

TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

January 14, 2024 9:30 AM
The Rev. Richard G. Reed, Pastor



THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

—TOGETHER WE WORSHIP THE LIVING GOD—

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Tully United Community Church would like to acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation, Fire-keepers of the Haudenosaunee, the indigenous peoples on whose ancestral lands our buildings now stand.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We welcome, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, all who have gathered to worship God together – those who are here in person, and those joining us on ZOOM. Are there any **BRIEF** announcements? Let us worship God.*

PRELUDE

“Worthy Is The Lamb”
TUCC Praise Band

Hillsong

GREETING

Celebrant: God-made-flesh has come not only for those to whom the Christ was sent, but indeed for the whole world. Let us watch for signs of his revelation to all of creation as we join in worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Darkness is gone. New Hope has arisen for each of us.

People: We are forgiven and blessed.

Liturgist: We are marked by God as disciples.

People: God has entrusted us with God's own message of hope.

Liturgist: Come, Spirit of God, and rest upon us.

People: Enable us to be people of hope and peace.

Let us pray:

Lord of Hope and Light, in the midst of darkness you offered light to people who lived in fear. Today that light comes to us as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Open our hearts this day and remind us that you have marked us as people of hope and light. Prepare us to serve you by serving your world in the spirit of Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

HYMN

"I Sing The Almighty Power Of God"

#152

1. I sing the almighty power of God, that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

2. I sing the goodness of the Lord, who filled the earth with food,
who formed the creatures thru the Word, and then pronounced them
good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.

3. There's not a plant or flower below, but makes thy glories known,
and clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne;
while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care;
and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.

PASSING THE PEACE

Celebrant: *The peace of Christ be with you.*

People: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Celebrant: *Let us share signs of welcome and peace with our neighbors.*

-WE REJOICE IN THE WORD OF GOD-

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

Here ends the reading.

PSALTER

Psalm 29

#761

R

♪ With joy the Lord of Hosts proclaim; extol the great almighty name. ♪

Liturgist: Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**People: Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendor.**

L: The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, upon many waters.

**P: The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. R**

L: The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;

P: the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

L: The Lord makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

P: The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

L: The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;

P: the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

L: The voice of the LORD makes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forests bare;

P: and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

L: The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as Ruler forever.

P: May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace! R

SECOND LESSON

Acts 19:1-7

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

Here ends the reading.

****GLORIA PATRI**

#70

**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. Amen.**

****THE GOSPEL**

+ Mark 1:4-11 +

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And the whole Judean region 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 strap 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 upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Celebrant: This is the Word of God. All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

The Rev. Richard G. Reed

CHORAL ANTHEM

**“Morning Has Broken”
Laura Currie Chancel Choir**

arr. Cat Stevens

- WE BOW BEFORE THE LORD IN PRAYER -

SHARING JOYS, AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (using “sins”)

#894

Bidding: Give strength to your people, O God;

Response: and bless us with your peace.

Gracious and loving Creator, in Christ you have revealed to all the earth the mystery of your love, spreading your illumination and your abundant promises to all humanity. Hear us now and visit us with that light as we pray: Give strength to your people, O God; **and bless us with your peace.**

Guide your church, O Holy One, that it may manifest the boundless riches of Christ by becoming a true servant of your grace.

Give strength to your people, O God; **and bless us with your peace.**

Let the nations come to your light, O God, and bring rulers to the brightness of your day, that they may rule your people righteously, speak truthfully and serve the poor with justice and equity.

Give strength to your people, O God; **and bless us with your peace.**

Thwart the schemes of those who abuse the resources of the world, O Creator, that the showers that water the earth may produce bountifully for all. Call us to renew our work as good stewards of your earth.

Give strength to your people, O God; **and bless us with your peace.**

Manifest your Son to our community, O Merciful One, and lead us to your presence, that we might remember the lowly and poor, and preserve the lives of the needy.

Give strength to your people, O God; **and bless us with your peace.**

We pray for those for whom our prayers have been requested, especially those we have named aloud and those we now bring before you in silence.
(moment of silence) We give thanks for the many blessings you bestow upon us – treasures of your boundless grace.

Give strength to your people, O God; **and bless us with your peace.**

Celebrant: And so, gracious and loving God, we come before you with the gifts of ourselves: Accept the offering of our lives as vessels to hold and pour out your presence and let the light of your Spirit shine within and among us that we may share in the mystery of your loving purposes for all creation, through Jesus Christ our Savior who taught us to pray, saying:

**“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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.”**

-WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD-

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Celebrant: Together, we who have heard the call to follow Jesus in baptism, are also offering ourselves to the world, and opening ourselves to God's blessing, every time we give of ourselves more deeply to others. Through our tithes and offerings we renew our baptismal vows, and affirm God's reign in our lives as stewards of God's gifts. Come, let us bring our lives before God in the gifts we now offer.

DOXOLOGY, PRESENTATION, AND OFFERTORY PRAYER

#95

Celebrant: Thank you, God of Love, for the promise of this season. We are grateful for the generosity aroused in us by Christ's coming into the world. May these gifts represent a new spirit of joyous sharing among us, for the sake of all your children everywhere. Amen.

- WE ARE SENT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS -

HYMN

“When Jesus Came To Jordan”

#252

1. When Jesus came to Jordan To be baptized by John,
He did not come for pardon, But as his Father's Son.
He came to share repentance With all who mourn their sins,
To speak the vital sentence With which good news begins.

2. He came to share temptation, Our utmost woe and loss,
For us and our salvation To die upon the cross.
So when the Dove descended On him, the Son of Man,
The hidden years had ended, The age of grace began.

3. Come Holy Spirit aid us To keep the vows we make
This very day invade us And every bondage break
Come give our lives direction The gift we covet most
To share the resurrection That leads to Pentecost

BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

Celebrant: O Christ, our only Savior, so dwell within us that we may go forth with the light of hope in our eyes, and the fire of inspiration on our lips, with your Word on our tongues, and your love in our hearts.

And the blessings of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit go with you always.

People: Amen! Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“Precious Lord Take My Hand”

arr. Mark Hayes

****Indicates to rise if you are able**

Thoughts to Ponder After Worship:

- How do we in this time of health concerns, social unrest, environmental crisis, lust for power and profit, and deep division, communicate the goodness of God's creation? How do we practice not living in fear? How do we encourage it in one another?
- The Psalmist speaks of God's omnipotent strength and ends the song with: “May the Lord give strength to the people. May the Lord bless the people with peace.” What are the qualities that make us strong in God's eyes? What makes for peace in our lives?
- What does it mean to you for the Holy Spirit to come upon you?
- What do we have to do for God to be well pleased with us?