

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 10, 2021

Baptism of our Lord Sunday

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ"

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Gabrielle Bentley

(L) In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

The Spirit of God swept over the face of the waters.

(P) Then God said: "Let there be light, and God saw that it was good."

(L) At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus was baptized by John.

The heavens opened, and the Spirit descended like a dove.

(P) Then God said: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Gabrielle Bentley

(L) God of heaven and earth, we gather in the name of Jesus to hear your Word

and to be immersed in your Spirit. Speak to us with grace and truth and

pour out your love upon us so that we may resound with joyful shouts of glory,
through Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

***OPENING SONG**

Jesus, the Light of the World

See the bright and Morning Star, Jesus, the Light of the World!

He has risen in our hearts, Jesus, the Light of the World!

Walk in the light, beautiful light; come where his love and his mercy are bright.

Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the World.

He's the lamp that lights our way, Jesus, the Light of the World!

Step by step and day by day, Jesus, the Light of the World!

Walk in the light, beautiful light; come where his love and his mercy are bright.

Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the World.

No more darkness, no more night, Jesus, the Light of the World!

He will shine forever bright, Jesus, the Light of the World!

Walk in the light, beautiful light; come where his love and his mercy are bright.

Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the World.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory, you look from heaven and see us as we are—
not worthy to kneel at your feet, not ready to welcome your way.

Forgive us gracious God. In Christ, stoop down to save us.
loosen the ties that bind us to sin and set us free to love and serve you,
in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***ACT OF PRAISE #136**

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Staci Gower

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

The First Lesson: Acts 19: 1-7

Gabrielle Bentley

1 While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. **2** 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." **3** Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." **4** 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." **5** On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **6** When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— **7** altogether there were about twelve of them.

***The Gloria Tibi:** *Glory be to thee, O Lord*

***The Gospel:** Mark 1: 4-11

4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** 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. **6** Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7** 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. **8** I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 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. 11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

***Laus Tibi:** *Praise be to thee, O Christ*

SERMON "Heaven was torn apart" The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope

AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRY AND THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISM

Greeting and Introduction

(L) Affirmation of Ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world.

(P) There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

(L) There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

(P) The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

(L) Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

(P) It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.

(L) If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

(P) All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.

Presentation (Candidates are invited forward.)

Cheryl Dorshimer, RJ Cramer, and Jessica Slawter have been called by God in accordance with the faith and order of this church, to serve among us as members of the council of St. Matthews UCC. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

***Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant** (Congregation may stand)

*Renunciations

*Apostles' Creed

(L) Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

(P) I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

(L) Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

(P) I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

(L) Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

(P) 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.

*Thanksgiving for Baptism

(L) The Lord be with you.

(P) and also with you.

(L) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

(P) It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Ministry Covenant

Constitutional Questions to the Candidates

Congregational Affirmation of Support

(L) Members of this family of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them.

(P) We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

Installation Prayer

***HYMN**

Wade in the Water

*CHORUS: Wade in the water, wade in the water, children,
Wade in the water, God's a-gonna trouble the water.*

*See that host all dressed in white, God's a-gonna trouble the water.
The leader looks like the Israelite, God's a-gonna trouble the water. (CHORUS)*

*See that band all dressed in red, God's a-gonna trouble the water.
Looks like the band that Moses led, God's a-gonna trouble the water. (CHORUS)*

*Look over yonder, what do I see? God's a-gonna trouble the water.
The Holy Ghost a-coming on me, God's a-gonna trouble the water. (CHORUS)*

*If you don't believe I've been redeemed, God's a-gonna trouble the water.
Just follow me down to Jordan's stream, God's a-gonna trouble the water. (CHORUS)*

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

***CLOSING HYMN**

His Name is Jesus (Heaven's Hope)

*The glory and the wonder, it still hangs in the air. The star that saw His face still shines.
The song heard at the manger, the angel anthem raised, Still echoes through the ages today.
Rejoice! Peace on earth has come. His favor rests on us. His name is Jesus.
Rejoice! The King has come for us. Receive what love has done. His name is Jesus.*

