

Sunday
January 10, 2021
9:30 a.m.

First Sunday after
the Epiphany

Baptism of the Lord

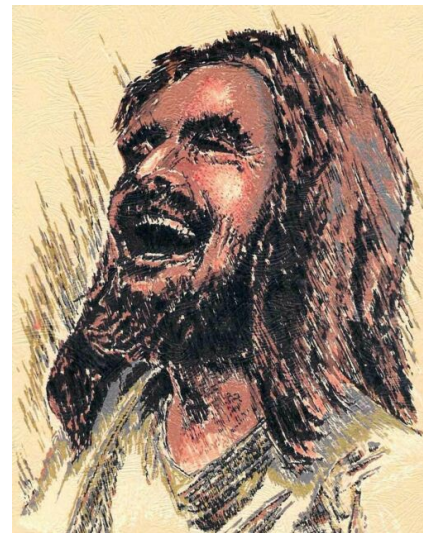
Pastor Greg

Becoming disciples,
serving God's world.



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Call to Worship

God anointed Jesus to
console the afflicted —
Come, let us worship the
Lord our comforter!

God anointed Jesus to free
the enslaved — Come, let
us worship the Lord our
liberator!

God anointed Jesus to bind
up the wounded — Come,
let us worship the Lord
our healer!

God anointed Jesus to deliver the troubled — Come, let us
worship the Lord our savior!

Hymn: #680 Father, We Praise Thee

Prayer

God of majesty and light, you hold the whole world in your hand. So we give our great praise that in Jesus the Messiah all people may see your glory. We thank you for revealing Jesus to be your Son and for claiming our lives in baptism to be his disciples. By your Holy Spirit, may peace descend upon us, that we may follow Jesus with grateful hearts. Take us and all we have to be useful in your service, God of all nations, in the gracious name of Jesus, your Son, by the power of your Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Introduction to Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

Please have a small glass or bowl of fresh water near to you. If you have yet to be formally baptized into Christian fellowship, you are still encouraged to participate.

Brothers and sisters in Christ: through the Sacrament of Baptism God's Spirit has been poured out upon water, water poured over and immersing us, water that flows freely for all who will receive it, water from the streams of God's saving power and justice, water that brings hope to all who thirst for righteousness, water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth.

Today we come to the waters, wherever we may be, to renew our commitments to the Spirit who has birthed us, to Christ who has raised us, and to the Creator who is making all things new.

For the Kids: "The Baptism of Jesus"

Scripture Lesson: Mark 1:4-11

Sermon: "Look at Jesus"

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Since the earliest times, the vows of the Baptismal Covenant have consisted first of the renunciation of all that is evil and then the profession of faith and loyalty to Christ.

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

(I do.)

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

(I do.)

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

(I do.)

According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of the body of Christ and serve as his representatives in the world?

(I will.)

We affirm and teach the apostolic faith of whole church as we put our trust in God the Father, in Jesus Christ the Son, and in the Holy Spirit — the blessed Trinity.

Do you believe in God the Father?

(Yes, I do.)

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

(Yes, I do.)

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

(Yes, I do.)

Blessing of the Water

Eternal Father: When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. You brought their children through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a human womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the

baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and by this gift of water call to our remembrance the grace declared to us in our baptism. For you have washed away our sins, and you clothe us with righteousness throughout our lives, that dying and rising with Christ we may share in his final victory.

Touch the water and make the sign of the cross on your forehead.

Remember your baptism and be thankful. Amen.

When finished it is preferable to return this water outside into the earth if you are able. It has been consecrated for holy purposes and is no longer "just water."

Hymn: #347 Spirit Song

Prayers of the People, and the Lord's Prayer

Celebrating the coming of the One who brings the reign of God to all people, let us pray for the world God loves, the Church God calls, and all people according to their needs, saying, Lord, in your mercy, and responding, Hear our prayer.

God of light and darkness, through water and Word you shine your light into the darkness of our lives. We give thanks for this incredible gift.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

God of love and knower of our hatred, your love comes in spite of our animosity; you bring reconciliation to those who are divided. We pray for better relationships between people of different persuasions, opinions, and creeds. Strengthen us to be peacemakers.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

God of hope and knower of our fear, you walk with us through the challenges which surround us. Wash away our anxiety by your promised presence, and set us free from despair.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

God of church and knower of our world, in baptism you unify yourself with us and bring your kingdom into being. Keep us from seeing your love as a hiding place. Motivate us to infuse the world with your justice.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

God of health and knower of our illnesses,

there is nothing that separates us from your love. Inspire us to bring your health to the sick, your encouragement to the lonely and discouraged, your promise to the dying, especially those we name before you now... *(pause)*.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

God of life and knower of our death, all that exists is from you, and for you. Enable us to trust your baptismal promise and serve this hurting world. Your gift of eternal life is offered to all. We pray that all will receive.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Almighty God who defeats the darkness, receive these prayers and the prayers of our hearts, in the name of the One who is victorious over sin, death, and the evil one — Jesus Christ our Lord... *Our Father...*

Offertory ~ Barb Hosner and Karla Stubblefield

Dedication of Gifts and Self

Thank you so much for your continued prayers and financial support! You are a blessing to the church!

