

Sunday, January 10, 2021
Baptism of the Lord
Order of Service

Gathering Song..... **“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”** (*Hymnal, #334*)

There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it’s the spirit of the Lord; There are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord. Sweet holy Spirt, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us filling us with your love; and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

Greeting/Call to Worship..... **Ms. Cynthia**

Leader: The vast expanse of sky stretches in praise.

Tina: The waters and streams cry out in longing.

Leader: The earth now hardened, incubates life.

Tina: And we your people awaken.

Leader: For the beginning of this new day, we give you thanks and praise!

Tina: For the chance to think and act anew, we give you thanks and praise. For this glorious time of worship, we give you thanks and praise Amen.

Hymn of Praise..... **“When I Rose This Morning”**
(sing along with Mississippi Mass Choir)

Prayer of Confession and Assurance..... **Ms. Cynthia**

Holy God, you were well pleased with your Son Jesus. We know that you are not always well pleased with your adopted children when we sin. We prayerfully confess to you the times; we should have loved and didn’t and the times we acted not out of love but out of selfishness.

Gracious God, in the waters of baptism you are able to wash your children clean and claim them as yours. We give you thanks and ask that you pour your spirit upon us each day. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer..... **Ms. Cynthia**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. **Amen.**

The Invocation

Song of Meditation — “Hallelujah” (*featuring Pentatonix*)

The Prayer of Illumination **Ms. Cynthia**

O God, your Word is more precious than fine gold and sweeter than purest honey. As we turn to your scripture, send your Holy Spirit to infuse your Word with truth and grace so that the good news of your love would shine before our eyes and delight our senses. So that we cannot help but respond with wonder, faith and trust. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Tina**
(*Genesis 1:1–5, Common English Bible*)

World’s Creation in Seven Days

1 When God began to create the heavens and the earth— **2** the earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea, and God’s wind swept over the waters— **3** God said, “Let there be light.” And so light appeared. **4** God saw how good the light was. God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God named the light Day and the darkness Night.

There was evening and there was morning: the first day.

Scripture Reading #2 **Chantel**
(*Acts 19:1–7, Common English Bible*)

Paul in Ephesus

19 While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul took a route through the interior and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. **2** He asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you came to believe?”

They replied, “We’ve not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

3 Then he said, “What baptism did you receive, then?”

They answered, “John’s baptism.”

4 Paul explained, “John baptized with a baptism by which people showed they were changing their hearts and lives. It was a baptism that told people about the one who was coming after him. This is the one in whom they were to believe. This one is Jesus.” **5** After they listened to Paul, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **6** When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in other languages and prophesying.

7 Altogether, there were about twelve people.

Scripture Reading #3 **Tiara**
(*Mark 1:4–11, Common English Bible*)

John’s Preaching

4 John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. **5** Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. **6** John wore clothes made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. **7** He announced, “One stronger than I am is coming after me. I’m not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. **8** I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Jesus is Baptized and Tempted

⁹ About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. ¹⁰ While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. ¹¹ And there was a voice from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness.”

Doxology – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” **Ms. Cynthia**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be low; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

Psalter — Psalm 130 **Ms. Cynthia** (*Response/Leader*)

Response: In my distress I cry to the Lord: “Deliver me, O Lord.”

Leader: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord! Lord, hear my voice!

Tina: Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Leader: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

Tina: But there is forgiveness with you, that you may be worshiped.

Leader: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, in the Lord’s word I hope;

Tina: my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

Leader: O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, with the Lord is plenteous redemption.

Tina: And the Lord will redeem Israel from all iniquities.

Response: In my distress I cry to the Lord: “Deliver me, O Lord.”

The Gloria Patri – “Glory Be to the Father” **Ms. Cynthia**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. **Amen.**

Children / Youth Moment **Sister Jaime**

The Baptismal Covenant IV

Congregational Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

This service is for use by a congregation when there are no candidates to be baptized, confirmed, or received into membership.

Introduction to the Service

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.

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

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?

Ms. Cynthia: I do.

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

Ms. Cynthia: 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?

Ms. Cynthia: I do.