*Heaven's Hope awakened with a baby's cry. Still, His voice breaks through the night.
Rejoice! Peace on earth has come. His favor rests on us. His name is Jesus.
Rejoice! The King has come for us. Receive what love has done. His name is Jesus.
His name is Jesus.*

*What a beautiful Name it is, what a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus Christ my King.
What a beautiful Name it is, nothing compares to this. What a beautiful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus.*

*What a wonderful Name it is, what a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus Christ my King.
What a wonderful Name it is, nothing compares to this. What a wonderful Name it is, the Name
of Jesus. What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus. What a wonderful Name it is,
the Name of Jesus.*

*Rejoice! Peace on earth has come. His favor rests on us. His name is Jesus.
Rejoice! The King has come for us. Receive what love has done. His name is Jesus.
His name is Jesus. His name is Jesus.*

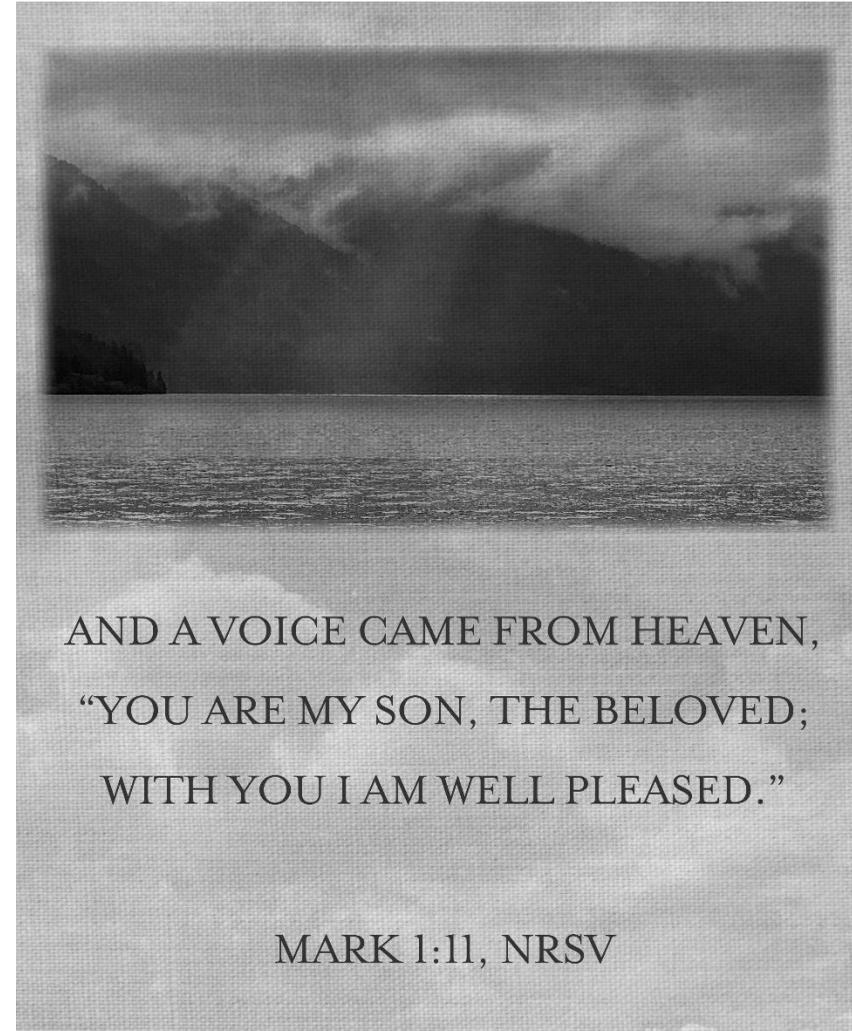
***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE#231**

