



THE INTER-FAITH CHAPEL WORSHIP SERVICE

Baptism of Jesus Sunday

January 21, 2024

SILENT MEDITATION

Gracious and loving God, in the waters of baptism You name us, and claim us, and make us Your own. Thank You for the gift of new life and for the invitation to experience that life in the community of Your church. Fill us with Your Spirit, call deeply to our hearts, and lead us to more fully and faithfully follow Jesus. Guide our thoughts, our words, and our actions, that we may be Your hands and voice in a world so hungry to experience good news. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE

Pastorale

Wagner

Dr. Holly Oberle, Director of Music

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dr. Ramonia L. Lee

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

INTROIT

The Church's One Foundation
Inter-Faith Ringers

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are called by God,

PEOPLE: Drawn to the water.

Leader: Sprinkled with Love,

PEOPLE: Never forgotten.

Leader: Treated as honored and precious,

PEOPLE: Receiving divine blessing.

Leader: We are the beloved of God,

PEOPLE: Children of a loving God,

Leader: Called to live in that Love,

PEOPLE: Called to share that Love,

Leader: Called by name to the God of Love,

**ALL: Therefore, let us join our hearts and minds
and worship in love this day. Amen.**

INVOCATION

✠ OPENING HYMN

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dr. Woodie Rea

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

UNISON

Gracious God, Your love for us reaches from the cradle to the grave. There is no place, or time, or situation, in which we are cut off from Your care. Remind us of that love whenever we doubt our own worth, forget our blessing in baptism, or act out of fear or anger. Forgive us for finding life boring or predictable, filled with routine and sameness when You have placed us in Your world to enjoy life and live it to the fullest. Turn our world upside down occasionally and surprise us with grace and joy. Keep us forever amazed at Your love. You restore our souls and lead us to the house of Your love. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION

Dr. Woodie Rea

- ❖ Dorothy Flowers
- ❖ Robin Littlejohn Marshall
- ❖ Anne Morris

DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT:

As members of the Inter-Faith Chapel, will you, with God's blessing and to the best of your ability, faithfully participate in its ministries through your presence, your prayers, and your contributions of gifts, service, and witness?

PRAYER OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

UNISON

We extend ourselves to you. We welcome you into the family of faith here at The Inter-Faith Chapel and to the fellowship, service, and joys of being a new member of this congregation. We offer to you our support, encouragement, and care as we travel our faith journey together. May we continue to grow together in love and grace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:4-11

✠ You may stand in body or in spirit.
Music used by permission, CCLI #1683224

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

PASTORAL PRAYER / 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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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.

SACRED SOLO

Take Me to the Water
Louis Davis, baritone
Rev. Glenda Clay, accompanist

traditional

SERMON

“Jesus’s Baptism and Ours”

Dr. Ramonia L. Lee

HYMN

Baptized in Water

Verses 1 and 2

THE BAPTISM OF ROBIN LITTLEJOHN MARSHALL

Dr. Lee Sisters and brothers, baptism is a gift of love and grace from God. In the act of baptism we celebrate the life of Christ laid down for us, the Holy Spirit poured out on us, and the living water offered to us. Although we do not deserve these gifts of grace or fully understand them, God offers them to all, and through Christ, invites us to respond.

By baptism we declare that God claims and cleanses us, rescues us from sin, and raises us to new life. God plants us into the church of Christ and sustains and strengthens us with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Dr. Rea: We recall the words of the risen Christ: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

QUESTIONS TO ROBIN LITTLEJOHN MARSHALL

Do you desire to be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Do you believe and trust in God the Father – Creator of all; in Jesus the Christ – who redeemed humankind; and in the Holy Spirit – the wellspring of new life?

Do you strive, by the grace of God, to be Christ’s disciple, to follow in the ways and teachings of Jesus, and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus the Christ as best you are able?

QUESTION TO THE CONGREGATION

*Dr. Lee: Will you, as the family of God, embody God's love to Robin as she lives with us in service to all God's children?
If you will, please respond by saying, "we will."*

Congregation: We will.

THE ACT OF BAPTISM

*Dr. Lee: Robin, for you Jesus the Christ came into the world; for you he lived and showed God's love; for you he suffered on the Cross; for you he triumphed over death, rising to new life. Upon your confession of faith, made before God and this congregation, we baptize you in the name of Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.
By your baptism, God has received you into the Church. You are God's beloved. Amen.*

