



# Ashland Place UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Order of Worship ▪ January 10, 2021  
Baptism of the Lord Sunday ▪ Confirmation Commissioning

❖ Please Stand, **Bold** — Congregation Reads Aloud

## WELCOME AND PARISH NOTICES

Rev. Kristen Curtis Wright

**CHIMING OF THE TRINITY** *Three chimes signify the presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

## PRELUDE

*Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated*  
Jennifer Bemis

arr. Keveren

## ❖ CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, upon many waters.

**The voice of the Lord is powerful, the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

May the Lord give strength to his people!

**May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

## ❖ HYMN OF PRAISE

*This is the Spirit's Entry Now*

## CONFIRMATION COMMISSIONING

**Teachers' Covenant:** I pledge, with God's help, to surround each class member with an environment of love and support. I will model the faith I teach. I will encourage, support, and challenge the students, parents and other teachers during the Confirmation journey. **Teachers: This is the covenant I make this day.**

**Confirmands' Covenant:** I pledge, with God's help and the support of my family, to fully enter into the Confirmation journey. I will attend regularly and participate fully in class sessions, in worship, and in all other Confirmation-related activities. I will be open and honest about my own questions and will endeavor to understand what it means to be Christian. I will also respect, support, and help others in their own questions. **Students: This is the covenant I make this day.**

**Parents' Covenant:** I pledge, with God's help, to assist my child on the Confirmation journey. I will encourage and support my child's participation in Confirmation. I will, to the best of my ability, be a role model of what it means to be a Christian, and a faithful member at Ashland Place. **Parents: This is the covenant I make this day.**

**Congregation's Covenant:** With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that these young people, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal. **This is the covenant we make this day.**

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dr. Sterling Boykin

Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**      **Genesis 1:1-5**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**OFFERTORY**

*Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters*

arr. Duck and White

Amy True, soprano

*Offering plates are available at each exit. To submit your pledge or financial gift electronically, please visit [www.apumc.com/outreach-donations](http://www.apumc.com/outreach-donations), to make your secure online donation. You may also mail a check to the church at 15 Wisteria Avenue, Mobile, AL 36607.*

❖ **DOXOLOGY**, *whispered*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above ye heavenly hosts; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

❖ **PASSING OF THE PEACE** *Greet your neighbors with the peace of Christ.*

**EPISTLE LESSON**

**Acts 19:1-7**

**MORNING PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

**Mark 1:4-11**

**HOMILY**

*Remembering Our Baptism*

Dr. Sterling Boykin

**BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE**

*Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price. Through the reaffirmation of our faith we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy church. 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 you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world? **I will.**

Do you believe in God the Father? **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ? **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? **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.**

*\*universal*

## THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

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. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

**Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.**

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a 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.

**Declare his works to the nations, his glory among all the people.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and those who receive it, to wash away their sin and clothe them in righteousness throughout their lives, that, dying and being raised with Christ, they may share in his final victory.

**All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever.  
Amen.**

Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of our covenant God.

**We give thanks for all that God has already given us.**

**As members of the body of Christ**

**and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church,  
we will faithfully participate in the ministries of the church  
by our *prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness,*  
that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

## INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

### ❖ BENEDICTION

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace. **Amen**

❖ **REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *All are invited to come forward as directed. The pastor will say "Remember your baptism and be thankful," your affirming response is "Amen". You will be invited to touch the water in the baptismal font, then touch your forehead, your hand, or make the sign of the cross as you wish. If you have not yet been baptized, you may use this time to consider and anticipate your baptism. Our pastors would love to speak with you about baptism should you have any questions.*

## POSTLUDE

***Baptized in Water***

*arr. Greer*

## Genesis 1:1-5

SCRIPTURE — January 10, 2021

**1** In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

## Acts 19:1-7

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

## Mark 1:4-11

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

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

### THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES:

#### **Sunday, January 10, 2021**

**Ascension Modern Service** — 9:00 a.m.  
Confirmation Students and Parents — 10:00 a.m.  
Wesley Class Sunday School — 9:00 a.m.  
on Zoom (coachsp@bellsouth.net)

#### **Traditional Sanctuary Service** — 11:00 a.m.

Youth — 5:30 p.m. at the Firepit

#### **Tuesday—**

Prayer Shawl Ministry — 10:00 a.m. (New Parlor)  
Pastor's Hebrews Bible Study on Zoom — 6:00 p.m.

#### **Wednesday—**

Mid-Week Devotional — website, YouTube, email

#### **Thursday—**

Men's Bible Study — 7:00 a.m. (New Parlor)

### **2020 YEAR TO DATE INFORMATION:**

As of the end of December:

Giving Received:	\$ 752,870.19
Stimulus Received (Federal & State):	\$ 136,555.00
Total Received:	\$ 889,425.19
Total Expenses:	\$ 810,629.62

### **FAITHFULLY TOGETHER FOR 2021 CARDS:**

Operating Pledge Cards 96 totaling	\$ 524,250
Building Pledge Cards 24 totaling	\$ 77,400

### **CIRCLE OF CONCERN:**

Please hold these members in your prayers: John Allen, Jean Brown, Sharon Coggin, Linda Lee Counts, Jane Ford, Mary Wit Fowler, Margaret Graham, Gina Gregory, Erveta Haas, June Harter, Brenda Jackson, Freddie Jones, Peggy Mann, Jo Nusbaum, Thalia Laird, Burton Roton, Nancy Scott, Nyla Smith, Lonn Spencer\*, Kathryn Willingham, family members recovering from surgery, those with Covid-19, first responders, and healthcare workers. (\*new this week)

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