

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!
Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

*Praise Songs

Joy Like a River

Joy like a river in my soul...

We Will Celebrate Our God

We will celebrate our God!...
Let his banner be raised, let his glory be seen.
We will celebrate our God!...

Common Prayer (*unison*)

**Living God,
when the Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism in Jordan's water
you revealed him as your own beloved Child.
You 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 Jesus as the Christ and Savior
now and for ever. Amen.**

Children's Conversation

Bishop Peggy Johnson

Announcement

Prayers of the People

"Spirit of the Living God"

UMH 393

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

The Immigrant Apostles' Creed (*unison*)

I believe in Almighty God

**Who guided the people in exile and in exodus
The God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon,
The God of foreigners and immigrants**

I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean,

**Who was born away from his people in his home,
Who fled his country with his parents
When his life was in danger**

When he returned to his own country

**He suffered under the oppression of Pontius Pilate,
The servant of foreign power.**

Jesus was persecuted, beaten, tortured

And unjustly condemned to death.

But on the third day Jesus rose from the dead,

**Not as a scorned foreigner
But to offer us citizenship in God's kingdom.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**The eternal immigrant from God's kingdom among us,
Who speaks all languages, lives all countries,
And reunites all races.**

I believe that the Church is the secure home

For foreigners and for all believers.

I believe that the communication of saints begins

When we embrace all God's people in all their diversity.

I believe in forgiveness, which makes us all equal before God,

And in reconciliations, which heals our brokenness.

I believe that in the Resurrection, God will unite us as one people

In which all are distinct and all are alike at the same time.

I believe in life eternal,

**In which no one will be a foreigner but all will be citizens
Of the kingdom where God reigns forever and ever. Amen.**

The Offering

Offertory

Amman Mma – Children of the World

Children of the world, children of the world,
praise the Lord, for He is a mighty King.

Children of the world, children of the world,
praise the Lord, for He is a mighty King.

He has conquered death. When He speaks, everything remains still.
He is a conqueror. We will worship Him always.

Children of the world, children of the world,
praise the Lord, for he is a mighty King.

Children of the world, go! We will sing for Him.
We will shout praises unto Him. We will magnify Him always.
We will give him all the glory and honor.

*Doxology

UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Passing of Peace

“Shalom”

Mensah Essilfie

God’s peace be unto you,
We wish you Shalom!
The peace of God which transcends all
understanding be with you forevermore.

Scripture Reading

Acts 19:1-7

*Gospel Reading

Mark 1:4-11

Anthem

Wade in the Water

Ruth Elaine Schrom cf. 20th century

Wade in the water, wade in the water, children.
God’s gonna’ trouble the water.
See that band all dressed in white?
God’s gonna’ trouble the water.
The leader looks like the Israelite.
God’s gonna’ trouble the water.
Ya see that band all dressed in red?
God’s gonna’ trouble the water.
It looks like the band that Moses led.
God’s gonna’ trouble the water.

Message

“Seeing God”

Bishop Peggy Johnson

Baptism Renewal and Holy Communion

(The following liturgy is written by Rev. Mary Johnson for today’s worship service.)

Introduction:

Leader: Followers of Christ:

When we were baptized

we were made members of Christ’s church.

We received access to the dynamic grace found within Christian community; whose
benefits of salvation have been freely shared with all.

Today, as we celebrate the baptism of our Lord,

we celebrate our own and the unity we share together.

Renunciation of sin and profession of faith:

Leader: I ask you once again before God and this company:
Are you rooting out the spiritual forces of wickedness from your life,
turning away from the temptation to use power for evil
and turning from your worldly ways?

Unison: I am.

Leader: Are you embracing the freedom and the power of the Holy Spirit
given to resist evil, injustice, bullying and every abusive privilege
in all their ever changing forms?

Unison: I am.

Leader: Are you being transformed by the saving grace of Jesus Christ by
being perfected in love, so you can serve the Lord who is manifest in people of every age,
nation and ethnicity?

Unison: I am.

Leader: Using all the gifts and graces given to you by the Holy Spirit,
are you living as a faithful member of Christ's holy church,
and as an ambassador for Christ in the world?

Unison: I am.

Leader: Let us join together and state clearly our Christian faith that we have found in our study of
Scripture, our tradition, our experience and our reason:

God in the Spirit revealed in Jesus Christ, calls us by grace

**Unison: to be renewed in the image of our Creator,
that we might be one
in divine love for the world.**

Leader: Today is the day
God cares for the integrity of creation,
wills the healing and wholeness of all life,
weeps at the plunder of earth's goodness.

Unison: And so shall we.

Leader: Today is the day
God embraces all hues of humanity,
delights in diversity and difference,
favors solidarity transforming strangers into friends.

Unison: And so shall we.

