

# **GUILFORD COLLEGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

## **Online Worship Bulletin for Sunday, January 10th, 2021 Baptism of the Lord Sunday**

*\*PLEASE NOTE - THERE WILL BE NO IN-PERSON INDOOR WORSHIP AT 8:30AM OR 11AM THIS MONTH DUE TO THE CURRENT COVID-19 CONDITIONS.\**

You are invited to share in this worship experience while watching the online service that will be livestreamed from our church sanctuary at 11am on Sunday morning through our Website, Facebook page, and YouTube Channel.  
To participate, just click on the correct link below:

**[CLICK HERE TO JOIN ONLINE WORSHIP THROUGH OUR CHURCH WEBSITE](#)**

or

**[CLICK HERE TO JOIN ONLINE WORSHIP THROUGH OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#)**

The service will remain up on our website and YouTube channel after that time for later viewing.

Today we are celebrating Baptism of the Lord Sunday, when we remember the baptism of Jesus, and also remember the significance of our own baptisms for us. Towards the end of the service we will be sharing in a time of baptismal remembrance - we invite you to have a small cup or bowl of water nearby so that you can participate.

Whenever and however you join us, we hope you will actively participate in the service by following the bulletin below, and by joining in the prayers, responses, and songs.

Let us worship God together: Praise the Lord!

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# **GATHERING**

## **PRELUDE**

Ginny Williamson

## **RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Come to the Water*

Mark Christy

## **GREETINGS & WELCOME**

Rev. Jeremy Troxler

## **RESPONSIVE PRAYER**

Rev. Jeremy Troxler

O Christ, you humbled yourself and received baptism  
at the hands of your friend and cousin, John,  
showing us the way of humility.

**Help us to follow you,  
and never to be held back by pride.**

O Christ, by your baptism you took our humanity  
into the cleansing waters.

**Give us new birth, and lead us into new life  
as sons and daughters of God.**

O Christ, by your baptism the material world  
became charged with your holiness.

**Make us instruments of your transformation  
in this our world.**

O Christ, by your baptism you revealed the Trinity,  
your Father calling you his beloved Son,  
and the Spirit descending upon you like a dove.

**Re-new our worship,  
re-dedicate us in the spirit of our baptism,  
and renew us in your image.  
For your love's sake.  
Amen.**

## **OFFERING OUR PRAISES, GIFTS & PRAYERS**

### **OPENING HYMN**

*Shall We Gather*

UM Hymnal #723, vs. 1-3

Shall we gather at the river,  
where bright angel feet have trod,  
with its crystal tide forever  
flowing by the throne of God?

*Refrain:*

*Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river  
that flows by the throne of God.*

On the margin of the river,  
washing up its silver spray,  
we will walk and worship ever,  
all the happy golden day.  
*(Refrain)*

Ere we reach the shining river,  
lay we every burden down;  
grace our spirits will deliver,  
and provide a robe and crown.  
*(Refrain)*

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Donna Ford (with Jordan)

## **OFFERING OUR GIFTS**

*(Thank you for remembering our church and its ministries in the offerings that you make to God. You may mail your gift to Guilford College UMC at 1205 Fleming Road, Greensboro, NC, 27410, or may drop it off in our secure lockbox outside of our church office. To give to the church or to our community assistance funds online, please visit the secure online giving link at our church website by clicking here:*

[\*\*CLICK HERE FOR GCUMC ONLINE GIVING\*\*](#) )

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rev. Susan Suárez Webster

# **LISTENING TO THE WORD**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

*Mark 1:1-11 (NRSV)*

Read by Pat and Kris Browne

**1** The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. **2** As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; **3** the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

**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.”

This is the Word of God, for us, the People of God.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON MESSAGE**

"The Voice"

Rev. Jeremy Troxler

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD:**  
**REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM**

**THE PROMISES OF BAPTISM**

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.**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

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?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator 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, 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?

**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.**

## **PRAYER OVER THE WATER**

Rev. Jeremy Troxler and Rev. Susan Suárez Webster

## **REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM & LORD'S PRAYER**

*(You are invited to dip your finger in your bowl or cup of water, and to make the sign of the cross on your forehead with your wet finger, repeating the words, "I am baptized" or "Remember your baptism, and be thankful." You may then spend a moment in silent prayer. We will conclude by saying the Lord's Prayer together)*

## **^HYMN OF COMMITMENT**

*O Jesus I Have Promised*

UM Hymnal #396, vs. 1, 3-4

O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
be thou forever near me,  
my Master and my friend.  
I shall not fear the battle  
if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me hear thee speaking  
in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will.  
O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen,  
thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised  
to all who follow thee  
that where thou art in glory  
there shall thy servant be.  
And Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my Friend.