DECLARATION OF WELCOME

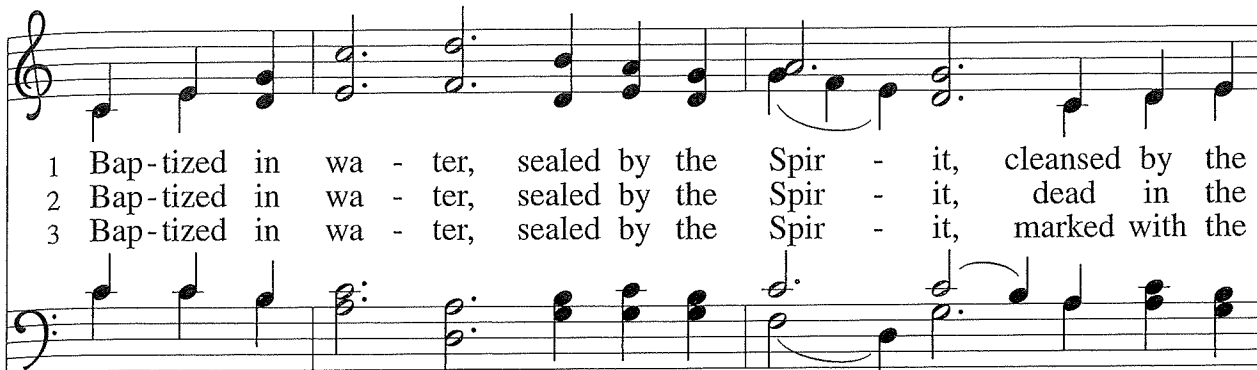
Dr. Lee: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

ALL: We receive Robin into the household of God.

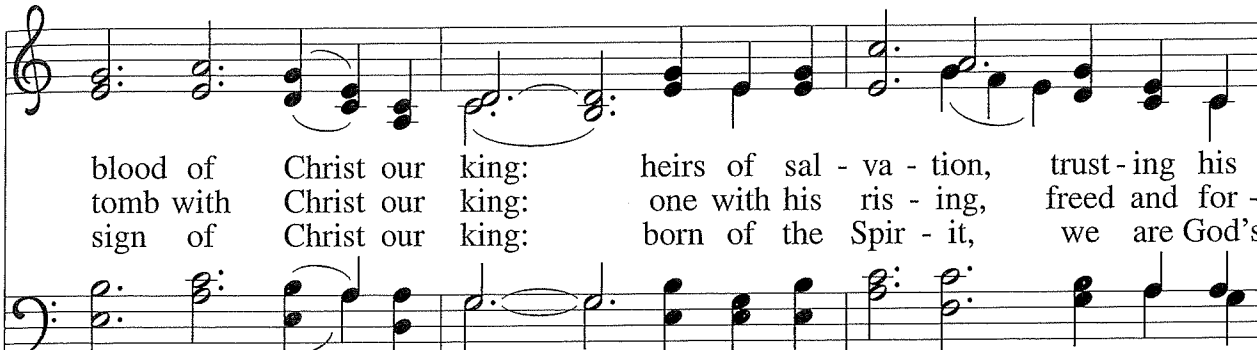
PRAYER OF RENEWAL AS WE REMEMBER OUR BAPTISM

Gracious God, we thank You that by water and the Holy Spirit You have bestowed upon Your children the forgiveness of sin, and have raised us to the new life of grace. Sustain us, O Lord, in Your Holy Spirit. Give us an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love You, and the gift of joy and wonder in all Your works. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as Your children, and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Baptized in Water



1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
 2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
 3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his
 tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
 sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Saward, b. 1932

Music: Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version

Text © 1982 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

BUNESSAN

55 8 D

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

The God of Abraham Praise
Inter-Faith Ringers with Charla Lillis, flute

† DOXOLOGY

(Tune: Old 100th)

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

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

† CLOSING HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River*

† RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

Leader: We gathered, we prayed, we sang, we listened.

PEOPLE: Now we prepare to go out into the world.

*Leader: We have been reminded of the promise of our baptism,
that we are beloved, that we belong to God.*

**PEOPLE: May that knowledge sustain us as we share the love of God
with the world.**

Leader: Go with God, to be the people of God, to be a blessing.

PEOPLE: As we have ourselves been blessed. Amen

† BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Tune: Ar Hyd Y Nos

**“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”**

POSTLUDE

Jubilee
Dr. Holly Oberle, Director of Music

Harris

Shall We Gather at the River



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er; soon our pil-grim-age will cease;



with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.



Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er;



gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.



A Baptist pastor wrote this hymn while seated at his parlor organ. Created as an alternative to gloomy "river of death" hymns, it is a celebration of the "pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Revelation 22:1 KJV).

A PARTING THOUGHT

Spend time each day focusing on the fact that we are baptized children of God.

The following acrostic contains ideas for helping us do so.

B - Begin each day by looking in the mirror and reciting these words by Martin Luther: "When you wash your face, remember your baptism." How does this remembrance reassure you? How does it empower you?

