

THE ORDER *of* WORSHIP



✠ THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ✠

January 10, 2021 | 11.00 a.m.

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
Salisbury, North Carolina
ESTABLISHED 1783



THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

THE LORD'S DAY, 10 January, *Anno Domini* 2021

Eleven o'clock in the morning | The Sanctuary

✦ denotes the People standing, in body or spirit, as able.

The People's responses are printed in **bold**.



SILENT PRAYER of PREPARATION for WORSHIP

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Grant that all who are baptized into His Name may keep the covenant they have made and boldly confess Him as Lord and Savior, who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, One God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

—UMH 253 (after *The Book of Common Prayer*)

GREETING

Pastor Mark Conforti

(You may visit our church website via the link above, for more information on upcoming ministry opportunities.)

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Joshua Starnes, *piano*
arr. Chris Rice

✦ CALL to WORSHIP

Almighty God,
Parent of all who call upon Your Name,
in the waters of baptism You have transformed us,
marking us as Your children,
and recreating us through the work of Your Son
and the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Shower us once more with Your grace
that we might be renewed in Your Spirit,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

This is the Spirit's entry now:
the water and the Word,
the cross of Jesus on your brow,
the seal both felt and heard.

2. Let water be the sacred sign
that we must die each day,
to rise again by His design
as followers of His way.
3. Renewing Spirit, hear our praise
for Your baptismal power
that washes us through all our days.
Lord, cleanse again this hour.

*Words: Thomas E. Herbranson, 1972; © 1972.
Music: Carl G. Gläzer; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839.*

✠ PRAYER of LAMENT, CONFESSION, and REPENTANCE (in unison)

Pastor Stacey Lundy

Let us be bold and confess our sins, for God is gracious and always ready to forgive.

(a brief period of silence follows for personal confession)

Holy God, You have given us everything;
we have failed to respond with gratitude.
In Jesus Christ, You have given us Your Word;
we answer with empty promises and lies.
In Jesus Christ, You have given us Your light;
we try to hide ourselves from Your glory.
In Jesus Christ, You have given us Your life;
even this precious gift we have not received.
Have mercy on us, O God;
forgive us.
In Jesus Christ, give us the faith and power to become what You created us to be:
beloved children, full of grace and truth.
Amen.

✠ WORDS of ASSURANCE

Jesus says, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." (Luke 12.32)

**The Lord has been mindful of us;
those who fear the Lord will be blessed, both small and great!** (from Psalm 115.12-13)

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

*Words: Thomas Ken, 1674, alt.
Music: John Hatton, 1793.*

PRAYER *for* ILLUMINATION (*in unison*)

Guide us, O God, by Your Word and Holy Spirit,
that in Your light we may see light,
in Your truth find freedom,
and in Your will discover peace;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FIRST LESSON

[Genesis 15.1-6](#)

GOSPEL LESSON

[Luke 12.22-34](#)

... This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Pastor Mark Conforti

✠ SONG *of* RESPONSE

NO. 140

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
as Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love...

**3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear Presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!...**

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923.

Music: William M. Runyan, 1923.

© 1923, renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Co.

✠ REAFFIRMATION *of* THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

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.

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 now join together in professing our Christian faith
as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments,
using the words of the ancient baptismal confession, the Apostles' Creed:

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker 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, dead, and buried;
the third day He rose from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick 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. Amen.**

[*universal]

(please prepare a bowl of 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 His works to the nations,
His glory among all people.**

Pour out Your Holy Spirit,
and by this gift of water call to 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 forever.
*Amen.***

(You may place your hand in the water in remembrance of your baptism)

Remember your baptism and be thankful.
Amen.

The Holy Spirit work within you,
that having been born again through water and the Spirit,
you may live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

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

[OFFERING](#)

(You may support the ministries of FUMC by clicking the "Offering" link above to make a donation through our secure Online portal.)

PASTORAL PRAYER of INTERCESSION and THANKSGIVING

concluding with THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

from Matthew 6.9-13

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.*

✠ SENDING SONG

When Jesus Came to Jordan

No. 252

PASSION CHORALE

When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John,
He did not come for pardon but as the Sinless One.
He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins,
to speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.

2. He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss,
for us and our salvation to die upon the Cross.
So when the dove descended on Him, the Son of Man,
the hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.

3. Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make;
This very day invade us, and every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction, the gift we covet most:
to share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.

Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1973; © 1980 Hope Publishing Co.

Music: Hans L. Hassler, 1601; harm. J. S. Bach, 1729, alt.

✠ BENEDICTION and COMMISSION

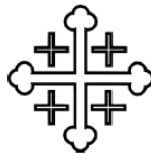
(Please bow your head and extend your hands to receive the blessing.)

POSTLUDE

Coronation Fanfares

Joshua Starnes, *organ*

Robert Lau



THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP

(listed alphabetically)

THE REVEREND DR. MARK CONFORTI	Senior Pastor
MS. JEN FOGT	Video Producer
THE REVEREND STACEY LUNDY	Associate Pastor of Discipleship & Pastoral Care
MASTER CONNOR PRICE	Acolyte
MR. JOSHUA W. STARNES	Director of Music & Organist



*This Week's Lectionary Readings
(Jan. 10–16)*

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Genesis 15	Genesis 16	Genesis 17–18	Genesis 19–21	Genesis 22–23
Psalm 146	Luke 10–12	Psalm 9	Luke 14	Luke 15
Luke 9		Luke 13		



Our EPIPHANY Banner illustrates the journey of the Wise Men to Bethlehem led by the Star, which represents light and truth. Epiphany comes from the Greek word “epiphania,” which means “manifestation.” This season shows that God was made visible to the world through the birth of Jesus, His baptism, and earthly ministry.



Cover art: Zelenka, Dave. Baptism of Christ, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56385> [retrieved January 4, 2021].

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*The Mission of First United Methodist Church is
To Make and Nurture Christian Disciples Through the Presence and Power of God.*