According to the grace given to you,
will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church
and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

Ms. Cynthia: I do.

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith
as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

Ms. Cynthia: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

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

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Ms. Cynthia: 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.]

Thanksgiving Over the Water

If water is to be used for reaffirmation, the water may be poured into the font at this time, and the following prayer offered:

The Lord be with you.

Ms. Cynthia 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.

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

Hymn of Preparation — "Take Me to the Water" (*featuring Marvin Williams*)

Inspirational Message..... **Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

"Following Jesus' Baptism"

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection — "Blessed Quietness" (*featuring Shonda English*)

1 Joys are flowing like a river
since the Comforter has come,
who abides with us forever,
makes the trusting heart a home.

Refrain:

Blessed quietness, holy quietness
what assurance in my soul!
On the stormy sea speaking peace to me
how the billows cease to roll!

2 Like the rain that falls from heaven,
like the sunlight from the sky,
so the Holy Ghost is given,
coming on us from on high. [**Refrain**]

3 What a wonderful salvation,
where we always see God's face!
What a perfect habitation,
what a quiet resting place! [**Refrain**]

Announcements

Benediction

Announcements

Pray Daily at Noon

Please remember to pray daily at NOON. Some areas to include in your prayer, can include the pandemic, racial healing, government leaders, educational challenges, and most importantly for our sick and shut-ins and each other.



Wednesdays (7:15 p.m.) — Wednesday Night Experience. Call-in Information: 712-770-4010 (Access code: 331960)

Sunday, January 17th — Human Relations Sunday. This is a special offering Sunday.

Its that time again!!! Girl Scout Cookie time. Jaylah is a member of Troop #4887 and is taking orders, for additional information reach out to Tiara at 202.603.9800. Varieties include: **Lemon Ups, Trefoils, Do-Si-Dos, Tagalongs, Samoas, Thin Mints, GS S'Mores, Toffee-Tastics.** Initials orders due January 11th, but it is never to late to order. Monies due when you receive your cookies.

Note from Finance: First, let us give a big thank you to all that have been giving. This is a reminder that there are several ways to get your offering to the church:

1. You can drop it off at the church, place in the mailbox (Cynthia and David Burley check it regularly) **(This will save you postage)**
2. You can mail it to the church (601 Eighth Street, Laurel, MD 20707)
3. You can use on-line giving (Give–St. Marks — <https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/stmarkslmd>)
4. Reach out to member of finance, they will try to accommodate you.

Again, thank you. Just remember, even during the pandemic, the church building still has obligations that need to be met.



*"Proclaiming Christ to the generations...
Equipping disciples to transform the world"*

Special Prayers / Sick and Shut-In List: If you hear of anyone that is in need of special prayer or is taken to the hospital, please contact: Rev. Eugene Matthews (443.257.2730 (cell), 410.379.0600 (home), reveugene@comcast.net)

Eric Smith, Brian Bailey, Rayvon Roy, Joyce Gibson, Tony Tingle, Mitchell Talley, LaKisha Thomas, James (Stoney) Carroll, Marva Thomas, Nena Hughes, Deysha Gibson, Gloria Thomas, Sharon Thomas, Rev. George F. DeFord, Wanda Dumas, Sherman / Erica Roy, Janeen Thomas, Eunice Harding (Gemma's Mother), Tyrone / Pat Mundell, Samuel / James Briggs (Cynthia Burley's brothers), Charles Burley, Joan Moore, Larry Powell, Veronica Miller, Jeanette Reeves, Ernestine Gibson, Mildred Awkward, Grace Elaine Catchings, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Laura Dotson, Phillip Reese, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Nancy Daniels, Eunice Parker, Hannah Polk, Delores Tyler

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Eric Smith's story: https://www.spotfund.com/story/5700aa0f-3368-4593-92ac-1cbcad6fa551?created=true&fbclid=IwAR22RY6XyC06K4w5c6Sy-3x29Pn7pZ29akpYwLOMgjuJCoNSItaIe1mQSWM&referral_id=032c0c58-c7d8-4ca8-a181-4d44d1b3b971