Powerful Creator, Humble Savior, Renewing Spirit, renew in us the generous nature that is your image in which we were created in the beginning, so that the beauty of the world and the sacraments of the church may be advanced in every generation. Amen.

Praise Song for the Pandemic — Christine Valters Paintner, Abbey of the Arts

Praise be the nurses and doctors, every medical staff bent over flesh to offer care, for lives saved and lives lost, for showing up either way,

Praise for the farmers, tilling soil, planting seeds so food can grow, an act of hope if ever there was,

Praise be the janitors and garbage collectors, the grocery store clerks, and the truck drivers barreling through long quiet nights, Give thanks for bus drivers, delivery persons, postal workers, and all those keeping an eye on water, gas, and electricity,

Blessings on our leaders, making hard choices for the common good, offering words of assurance,

Celebrate the scientists, working away to understand the thing that plagues us, to find

an antidote, all the medicine makers, praise be the journalists keeping us informed, Praise be the teachers, finding new ways to educate children from afar, and blessings on parents holding it together for them,

Blessed are the elderly and those with weakened immune systems, all those who worry for their health, praise for those who stay at home to protect them,

Blessed are the domestic violence victims, on lock down with abusers, the homeless and refugees,

Praise for the poets and artists, the singers and storytellers, all those who nourish with words and sound and color,

Blessed are the ministers and therapists of every kind, bringing words of comfort,

Blessed are the ones whose jobs are lost, who have no savings, who feel fear of the unknown gnawing,

Blessed are those in grief, especially who mourn alone, blessed are those who have passed into the Great Night,

Praise for police and firefighters, paramedics, and all who work to keep us safe, praise for all the workers and caregivers of every kind,

Praise for the sound of notifications, messages from friends reaching across the distance, give thanks for laughter and kindness,

Praise be our four-footed companions, with no forethought or anxiety, responding only in love,

Praise for the seas and rivers, forests and stones who teach us to endure,

Give thanks for your ancestors, for the wars and plagues they endured and survived, their resilience is in your bones, your blood,

Blessed is the water that flows over our hands and the soap that helps keep them clean, each time a baptism,

Praise every moment of stillness and silence, so new voices can be heard, praise the chance at slowness,

Praise be the birds who continue to sing the sky awake each day, praise for the primrose poking yellow petals from dark earth, blessed is the air clearing overhead so one day we can breathe deeply again.

And when this has passed may we say that

love spread more quickly than any virus ever could, may we say this was not just an ending but also a place to begin.

Benediction

In closing his epistle St. Paul says, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love

of God, and the communion (fellowship) of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Corinthians 13:13).

So be it.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer for Family and Friends

Myrna Forsythe passed away on Saturday, Jan. 2, at the age of 84. The funeral service will be private. Visit <https://www.mccowenscord.com/obituaries/Myrna-Forsythe/#!/Obituary> for more information. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Previous Requests

Pray for every family undergoing difficulties.
Pray for persecuted Christians around the world.

In Service to Our Country

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Walker Polsinelli | Geoff White |
| Tyler Smith | |

For Cheer and Hello

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| David Bretz | Marv Starbuck |
| Barb Griner | Mina Willett |
| Flossie Lang | Betty Witcher |
| Robert & Carmen Parsons | |

This Week's Celebrations

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| <u>Birthdays</u> | 1/13 Greg Berndt |
| 1/10 Jim Thompson | Liz Heikes |

Church Council meeting

Church Council will meet on Monday, Jan. 25, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Anyone who wants to may join the meeting with Google Meet or by phone. Check your email for Google Meet link and phone number.

Susanna Wesley Circle will meet

Susanna Wesley Circle is planning to meet together on Thursday, Jan. 21, in the Taylor Room at 9:30 a.m. We will social distance, and there will be no refreshments. Please remember your donations for Generous Hands. We look forward to seeing everyone.

Drive-In Worship

**9:30 Sunday mornings
in the church parking lot**

tune your radio to FM 101.1

also live stream at

meet.google.com/ybu-swbd-ocn

A Google account is required to watch. If you do not have a Google account, please email Alex (aensing@vicksburgumc.org).

You can also listen to services over the phone. Before the start time of the service, call (413) 340-2217 and enter the following pin when prompted: 950 134 510#.

Also watch your email for YouTube links.

VUMC's
Mission Statement



**The General Rule
of Discipleship**

To witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Coming deadlines

- ShopWithScrip (formerly ScripCents) orders are due in the church office by 2:00 Friday, Jan. 15.

Midweek prayer meeting

To join the online prayer meeting on Wednesday evenings from 8:00 to 8:45, please click this link: meet.google.com/hii-yaux-gqs.

Otherwise, to join by telephone, dial: +1 415-604-0783; enter PIN: 815 342 983#.