



Those who are baptized no longer belong to the world, no longer serve the world, and are no longer subject to it. They belong to Christ alone, and relate to the world only through Christ.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

JANUARY 10TH, 2021 | BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

CARILLON PRELUDE

– ENTRANCE –

PASTORAL WELCOME

The Reverend Dr. Cathy S. Gilliard

We welcome all visitors to our service this morning. If you wish to sign up for our email newsletter, please visit paumcnyc.org/maillinglist.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah Fish

One: God's voice speaks to our chaos, echoing in our hearts,
People: Gathering us together to remember our baptism.
One: God's voice flows like the living waters of grace,
People: Giving us our new name, 'Beloved,' resounding in our souls.
One: God's voice stirs the waters of baptismal hope,
People: Calling us to be bearers of peace to a world of broken hopes.

*HYMN

#605

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

*Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people, bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.*

*We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares,
One with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.*

*O how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!*

Words: Ruth Duck

Music: B.F. White; harm. by Ronald A. Nelson

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Minister: Holy God, giver of light and life, send your Spirit among us. Confirm our baptism with the fire of your love. Direct our ministry in the footsteps of Jesus so that we may experience liberation, and extend the blessings of freedom to those who are bound. Impart to us thoughts higher than our own thoughts, prayers better than our own prayers, and powers beyond our own powers, that we may spend and be spent in the ways of love after the image of Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Liz Sweeney

– PROCLAMATION –

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Mark 1:4-11

Reader: Heather Cole-Lewis

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

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

From the New Revised Standard Version

CHRIST'S PEACE

Minister: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Please greet one those around you at home with a sign of peace and love.

HYMN #334

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

*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 Spirit, 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.*

Words and Music: Doris Akers

SERMON

Rev. Cathy S. Gilliard

"I Am Baptized"

MUSICAL REFLECTION

– RESPONSE –

REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Introduction

Minister: 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

One: 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?

People: **I do.**

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

People: I do.

One: 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?

People: I do.

One: 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?

People: I will.

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

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth;

And 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.

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.

Thanksgiving over the Water

Minister: Eternal God, 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. 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. 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.

Congregational Response

People: All praise to you, Eternal God, through your son, Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever. Amen.

Thanksgiving

Minister: Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of our covenant God.

People: 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 renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Minister: 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.

People: Amen.

– SENDING FORTH –

HYMN

#400

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.*

*Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.*

Words: Robert Robinson

Music: Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music

BENEDICTION

MUSICAL BENEDICTION

"God Be With You"

Derrick Byars

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If you're new to our community, here are a few ways to get to know us:

- **Visit our website** at paumcnyc.org to learn more about our community.
- **Follow us online** on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram at [@paumcnyc](https://www.instagram.com/paumcnyc).
- **Join our mailing list.** Stay up to date with everything happening at PAUMC by signing up for our mailing list. You will receive Pastor Cathy's weekly reflection, *Life & Faith*, and other important announcements. Sign up on our website at paumcnyc.org/maillinglist.

PARK AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IS:

- A diverse congregation representing more than 40 nationalities.
- A community of believers who affirm Christ's call to love God with all that we are and serve our neighbors as ourselves.
- A place that is open and affirming to our visitors. All people are welcome here.
- A part of a world-wide, Christian denomination, the United Methodist Church.
- A member of the Reconciling Ministries Network, which mobilizes United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to transform our Church and world into the full expression of Christ's inclusive love. Visit rmnetwork.org to learn more.

