

Banning United Methodist Church

Epiphany Sunday/Baptism of the Lord

January 7, 2024

† Congregation rises in body or spirit

Congregational response in bold

CENTERING WORDS

Dan Mabey

This day after Epiphany, may we follow your light, dear Jesus, as the wise men followed the star.

PRELUDE

WELCOMING FRIENDS and NEWCOMERS

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. If this is your first time visiting and would like to introduce yourself, please raise your hand, and a microphone will be brought to you.

WELCOME

Pastor Doug

CONGREGATIONAL REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT and PASSING OF THE PEACE UMH

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CONGREGATIONAL REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

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 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.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

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.

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

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 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.

****Declare Christ's works to the nations, his glory among all the 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, that dying and rising with Christ we 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 for ever. Amen.**

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 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, our service and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

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

MINISTRY MOMENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Mabey

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Dan Mabey

L: Listen for God's word,

P: calling forth creation.

L: Listen for God's word,

P: working with power and Majesty.

L: Listen for God's word,

P: speaking Blessings.

L: Listen for God's word,

P: in this moment.

†**OPENING HYMN** "How Great Thou Art"

UMH #77

1. O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder consider all the *worlds thy hand have made, I see the stars, I hear the *rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander, and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

3. And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in; that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart. Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

OPENING PRAYER

Dan Mabey

God of power and majesty, You called forth creation, acting with strength and power. We praise You, as we stand in awe of Your glory. You are mighty and powerful, and yet you care for us, pouring out Your Spirit upon us, recreating us for Your work in the world. You are at work in our midst, offering a new day of hope and possibility. Open our hearts to hear Your voice. Send the power of Your Spirit among us, that we might become agents of Your love and peace. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Dan Mabey

Genesis 1:1-5 NRSV

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Pastor Doug

Mark 1:4-11 NRSV

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Water and Renewal"

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

GIVING BACK TO GOD (TITHES AND GIFTS)

Dan Mabey

OFFERTORY

Cathy Mauge

†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

Dan Mabey

God of redemption and new life, we focus once more this day on the greatest gift ever given -- Jesus, our Savior. As He was baptized by John in the Jordan, we were able to share in His baptism and receive the promise of sharing in Jesus' resurrection. As we leave one year behind and look with hope to the new year ahead, help us to live and give of ourselves as those who know every day what a great gift we have been given. May it move us to give our whole selves more freely! In the Name of Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, we pray! Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE II

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COMMUNION HYMN

“Let us Break Bread Together”

UMH #618

†CLOSING HYMN

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

UMH #64

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.
3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see, only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in power, in love and purity.
4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

†BENEDICTION

Pastor Doug

POSTLUDE