark
to get a fire going,
And soon all those around
can warm up in it’s glowing.
That’s how it is with God’s love,
once you’ve experienced it;
You spread his love to everyone;
you want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring,
when all the trees are budding;
The birds begin to sing,
the flowers start their blooming.
That's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it;
You want to sing, it fresh like spring,
you want to pass it on.

I wish for you, my friend,
this happiness that I've found;
You can depend on him,
it matters not where you're bound.
I'll shout it from the mountain-top,
I want my world to know;
The Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.

CONFIRMATION SERMON – *Be the Example*

Text: I Timothy 4:8-14a

THE MEANING OF CONFIRMATION

Confirmation refers to the decision a person makes to respond to God's grace with intentional commitment and public affirmation of faith. Each person being confirmed makes a personal commitment to God and becomes a full adult member of our congregation. As our young people are being confirmed, members of the community are also asked to reaffirm their own commitment and use the opportunity to strengthen their faith and dedication to God.

CONFIRMATION WITNESS

BAPTISMAL COVENANT I – CONFIRMATION: PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Confirmands:

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.

As a member of Christ's universal Church, will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church, and the St. John's Congregation, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

I will.

Will you who sponsor these candidates support and encourage him in his Christian life?

I will.

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe 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, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

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.

In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a 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.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and those who receive it, to wash away their sin and clothe them in righteousness throughout their lives, that, dying and being raised with Christ, they may share in his final victory. All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever. Amen.

CONFIRMATION OF FAITH

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Pastor: Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

Congregation: We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

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

Hymn: “Here I Am, Lord” (UMH#593)

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.

I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people’s pain.
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them,
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them,
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

Benediction

Congregational Response: “This Little Light of Mine” (UMH #585)

This little light of mine
I’m gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine
I’m gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine
I’m gonna let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Postlude/Dismissal

*Brian Barber, Organist
Roy Nelson, Director of Music Ministries*

*Rev. Brad Leight
Ruth Portzline, CLM*