

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

*Celebrating the Baptism of Our Lord and  
the Work and Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*January 15, 2023*

*10:00 AM*

# PRELUDE

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

Hughes

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Christian Life Groups, this morning following worship.
- MLK Day of Service Interfaith Panel Discussion and Worship, Monday (1/16) at 6 PM at Macedonia Baptist Church in Newtown.
- Session Meeting, Tuesday (1/17) at 7 PM.
- Sharing Session: Advertising with Dana Winslow, Wednesday (1/18) at 2 PM.
- Women's "Digging Deeper" Study, Wednesday (1/18) at 4 PM.
- Esther Circle, Thursday (1/19) at 1 PM.
- Congregational Meeting (1/29) following worship (Annual Reports due today).

# RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God of the waters. Water of birth,

**MANY: Moving us from safety into the world.**

ONE: God of the waters. Water of connection,

**MANY: Engaging the playful Spirit, the passionate Christ, the challenging God.**

ONE: God of the waters. Water of life,

**MANY: Sustaining, quenching, cleansing.**

ONE: God of the waters. Water of trouble,

**MANY: Journeying us from here to there, from the known to the unknown.**

ONE: God of the waters.

**MANY: Birth us. Connect us. Live in us. Stir us up!**

# HYMN

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

NETTLETON

**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 God's unchanging love!**

**Here I raise my 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 that grace now, 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.**

# **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of justice, we confess that in the pursuit of our own dreams and desires, we have not always been civil, not always humane, not always right. Guided by your Spirit, what we would like to do is change the world – make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as You intended them to do. Help us to be your witnesses, by fighting for better conditions, by crying out unceasingly for the rights of the workers, the poor, of the destitute – the rights of the worthy and the unworthy poor, so that we can, with your help, change the world. Enlarge our hearts to love each other, to love our neighbor, and to love our enemy as our friend. Amen.**

*(We pause for a moment of silent personal confession.)*

## **RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

ONE: God continues to proclaim release to the captives, sight to the blind, Good News to the poor and freedom to the oppressed. We live as loved, forgiven and free people through the grace of God!

**MANY: Hallelujah! Amen.**



# HYMN

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*      *GLORY TO GOD*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

*Mark 1:4-11*

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

*Acts 19:1-7*

**SERMON**

*One of These Things...*

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

## **OFFERING SENTENCE**

*(Scan the QR Code to give online →)*

## **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*Wade in the Living Water*



Rebecca Fair and Michael Barrett

# **DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

# RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS AND RESPONSIVE LITANY FOR JUSTICE

## Opening Sentences

PASTOR JUDY: Hear these words from Holy Scripture  
(1 Cor. 12:12–13, 27):

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

ANDY: *“I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states. I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham...”*

ALL: ***“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”***

MLK Jr. 16 April 1963

## *Profession of Faith*

PASTOR JUDY:

Through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ, the power of sin was broken and God's kingdom entered our world. Through our baptism we were made citizens of God's kingdom and freed from the bondage of brokenness. Let us celebrate that freedom and redemption through the renewal of the promises made at our baptism. I ask you once more to reject evil, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, and to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we were baptized.

**ALL:** *“We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed... We had no alternative except to prepare for direct action, whereby we would present our very bodies as a means of laying our case before the conscience of the local and the national community. Mindful of the difficulties involved, we decided to undertake a process of self-purification. We began a series of workshops on nonviolence, and we repeatedly asked ourselves: ‘Are you able to accept blows without retaliating?’ ‘Are you able to endure the ordeal of jail?’”*



## Renewal of Baptismal Vows

PASTOR JUDY: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

**ALL: I do.**

DANA: *“Paul Tillich has said that sin is separation. Is not segregation an existential expression of man’s tragic separation, his awful estrangement, his terrible sinfulness?”*

PASTOR JUDY: Who is your Lord and Savior?