Leader: Today is the day
God cries with the masses of starving people,
despises growing disparity between rich and poor,
demands justice for workers in the marketplace.

Unison: And so shall we.

Leader: Today is the day
God deplores violence in our homes and streets,
rebukes the world's warring madness,
humbles the powerful and lifts up the lowly.

Unison: And so shall we.

Leader: Today is the day
God calls for nations and peoples to live in peace,
Celebrates where justice and mercy embrace,
exults when the wolf grazes with the lamb.

Unison: And so shall we.

**Today is the day
God brings good news to the poor,
proclaims release to the captives,
gives sight to the blind, and
sets the oppressed free.**

And so shall we. (Companion Litany to our Social Creed, p 146, 2016 Discipline of the UMC)

Prayer Over the Water:

Leader: May Your Holy Spirit grace this water as we remember
that we are baptized not only by water but by Your Spirit and fire.
May the fire that burns in our souls renew our lives and our community
of faith. Amen.

Reaffirmation of Faith:

Leader: Rejoice in the memory of your baptism!

Unison: Hallelujah!

Leader: May the work that God has begun in you
bless the world with mercy in its completion.

Unison: May it be so. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving:

Leader: We are water washed.

Unison: We are spirit born.

Leader: We are a chosen people,

Unison: Chosen to spread love, mercy, and compassion.

Leader: Our lives are filled with dancing joy

Unison: Our lips overflow with constant hallelujahs!

Leader: We are so thankful for Your acceptance.
You have immersed us in living water
cleansing us from all our unrighteousness.
With the fire of Your Holy Spirit
You have inspired lives of love, joy, peace and patience.
Through baptism we have become one
with the whole Christian family on earth and
with all of those in heaven. As one we proclaim:

**Unison: We must walk worthy,
With lives of humility,
Gentle and patient.**

**Loving each other,
maintaining the unity.
In a bond of peace.**

**There is one body.
We've one hope of our calling.
There is one Spirit.**

**One Lord and one faith,
One baptism and one God,
Father of us all.** (From Ephesians 4:1-6)

Leader: Jesus shared in Your one baptism
in the Jordan River,
We remember that You were so pleased.
You then sent Jesus into the wilderness to face temptation.
Jesus chose not to serve himself.
Jesus chose not to live for acclaim.
Jesus chose not to serve anyone but You.

Jesus saw greatness in service.
Jesus embraces Your calling to love everyone:
those who betray you,
those who deny you,
those who desert you,
forgiving even those who torture and murder you.

At Passover Jesus with gratitude took bread,
broke it, and shared it with all, saying:
"Receive and eat this bread, my body, broken and given for you."
This is something worth remembering.

At Passover Jesus with gratitude took wine,
poured it in a cup and shared it with all, saying:
"Receive and drink, this is the cup of my blood
poured out to honor God's eternal covenant of grace
promising you, and everyone, the forgiveness of all their sins."
This is worth remembering.

We do remember all that Christ has done
for us and for the world,
memorialized by this holy mystery that we boldly declare:

**Unison: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Leader: Living Water, Fiery Spirit
baptize afresh these gifts of bread and wine
enabling them to signify for us the body and blood of Christ.

Living Water, Fiery Spirit
baptize afresh our lives, our words, our acts, our motivations,
enabling them to signify for others, Your church,
the living body and committed bride of Christ.

Living Water, Fiery Spirit
baptize afresh this congregation of the United Methodist Church
reinvigorate their faith,

reignite their passion for restorative justice,
allowing them to re-imagine Your call
so they reach out to the lives they have ignored.

**Unison: Hear our prayers Lord Jesus.
Empower our prayers Divine Spirit.
Understand our prayers that are only groans and sighs before You,
Loving God, that we might please You and bring You glory forever. Amen.**

Leader: Now as baptized believer let us pray the prayer of Christ:

**Unison: 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.**

Breaking the Bread

Receiving the Elements

Prayer after Communion:

Leader: We thank you for allowing us a share in this holy mystery. You have given us grace upon grace as we have celebrated your two sacraments. Now send us out as Your ambassadors of grace, sharing Your good news with all the world. May all find reason to join us in Your endless praise. Amen.

*Hymn

“My Hope Is Built”

UMH 368

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne!
On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

*Benediction

Postlude

Convocation

Charles Callahan

Worship Leaders: Bishop Peggy Johnson, Rev. Mary Johnson, Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Ronna Davis, Chris Kerns, Byungmoo Lee, Debbie O’Driscoll, David Potts, Jennifer Quansah, Chloe Sundberg, Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

Call to Worship – Psalm 29 ALT. *The New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version*, Oxford Univ. Press.

Common Prayer – *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, 301.

The Immigrant Apostles’ Creed - Attributed by Rev. Jose Luis Casal

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