**NEXT STEPS  
AND BLESSING**  
Rev. Susan Suárez Webster

**POSTLUDE**  
Ginny Williamson

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**GCUMC CONGREGATIONAL  
PRAYER CONCERNS**

Among those we are praying for:

## **GRIEVING THE RECENT DEATH OF A LOVED ONE**

*The Family and Friends of Martha Stone*  
*Sandy Proctor and Family, following the death of her uncle John Sharpe*  
*The Family and Friends of Laura Tew*  
*The Family and Friends of Audrey Staruch*  
*UM District Administrator Landa Wallace and Family*  
*(following the death of her mother)*  
*Grey and Dwight Lane and Family*  
*(following the death of Grey's parents, Mike and Phyllis Sanders)*

## **SUSTAINING PRAYERS**

*Vivienne Symonds (Mike Symond's mother - fall and injured shoulder)*  
*Gay Fischer (Nancy Blackwelder's mother)*  
*Myrtle Worley (Ann Sykes and Janet Green's mother)*  
*Betty Kirkman*  
*Chris Blyshak*  
*Heidi Cohen*  
*Carole Stevens*  
*Unnamed Youth and Family*

## **SUFFERING FROM CANCER**

*Scott Allen (home and awaiting upcoming appointments)*  
*Corey Marion (receiving treatments for cancer recurrence)*  
*Charles Crocker (chemotherapy)*  
*Doug Coley (recovering after bone marrow transplant)*  
*Nick Lubchenko (stem cell transplant)*  
*John Hodges (cancer treatments and test results)*  
*Unnamed Congregation Member*  
*Gene Briggs (Carol Ingram's brother)*  
*Rhona Wintersteen (Diane Derrick's cousin)*

## **SUFFERING FROM COVID-19**

*Rev. Don Newman*  
*Alan (Pastor Susan's brother-in-law)*  
*Elizabeth Murphy*  
*(Ty and Carolyn McDuffie's daughter - pneumonia from COVID-19)*  
*For all who are sick with COVID-19*  
*For all who are caring for others with COVID-19*  
*For the distribution of the vaccines for COVID-19*

## **RECOVERING FROM ILLNESS OR INJURY OR SURGERY**

*Jamye Christy*  
*(Mark Christy's sister-in-law - ICU from aneurysm and fall)*  
*Sherry Proctor (Harold and Sandy's sister-in-law -*

*hospitalized with paralysis)*  
*Jonathan Bullard (son of Hank and Cheryl - back surgery)*  
*Mike Corcoran (back surgery)*  
*Lilia Edwards (youth - broken wrist)*  
*Donna Bowman (eye surgery)*  
*Charlie Groves II (recovering from chest surgery)*  
*Janet VanHook (re-injured shoulder)*  
*Bob Walcott (back surgery)*  
*Patty Elkins (retina surgery)*

**UPCOMING TEST RESULTS OR SURGERY**

*Andy Manry (infection and hernia surgery)*  
*Wes Gullett (referral and tests at Duke)*  
*Rickey Vaughn (heart test on January 14th)*  
*John Leone (neck disc surgery January 15th)*  
*Suzie Padgett*

**PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD**

*Elizabeth and David Gamble + Palmer and Sophia Rae*  
*(missionary service at U of Montana)*  
*For our Preschool Director, Teachers, Students, and Families*  
*For our ministry partners in Kenya*  
*for all law enforcement officers*  
*for an end to racism,*  
*and true inter-racial beloved community in our church and nation*  
*for all teachers, educators, families and children*  
*For local, state, and national leaders*  
*for guidance, strength, and peace following the insurrection at the US Capitol*  
*For the Family and Friends of Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick*  
*For those in the mob whose hearts are filled with anger or hate*

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**OPPORTUNITIES TO  
WORSHIP, GATHER,  
GROW, AND GIVE  
TOGETHER**

**WORSHIP**

- **JOIN US FOR WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY EITHER ONLINE (BEGINNING WITH THE LIVESTREAM AT**

**11:00AM) OR FOR OUTDOOR/DRIVE-IN WORSHIP AT 2:30PM** - Just as reminder, due to the current and forecast pandemic conditions, we are not worshipping in-person in the sanctuary or in the fellowship hall through at least mid-January.

- **NEXT SUNDAY WE BEGIN A NEW SERMON SERIES CALLED "HEALTHY - HOLY - WHOLE"** - We will be studying Scriptures that speak to the relationship between faith and mental health, and will be addressing topics such as Anxiety, Depression, Addiction, and Bodily Health.

## GATHER

*\*Reminder: All In-door, In-Person Gatherings at GCUMC are paused due to COVID-19 pandemic conditions\**

- **WEDNESDAY NIGHT TAKEOUT RETURNS NEXT WEEK - ORDER YOUR MEAL NOW**- Please place your order for next week by NOON on MONDAY through our church's website or by clicking on the following link, which includes this week's menu of meat loaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread, and dump cake, along with a salad or children's option. (If you struggle with doing things online, you may also order by calling our church office at 336-292-5833.)