**ALL: Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**

**ALL:**     *“Was not Jesus an extremist for love: ‘Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.’... the question is not whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists we will be. Will we be extremists for hate or for love?”*

PASTOR JUDY: Will you be Christ’s faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

**ALL:**     **I will, with God’s help.**

JES: *“I have traveled the length and breadth of Alabama, Mississippi and all the other southern states. On sweltering summer days and crisp autumn mornings I have looked at the South’s beautiful churches with their lofty spires pointing heavenward. I have beheld the impressive outlines of her massive religious education buildings. Over and over I have found myself asking: “What kind of people worship here? Who is their God?”*

### *Profession of Faith*

PASTOR JUDY: With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

**ALL: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.**

STEVE: *“In deep disappointment I have wept over the laxity of the church. But be assured that my tears have been tears of love. There can be no deep disappointment where there is not deep love. Yes, I love the church. How could I do otherwise? I am in the rather unique position of being the son, the grandson and the great grandson of preachers. Yes, I see the church as the body of Christ. But, oh! How we have blemished and scarred that body through social neglect and through fear of being nonconformists.”*

## *Prayer of Thanksgiving for Baptism*

PASTOR JUDY: We rejoice that you claimed us in our baptism, and that by your grace we are born anew. By your Holy Spirit renew us, that we may be empowered to do your will and continue forever in the risen life of Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever. Amen.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER (*sung*)**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
And the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

# HYMN

*We Shall Overcome*

*WE SHALL OVERCOME*

**We shall overcome;**

**We shall overcome;**

**We shall overcome someday.**

**O, deep in my heart I do believe**

**We shall overcome someday!**



**We'll walk hand in hand;  
We'll walk hand in hand;  
We'll walk hand in hand someday.  
O, deep in my heart I do believe  
We shall overcome someday!**

**We shall live in peace;  
We shall live in peace;  
We shall live in peace someday.  
O, deep in my heart I do believe  
We shall overcome someday!**

**We are not afraid;**

**We are not afraid;**

**We are not afraid today.**

**O, deep in my heart I do believe**

**We shall overcome someday!**

**God will see us through;  
God will see us through;  
God will see us through today.  
O, deep in my heart I do believe  
We shall overcome someday!**

# RESPONSIVE BLESSING

ONE: Let us all hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away

**MANY: And the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear drenched communities,**

ONE: And in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**MANY: Amen!**

# POSTLUDE

*It Is Well with My Soul*

*Bliss*

*At the conclusion of the service, you are invited to come to the font  
and take a water droplet to remind yourself of your baptism  
and the promises made on your behalf, as well as  
the promises you have made in renewing your baptismal vows.*

## WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship** is written by Scott A. Ressman in *Immerse Yourself: Elements for a Liturgy on Baptism of Christ Sunday*. Posted on the **United Church of Christ** website.

The **Prayer of Confession** is inspired by a quote from Dorothy Day. It was written by Eric Thomas and posted on More Light Presbyterians. <https://mlp.org/2014/01/18/mlk-sunday>

The **Responsive Litany for Justice** was created using excerpts from “Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” widely published and included in *I Have A Dream: Writings & Speeches That Changed the World*, NY: HarperOne, James Melvin Washington, Ed. 1986 and 1992, 83.

The **Blessing** is the concluding paragraph of Dr. King’s *Letter*.

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# CHRISTIAN LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

*Baptism of the Lord Sunday: Mark 1:4-11 in conversation with Acts 19:1-7*

Questions for Discussion:

1. Mark's account of Jesus' baptism makes a distinction between the kind of baptism John gives and the baptism that Jesus will give. What is the difference and why is it important for us?
2. In the Acts reading, Paul suggests that what the disciples received in John's baptism was insufficient. Then he proceeds to baptize them again. What are some of the questions this raises for us as Presbyterians?
3. Share what you remember, if anything about your own baptism. If you were baptized as an infant, who told you about it as you grew older? Who baptized you, and where? Who was present to witness your baptism?
4. How has your baptism transformed your life? How do you live out your baptism?