

Banning United Methodist Church

Baptism of the Lord

January 8, 2023

GATHERING MUSIC

Maxine Hoth

MEDITATIVE THOUGHT

Denise Cosgrove

Come to the waters of baptism. Touch the Spirit's power. Feel the Spirit's loving embrace. Come and be made new.

PRELUDE

"Sweet Hour of Prayer with Just As I Am"

Maxine Hoth

WELCOMING FRIENDS and NEWCOMERS

Denise Cosgrove

We ask that you please sign the attendance book, then pass it to the middle aisle. If you are here this morning as a guest, please include your address and phone number, so that we can reach out to you and extend our welcome.

WELCOME and PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Doug

MINISTRY MOMENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Denise Cosgrove

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Denise Cosgrove

L: The Voice of God prods our hearing

P: The activity of God stretches our seeing.

L: Together they invite us down into the waters of life where the Spirit flows.

P: From there we may rise to go, to dare, to walk, and to serve beyond where we have been before.

†OPENING HYMN

"When Jesus came to Jordan"

Hymn #252

OPENING PRAYER: EPIPHANY

Pastor Doug

In the waters of baptism, we were made God's children, and called to serve one another as we have been served by Christ. Therefore let us pray for one another and for all people who will not or cannot pray for themselves.

Dear heavenly Father, we give You thanks and praise that in Your mercy You brought us to baptism, and there gave us Jesus' holiness in exchange for our sin and impurity. Thank You for our parents who brought us up in the faith and to baptism, thank You for those other people whom You used to bring us the gospel, and thank You for our pastors and teachers in the faith.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the baptized people of God that we may hang on to Your promises in true faith, especially when we experience the wilderness of sin and evil within, and temptations and trials from outside. Strengthen us with Your Holy Spirit so that Jesus' victory may be our victory.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for all people, that the *good news* of Christ will be proclaimed and heard by all people, and that many will believe and be baptized. To this end, send and support pastors, missionaries, teachers, and lay people able to give truthful and loving witness to Christ.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Have mercy on those in need, those who are struggling because of domestic violence and break-down, those who are suffering from harmful behavior and hurting relationships. Heal, restore, and renew dear Lord.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the sick, those who are disabled, those in hospital, those facing death. Show them the light of the gospel, provide helpers and carers and medical resources, and heal both body and soul. Be with those among us who are sick or recovering from surgery, and others whom we name in our hearts.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, You have shown us Your love and salvation in the baptism of Your Son. Accept these prayers of Your children in the Name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 3:13-17 NRSV

Denise Cosgrove

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON TITLE "The Significance of Baptism"

Pastor Doug

PRAYERS OF THE PASTOR and PEOPLE

Pastor Doug

Children in Prayer

(After all slides: In Your mercy, **Lord, hear our prayer**)

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

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.

GIVING BACK TO GOD (TITHES AND GIFTS)

OFFERTORY "To God Be the Glory" by: William H. Doane arr: Lloyd Larson Maxine Hoth

†**DOXOLOGY** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Denise Cosgrove

God of the water that cleans us, the land that feeds us, and the air that allows us to breathe Your Spirit in and out of us; You claim us in our baptism, but too few of us even remember our own baptism. And if we remember (or imagine) our baptism, we too rarely grasp its meaning and power. As we present our tithes and offering in worship and witness Christ's baptism once again, may we remember that in that water, we were, like Christ, commissioned to go: to teach, preach, heal, and even take up a cross. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

†**CLOSING HYMN** "Let there be peace on Earth"

Hymn #431

†**BENEDICTION**

Pastor Doug

(Please remain standing in your pew while the acolyte carries the light of Christ out into the World, followed by the pastor and liturgist.)

POSTLUDE "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

Maxine Hoth