**[CLICK HERE TO PLACE YOUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT TAKEOUT ORDER](#)**

- **LIMITING VISITORS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE** - During this critical time in the pandemic, we are keeping our church office open to visitors from 9am until 2pm Monday through Thursday. For the sake of our staff however, we ask that church members please limit their in-person visits to necessary ministry, and to try as much as possible right now to communicate with us through other means such as telephone, email, or Zoom. If you do need to meet with a staff member in person, please dress warmly and expect to do so outdoors under the portico. Thank you for understanding and honoring this request. Other area church offices have suffered outbreaks already, and keeping our staff members safe from exposure not only protects them and their families but also allows the church's essential ministries to continue functioning without interruption.
- **ONLINE 2021 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMEMORATION: "THE URGENCY OF NOW; USHERING IN THE KINGDOM" - SATURDAY, JANUARY 16TH FROM 10AM -11:30AM** - Sponsored by the

Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. This year's keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. Joseph Daniels, Jr., lead pastor of The Emory Fellowship in Washington, D.C. For more information (including about the cash prize essay and art contest for elementary, middle school, and high school students) and to find the links to join the service online, please click on the link below.

**[CLICK HERE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE MLK JR  
COMMEMORATION ON JANUARY 16TH](#)**

**GROW**

*\*Reminder: All In-door, In-Person Gatherings at GCUMC are paused due to COVID-19 pandemic conditions. Many of our groups are also taking a break during the week after Christmas.\**

- **NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY ON "EZEKIEL" BEGINS JANUARY 19TH AND 20TH** - The book of Ezekiel reminds us to seek out the Lord in those dark times when we feel lost, to examine our own lives, and to align ourselves with the one true God. The study, called "Ezekiel: Then You Will Know That I Am The Lord" will be held via Zoom on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm starting January 19th and on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:45am starting January 20th. The workbook costs \$23. Contact Donna Ford at [dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org](mailto:dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org) to register or for more information.
- **GCUMC YOUTH GATHERING THROUGH ZOOM THIS SUNDAY AT 4:00PM** - The zoom invite was sent to youth and parents - to receive it, please contact Randy Wall at [rwall@guilfordcollegeumc.org](mailto:rwall@guilfordcollegeumc.org).
- **FAITH FILES (GRADES 4-6) AND FAITH FRIENDS (GRADES K-3) CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ON WEDNESDAY AT 6:30PM THROUGH ZOOM** - Questions? Contact Donna Ford at [dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org](mailto:dford@guilfordcollegeumc.org)

**GIVE**

- **EMERGENCY RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE AT GCUMC THIS THURSDAY, JANUARY 14TH FROM 2PM-6:30PM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL** - Special social distancing and health and safety protocols will be in place for donors and volunteers. To sign up to schedule a time to give, please click on the online link below, enter the church's 27410 area code, and scroll down to find our blood drive.

To volunteer or ask questions, please contact David Saunders of our church at [dsaunders13@triad.rr.com](mailto:dsaunders13@triad.rr.com) .

**[CLICK HERE TO SCHEDULE YOUR BLOOD DONATION ON JANUARY 14TH](#)**

• **GCUMC EMERGENCY FOOD DRIVE FOR GREENSBORO URBAN MINISTRY: JANUARY**

**17TH-24TH**- Help feed the hungry in our community during a time of desperate need! Please drop off all donations at the church in the wagon located near the bell tower between Sunday, January 17th and Sunday, January 24th. THESE are the Items we are specifically asking for and that are G-U-M friends say are always the most needed: **Boxed Macaroni and Cheese, Peanut Butter, Large containers of Oats, Canned Soup**

• **CAN YOU HELP SUPPLY BACKPACKS OF FOOD FOR HUNGRY CHILDREN?**

With elementary students returning to in-person learning, we are looking to serve students at Guilford Elementary through the BACKPACK CLUB. The CLUB purchases, packs and delivers extra food to needy students every Friday to help with food for the weekend. Would you be able to sponsor a child with your prayers and a monetary gift of \$200 for the remainder of the school year? Please contact Pastor Susan at [ssuarezwebster@guilfordcollegeumc.org](mailto:ssuarezwebster@guilfordcollegeumc.org) or Susan Marshall at [stmarshas@gmail.com](mailto:stmarshas@gmail.com) if you are able to make this commitment or if you have any questions.

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**QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION AND JOURNEY GROUP DISCUSSION**  
*(Choose any which most interest or speak to you)*

1. Where and when were you baptized? What do you know or remember about your own baptism?
2. What does baptism mean to you?
3. In what ways is baptism an ongoing comfort to Christians?
4. What are some of the "voices" in the world that confuse people about their truest identity?

5. Why do you think some of us hear voices of condemnation or self-hatred inside ourselves? Where do you think that comes from? How have you encountered this either in yourself or others?
6. What helps you to live as a beloved child of God, and to love yourself rightly in the way God intends?
7. What's a story or insight from the sermon that resonated with you? Why?