



**Order of Worship
January 1, 2023**

**First Sunday after the Epiphany
The Baptism of the Lord**

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

This Sunday marks a transition from the Christmas season to the season of Epiphany which began on January 6, twelve days after Christmas Day. In a way, today is the high point of the Christmas season. Before Jesus' birth, angels announced to Mary and to Joseph who Jesus would be. At his birth, the shepherds and the Magi recognize Jesus as the Messiah. At his baptism, Jesus accepts that he is God's son and inaugurates that mission. In the same way, our Baptism inaugurates our mission as Christians. In worship today, we will remember our baptism and be thankful.

Our worship opens with an Alison Krauss video of the song, "Down to the River to Pray." As we watch the images, as we listen to the words, let us allow ourselves to be carried to the riverside and let us believe that here we will encounter God.

***Call to Worship**

Carolyn Masters

"As you are able, please stand for the Call to Worship.)

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God;

The holy habitation of the Most High.

The Lord pours forth rivers from bare mountains, and fountains in valleys' depths.

God opens rocks, and water gushes out.

On dry thirsty land God springs forth streams in the desert.

***Opening Prayer**

Carolyn Masters

God who watches over us, offering us light and hope, be with us this day as we hear the story of Jesus' baptism. Help us to remember your healing, cleansing, and claiming love for us. Remind us again of the many ways in which you reach out to us. May the image of the waters be for us an image of hope. Bring us closer to you, loving God. Embrace us again with your love. We open our hearts to you this day. AMEN.

***Hymn**

When Jesus Came to Jordan

UMH 252

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Passing the Peace of Christ

Carolyn Masters

Moments with Children

Pastor Debra

Ministry of Music

All Hail King Jesus/He Is Exalted

Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Understanding

All Praying

Carolyn Masters

As water splashed across our face awakens us in the morn, may your Word awaken us to your presence. Wash us in your wisdom, bathe us in your goodness, refresh us with your grace, by the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:1-9(NRSV)

Carolyn Masters

The Servant, a Light to the Nations

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,

my chosen, in whom my soul delights;

I have put my spirit upon him;

he will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry out or lift up his voice

or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,

and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;

he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed

until he has established justice in the earth,

and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,

who created the heavens and stretched them out,

who spread out the earth and what comes from it,

who gives breath to the people upon it

and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;

I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
7 to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
8 I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
9 See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:13-17

Carolyn Masters

The Baptism of Jesus

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

This is a Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Baptism of Jesus and Our Baptism

Pastor Debra

Offertory Invitation

Carolyn Masters

As we give our offerings today, I invite us to consider how God may be urging us to be a carrier of His light through the ministry and mission of Harmony UMC by the giving of our financial gifts. Would the ushers please come forward to receive the morning offering.

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Restoration

**Doxology*

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

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!**

**Prayer of Dedication*

Carolyn Masters

Gracious God, we come today with joy for your baptism; we come with praise for your glory; we come with gratitude for your love. As we offer these gifts to you, send your Spirit upon us, that our hands and our hearts may do your work in the world. As we offer our lives to you, bless us with your strength, that we may join with you to work for the blessing of peace throughout the world. Amen.

Invitation to Holy Communion

Pastor Debra

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.

Prayer of Confession

All Praying

Pastor Debra

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.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Pastor Debra

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.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR EPIPHANY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love

remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation.

In his baptism and in table fellowship he took his place with sinners. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people.

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.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. 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 God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn During Communion

I Love to Tell the Story

UMH 156

Prayer after Communion

Carolyn Masters

We thank you, God, for breaking into our world and pouring into our lives and our experiences. We thank you, God, for this meal of thanksgiving and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

Closing Hymn

For the Bread which You Have Broken

UMH 614

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Benediction

Pastor Debra

At his baptism in the Jordan Jesus was invested with his mission of bringing God's liberating love to people. The Spirit guided him to carry out that mission in uncompromising faithfulness. At our baptism with water and the Spirit, we have received the mission to live like Jesus, to go about doing good as he did, to be faithful and just to God and to people. May the God in whose name we have been baptized protect, guide and bless you for this task: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen. We go in peace.

Sung Benediction

Go, Tell It On the Mountain

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.**

POSTLUDE

Sent Forth

WHEN JESUS CAME TO JORDAN

*When Jesus came to Jordan
to be baptized by John,
he did not come for pardon
but as the sinless one.
He came to share repentance
with all who mourn their sins,
to speak the vital sentence
with which good news begins.*

*2 He came to share temptation,
our utmost woe and loss,
for us and our salvation
to die upon the cross.
So when the dove descended
on him, the Son of Man,
the hidden years had ended,
the age of grace began.*

*3 Come, Holy Spirit, aid us
to keep the vows we make;
this very day invade us,
and every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction,
the gift we covet most:
to share the resurrection
that leads to Pentecost.*

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

*I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else can do.*

Refrain:

***I love to tell the story,
'twill be my theme in glory,***

***to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.***

*2. I love to tell the story;
more wonderful it seems
than all the golden fancies
of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story,
it did so much for me;
and that is just the reason
I tell it now to thee. [Refrain]*

*3. I love to tell the story;
'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy Word. [Refrain]*

*4. I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story
that I have loved so long. [Refrain]*

FOR THE BREAD WHICH YOU HAVE BROKEN

*For the bread which you have broken,
for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken,
now we give you thanks, O Lord.*

*2 By this pledge that you do love us,
by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heaven above us,
hallow all our lives, O Lord.*

*3 With our sainted ones in glory
seated at the heavenly board,
may the church that's waiting for you
keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.*

*4 In your service, Lord, defend us,
in our hearts keep watch and ward;
in the world where you have sent us,
let your kingdom come, O Lord.*