

# Faith Community United Methodist Church

5315 Harford Road  
Baltimore, MD 21214  
Rev. Ronald S. Dodson, Sr.  
Church: 410-426-8177

Sunday, January 10, 2021 Baptism of the Lord  
10 a.m.

## WE GATHER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

PRELUDE: "Spirit Song"

Keith Harmon

GREETING & VISITOR WELCOME

John Grace

\*CALL TO WORSHIP: *Please stand with heart or posture.*

O Lord, our Lord, when I look at the sky, which you have made, at the moon and stars, which you set in their places.

**What are human beings, that you think of them; mere mortals, that you care for them.**

Yet you made them inferior only to yourself; you crowned them with glory and honor.

**You appointed them rulers over everything you made; you placed them over all creation.**

**All: O Lord, our Lord, your greatness is seen in all the world!**

OPENING HYMN: FWS #2166 "Christ Beside Me"

1. Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me – King of my heart; Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above me – never to part.
2. Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me – shield in the strife; Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising – light of my life.

**PRAYER FOR FAITH: Almighty God, Creator of the universe, the coming of your Son into the world has given us new meaning for our lives. It has turned our despair into hope and our sorrow into joy. With hearts filled with gratitude, we gather now to sing your praises and to give you thanks. Amen.**

*[Silent prayers of confession and forgiveness of others]*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

**All: Glory to God! AMEN.**

## WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 1:1-5

*We are ever-growing in Christ, inviting each one to make a difference*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the 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. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied--altogether there were about twelve of them.

\*GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 1:4-11

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

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

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF PREPARATION: FWS #2252 "Come, Be Baptized"

1. Come as a child, come to the waters; to the family of God, come, sons and daughters. Come to the river, the Lord, the life-giver: wash in the love that is sent from above.

*Refrain:* Come, be baptized in the name of the Father. Come, be baptized in the name of the Son. Come be baptized in the name of the Spirit; Come, be baptized in love.

2. Come as a child, come, sons and daughters, draw from the well life-giving waters. Drink of the river, the Lord, the life-giver; feel how it pours out the life that is yours. *Refrain*

HOMILY

Pastor Ron Dodson

### WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

#### THE LORD'S TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN:

INVITATION

L: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

*We are ever-growing in Christ, inviting each one to make a difference*

## CONFESSION AND PARDON

**ALL: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

L: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**ALL: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**ALL: Glory to God. Amen.**

*TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP: The pastor takes the bread and cup, and the bread and wine are prepared for the meal.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also, with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

L: Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**ALL: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

L: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**ALL: Amen.**

L: And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

## LORD'S PRAYER

### WE CELEBRATE OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

## PRAISE REPORTS

PRAYER CONCERNS: *“Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in his wonderful face. And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.”*

PASTORAL PRAYER

**WE OFFER THANKSGIVING**

WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY: O God, we do present these offerings in order to proclaim our own righteousness, but as symbols of our love for you and your Church. Bless them we pray, and may they be as loving arms reaching out to show our love for your needy children. Amen

**WE DEPART TO SERVE**

BLESSING WITH A MISSION

CLOSING HYMN: FWS #2037 “I Sing Praises to Your Name”

1. I sing praises to your name, O Lord, praises to your name, O Lord, for your name is great and greatly to be praised. [repeat]
2. I give glory to your name, O Lord, glory to your name, O Lord, for your name is great and greatly to be praised. [repeat]

**Scripture Lessons for January 17, 2021**

- 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 11-20
- Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18
- 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
- John 1:43-51