Westminster
Presbyterian Church

JANUARY 10, 2021
BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY

Gathering Words **Sherry and Eric Miller**

Through baptism, we trace a lineage unlike any other.
A holy line of kinship that redefines power and belonging.
It beckons us to come by choice.
To declare our intent.
To make known our loyalty.
Our loyalty to love. To repair. To justice. To Christ.
The waters of baptism free us from alliances that destroy.
May they wash over us and renew the bonds of God.

Opening Prayer **Sherry and Eric Miller**

Creator of Life,
over and over again you remind us:
we belong first
not to institutions, traditions, or hierarchies of power
but to you, the earth, and one another.
While forces of evil normalize betrayal and block paths of justice,
we know we are not meant for such destruction.
By your grace,
may we shed that which keeps us from living out the claims of our baptism.
May we be a community whose loyalty to love is clear and unwavering.
Make it so among us. Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 401 Here In This Place *v. 1,2,4* GATHER US IN

1 Here in this place the new light is streaming;
Now is the darkness vanished away;
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
Gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken;
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

2 We are the young, our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
Called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
Gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
Give us the courage to enter the song.

4 Not in the dark of buildings confiding,
Not in some heaven, light years away:
Here in this place the new light is shining;
Now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Prayer of Illumination **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Scripture Reading Mark 1:1-11 **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

1The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
2As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
3the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"

4John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5**And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. **6**Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7**He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. **8**I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10**And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. **11**And a voice came from heaven,
"You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Sermon Claimed by the Spirit **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Hymn No. 286 Breathe on Me, Breath of God TRENTHAM

Prayer of the People **Sherry and Eric Miller**

…We pray in the name of the One who is to come, Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray together:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those

who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn No. 744 Arise, Your Light Is Come! FESTAL SONG

Benediction **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Note: The Gathering Words and Opening Prayer were adapted from *Liturgy that Matters*.