

**St. John's
United Church of Christ
January 10, 2021**

(*please stand as you are able)

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER CONCERNS:

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship!

PRELUDE:

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Give to our God, O heavenly beings, give to our
God glory and strength.

**Out loud, but muted give to our God a
glorious name; worship our God in holy
splendor.**

The voice of our God is over the waters, the God of
glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.
**Out loud but muted the voice of our God is
powerful; the voice of our God is full of majesty.**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; our God breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

Out loud, but muted God makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of our God flashes forth flames of fire.
People: The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; Our God shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of our God causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in God's temple all say, "**Glory!**"

Out loud, but muted the Lord sits enthroned over the flood; Our God sits enthroned as ruler forever.

May our God give strength to the people!
May the Lord bless the people with peace!

*OPENING HYMN:

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

Creating, Calling, and Faithful God, we come to this time and place to be with you, to worship you, and to learn from you. May our time together be like your creation of light in the darkness that

you called good. May it be that you would call us good while we respond to your call and as we listen to you. Amen.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

People of God, we desire to be refreshed, renewed, and changed. Let us listen again to God's calling our names to encourage us and strengthen our resolve to be God's people in faithfulness and peace-loving justice.

O God, we hear your voice, and we see the way of Jesus set before us. But it is hard, dear God, to try again and again to live up to our baptismal vows and maintain our resolve to be your people in the world. In repentance we ask you to forgive us. Set us once again on a holy path that leads to you. Amen.

***KYRIE ELESION:**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

Friends, God hears our prayers and sets before us the way of Jesus. God calls us and gives us enough grace and mercy to follow the way. Thanks be to God.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises:

Do you renew and affirm the promises made at your Baptism?

I do.

Do you recognize the call of God to be God's people always?

I do.

Do you embrace the way of Jesus in faith and ministry?

I do

Do you accept the nurture of the Holy Spirit who renews your spirit each day?

I do.

Do you accept and embrace others who seek a liberating faith in God?

I do.

In renewing your baptismal vows, remember your Baptism as a mark of acceptance and welcome into the care of Christ's church where you may begin again your Christian faith and life.

Let us pray:

O God, we rejoice in your grace, given and received. We thank you that you claim us, that you wash us, strengthen us, and guide us, that you empower us to live a life worthy of our calling. In the way of Jesus, make us as water in a dry and thirsty world. Establish us to be places of refreshment. Root us and nurture us in love, that with all your people, that we may rightly and justly serve you. Fill us with your fullness that our lives may overflow in service and love. Amen.

HOLY SCRIPTURES:

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

SERMON:

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

There is one God, one faith, one baptism. United in Christ, let us confess the faith we hold in common.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only-begotten Son, Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was

crucified, dead and buried; he descended into Hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

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.

HYMN OF MEDITATION:

***PASTORAL PRAYER:**

Blessing God, you drowned evil in the waters of the flood and promised a covenant of faithfulness with a rainbow in the sky. In baptism you caused us to die to sin and raised us to a new life in Christ. Trusting in your promises for earth and all people we bring you our prayers for the world.

We pray for your church with its kaleidoscopic views of baptism that it may meet the needs of all types of people in the world.

We pray for the world, that all people-and all creation-may know they are your beloved.

We pray for those who suffer, that they will know your love for them, and we may be bearers of comfort.

We pray for your creation, that it may stay healthy and continue to nourish and nurture us.

We remember those who have gone before us and pray for those nearing death, that they may be at peace in your love for them.

In one baptism with Christ and blessed by your Holy Spirit, we praise and give you thanks, Holy One, for giving us spirit and breath.

Eternal God, your promises endure from generation to generation. Knowing your steadfast love, we trust you to answer our prayers according to your generous mercy and infinite wisdom, offering ourselves in service with the words Jesus taught us to pray:

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

Faithful God, Bless us in our baptismal calling to be in ministry of showing hospitality to others. We offer the gifts that we have been given to be used not for conquest and dominance, but for use in liberating the poor and hurting people who pray for our liberation as well as their own.

Receive and multiply our gifts for life-giving ministry. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN:

*BENEDICTION:

God shows no partiality between people, regardless of class, color, or country but accepts people of all backgrounds who love God and do what is right.

Thank you, God, for blessing us with memories of Jesus' baptism and ours. Thank you for removing our reluctance, doubt, and fears, for replacing them with courage and commission. We go forth with your calling, direction, and blessing. Amen.

“GO IN PEACE..... SERVE THE LORD.