*Arise your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.*

***POSTLUDE**

*(*Please stand in body or spirit.)*



St. Matthews United Church of Christ

102 Church St, Kunkletown, PA 18058

610-381-2442, stmatts@ptd.net

Pastor: The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope

Music Director: Mr. Daniel Smale

Office Manager: Mrs. Rose Arace

Coordinator of Spiritual Formation: Mrs. Staci Gower

Council President: Mr. George Huber

Sunday Worship, 9 AM, Adult Sunday School 10:30 am

Children's Sunday School is Virtual at

www.stmattsucckunkletown.com

*In Jesus, the beloved Son of God, we are all children of the Most High.
Welcome to worship!*

This Week Ahead

Sunday, January 10	Worship Baptism of our Lord Sunday Installation of New Council Members	-Sanctuary, 9 am -CIA Class, Stage 10:30 am
Monday, January 11	Exercise Group	-Office Open 9am-1 pm -Gathering Room, 1 pm
Tuesday, January 12	Confirmation Class Council Meeting	-Zoom, 4 to 6 pm -Social Hall or Zoom, 7 pm
Wednesday, January 13	Exercise Group	-Office Open 9am-1pm -Gathering Room, 1 pm
Friday, January 15	Worship	- Office Open 9am-1pm
Sunday, January 20	Second Sunday after Epiphany	-Sanctuary, 9 am -CIA Class, Stage 10:30 am

Prayer Concerns

Joyce Smith, Shirley Borger, McCoy Rapa, Doug Hawk, Dale and Gladys Meixsell, Eliza Dymond, Janet Gower, Grace Everett, Alton and Lila Kleintop, Gladys Lindenmoyer, Erica Pozza, George Keller, Rosemarie Stranahan, Janet Fowler, Shirley Smith, Andrea Holec, Chapman Buskirk, Brayden Wunder, Kelly George, Kim Cope, Josh & Kevin Engler, Mae Borger, and the Families of Marlena Gilboy (C. Andrew's daughter), Bill Clausen, Scott Madden, Loretta Hawk, Marlene Prutzman, Bobbie Christman, and Franklin Smith

Today's Ushers:

Darryl Breinich and Shirley Brotzman

Next Week's Ushers:

Cheryl Dorshimer and Jennie Rose Serfass

This Week's Acolyte: Katie Fritz

Next Week's Acolyte: Ally Pfancock

Transmission of COVID19 is on the rise in our area. Don't forget to wear a mask at all times when inside the building and to keep 6 feet away from others not in your household! If you are not feeling well or running a fever, please stay home.



Offering Envelopes for 2021 are available for pick up in the Gathering Room.

Because of COVID19, many of our members are not worshipping in person. Please pick up the boxes for your family members and neighbors and drop them off for us. Thank You!

Our New Council members will be installed this morning, January 10, 2021 as we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. Please join us as we honor the council members of the class 2020 (Starlene Barr, Diann Bittenbender, Kathlyn Heffelfinger, George Huber, and Henry Krechel) and welcome and install RJ Cramer, Cheryl Dorshimer, and Jessica Slawter for the class of 2023. We will all have the opportunity to renew our own baptismal promises as we install our new class of council members.

Thank you to all who donated to help a church member out with car repairs. The cost of the transmission will be higher than originally expected. If anyone would like to donate, gifts can be given to St. Matthews UCC and earmarked for "Grandma." If we receive more funds than we need, they will be placed in our Community Outreach fund which and will help another member in need. Thank You for your gifts.

Churches involved with PVEN will be leading a Virtual Prayer Service during the Week of Christian Unity on

January 19th at 3 pm. The theme for the 2021 is "Abide in My Love...You Shall Bear Much Fruit." It was discerned by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland and finds its origins in the Gospel of John (cf. John 15:1-17).

"Jesus gave his life for all out of his love for all," said Fr. James Loughran, SA, Director of Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute (GEII). "To abide in his love reminds us that we live in a community celebrating our gift of unity." The service will be livestreamed from Our Lady Queen of Peace in Brodheadsville and may be watched live on Facebook or Youtube and will be recorded so you can also watch it at a later time.

Pastor Suzanne will be starting a new Bible Study soon using Zoom. If you are interested, please email her at sbcstmts@ptd.net. She wants to get feedback about possible topics. Also, if you are interested in participating but are unable to use Zoom, let her know. She may offer a hybrid class.