A - Ask yourself regularly: "How does what I am doing bring glory and honor to the name of Christ?" Recognize the ways your life is a reflection of love to others!

P - Pray regularly. Turn your joys and concerns, your dreams and your fears, your needs and desires over to God, trusting that God will provide for and guide you.

T - Think about your actions in terms of their impact on others on a familial, congregational, local, and global level. How does what you think, do, buy, give, and say make a difference in the lives of others?

I - Identify abilities God has given you that you enjoy using but don't involve yourself in as often as you'd like (such as woodworking, gardening, sewing, or reading). Carve out a little time from your busy life, and spend it enjoying your gift!

Z - "Zap" - discard - something in your life that serves only as a negative influence on your spiritual well-being.

E - Emulate the actions and the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in your life, your dealings with other people, and your worship and prayer life. Jesus taught us well how to live!

D - Discover God's presence in every part of your life. Look for God's actions in nature. Recognize God's creative power in those you come in contact with. Give praise to God for the many ways your life is touched by God's work.

By Patti Thisted Arthur

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us today! The Inter-Faith Chapel is committed to providing “*A House of Prayer for All People.*” We are seeking to share the love of God through caring, outreach, study, and worship. We extend a special welcome to our visitors and invite you to sign our *Visitor Register* and pick up an IFC coffee mug as our welcome gift to you. We hope that you will return to be with us again soon.

NEW MEMBER / AFFILIATE REGISTER

If you are interested in joining The Inter-Faith Chapel, or would like more information about this vibrant faith community, please let us know by signing the *Member / Affiliate Register* (located in the Narthex on the desk next to the coat room).

There will be a fellowship reception immediately following today’s worship service in the Fellowship Hall honoring the new members we are receiving today through acclamation and through baptism. These new members, and *all* who have joined The IFC since the pandemic, are today’s honored guests. Come join the fellowship and refreshments!

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please stop by the table in the Narthex to pick up your 2024 offering envelopes. There are various ways to give to The IFC (online credit card, direct deposit, bank check, etc.) but if you give by traditional check or cash, consider using the envelope system to help keep personal giving records more accurate. Call Bonnie at 301-598-5312 for more information.

USHERS NEEDED

Would you be willing to serve as an usher for morning worship services one Sunday a month? The duties include welcoming parishioners and handing out bulletins, collecting the offering, and possibly serving or assisting with communion distribution.

There will be an Ushers’ meeting/training on **Wednesday, January 24th at 10:00 AM** in the Sanctuary for all new and seasoned ushers. Please contact Heidi Bender (Chair of Worship Committee) at 240-418-1518 or call The Chapel office at 301-598-5312 to register.

HEART HEALTH WORKSHOP

You are invited to a heart healthy brunch, followed by a healthy heart workshop on **Saturday, February 10th at 12:00 noon**. Our featured speaker is the renowned cardiologist, Dr. Patricia Davidson, of MedStar Washington Hospital Center. Dr. Davidson will present certain risk factors associated with heart disease and how it can be prevented through lifestyle choices and regular wellness visits. This event is free of charge and we anticipate it filling early so reserve your place by calling The Chapel office at 301-598-5312 by February 4th. Space is limited.

JANUARY MOVIE

Join us on **Monday, January 22nd at 1:00 PM** as we watch the movie *SOUL*. It is the story of Joe Gardner, a pianist who is offered a steady full-time job teaching middle school band but is ambivalent about it because he's been pursuing a professional music career for many years. His life hasn't quite gone the way he expected. His true passion is jazz -- and he's good. But when he travels to another realm to help someone find their passion, he soon discovers what it means to have soul. The movie will be shown in the Fellowship Hall.

PRAYER REQUESTS

The Inter-Faith Chapel has an active Intercessory Prayer Ministry. As a reminder, you are invited to place your prayer request card in the prayer box located in the Narthex. The requests will be shared with the prayer group and they will personally, diligently, and confidentially pray for your concern.

THE INTER-FAITH CHAPEL

3680 South Leisure World Blvd.

Silver Spring, MD 20906

301-598-5312

www.inter-faithchapel.org

CHAPEL OFFICE HOURS

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM ♦ Monday – Friday

Rev. Dr. Woodie Rea, Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Ramonia Lee, Minister of Congregational Life

Rev. Dr. Robert Perry, Minister Emeritus

Dr. Holly Oberle, Director of Music

Bonnie Bonner, Chapel Administrator

Joy Dufour, Administrative Assistant

Steve Buck, Gary Carpenter, Video Technicians and Sextons

SERMON NOTES

Date: Sunday, January 21, 2024

Scripture Passages: Mark 1:4-11

Title of Sermon: *Jesus's Baptism and Ours*

Preacher of the Day: Dr. Ramonia L. Lee

What key words or thoughts are central to this sermon?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.