



Covenant Sunday
Baptism of the Lord
January 8, 2017

The Worship of God

Gathering

11 am Worship Begins

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

Leslie Truman

In the beginning, at creation, the Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep.

In the waters of the flood, God cleansed the earth and humankind.

God caused the waters to part so that Israel could cross from slavery to liberation.

God formed Jesus in the waters of Mary's womb.

Jesus taught us how to live by washing his disciples' feet in water.

**Drinking water from a well, Jesus met a Samaritan woman,
the first person to recognize that he was the Christ.**

Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, the Christ.

God meant for Jesus to be the firstborn in a large family.

Praise be!

***Hymn**

O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

UMH 57

Greeting

We want to know that you were here worshipping with us today, especially if you are a first time visitor. Please introduce yourself to your neighbors, fill in a Visitor's Card (found in your pew), and place it in the offering.

The Word Read and Shared

Psalm 29

UMH 761

***Gospel Reading**

Matthew 3:13-17

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Celebration of our Children

Children's Offering

Hymn *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* UMH 384

Sermon Rev. Ellen Hopkins

Responding to the Word

Call to Prayer *Down to the River to Pray* Chancel Choir

Pastoral Prayer

The Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Musical Offering *O Come, Thou Traveler Unknown* Chancel Choir

***The Doxology** #95

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below!
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts!
Praise God, the Son and Holy Ghost!. Amen.**

**Congregational Reaffirmation of
the Baptismal Covenant**

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 the 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.

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?

I will.

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.**

The Covenant

In the old covenant, God chose Israel to be a special people and to obey the law. Our Lord Jesus Christ, by his death and resurrection, has made a new covenant with all who trust in him. We stand within this covenant and we bear his name. On the one side, God promises in this covenant to give us new life in Christ. On the other side, we are pledged to live not for ourselves but for God. Today, therefore, we meet to renew the covenant which binds us to God.

(Please stand)

Friends, let us claim the covenant God has made with his people, and accept the yoke of Christ. To accept the yoke of Christ means that we allow Christ to guide all that we do and are, and that Christ himself is our only reward. Christ has many services to be done; some are easy, others are difficult; some make others applaud us, others bring only reproach; some we desire to do because of our own interests; others seem unnatural. Sometimes we please Christ and meet our own needs, at other times we cannot please Christ unless we deny ourselves. Yet Christ strengthens us and gives us the power to do all these things. Therefore let us make this covenant of God our own. Let us give ourselves completely to God, trusting in his promises and relying on his grace.

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low by thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Before the mountains were brought forth or you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting you alone are God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. You sent a star to guide the Magi to where the Christ was born; and your signs and witnesses in every age and through all the world have led your people from far places to his light. In his baptism and in his table fellowship he took your place with sinners. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who were oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

**Our Father (Creator) 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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread and Taking of the Cup

Blessing of the Water

Giving of the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Baptized in Water

TFWS 2248

Prayer After Communion

Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of our covenant God.

**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 will faithfully 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.**

We Depart to Love and Serve

Announcements

***Hymn**

Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies

UMH 173

Dismissal with Blessing

May the God who established a covenant with those who seek to enter the kingdom be always present with you. **Amen.**

May Jesus Christ who sealed the new covenant with his sacrifice on the cross bring you peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit of God guide your life, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Go in peace to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

***The Congregational Blessing**

Go Now in Peace

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.

Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe,

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

***The Light Goes Forth**

Postlude

*Stand as you are able.

WE REJOICE TO WELCOME YOU to this service of worship at St. Paul United Methodist Church. We pray God's blessing upon you this morning. We are pleased you chose to worship with us today. If you are just visiting, we encourage you to fill in a Visitor's Card (found in your pew) and place it in the offering so we can be in touch with you. If you are looking for a church home, look no further—you have found one at St. Paul. If this community can assist you in any way, please let us know. If you are interested in becoming a member of this church or want to talk about membership, please speak with our Pastor, Rev. Ellen Hopkins, after the service. **Welcome. Welcome. Welcome!!!**

WORSHIP LEADERS AND SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Presider: Rev. Ellen Hopkins

Liturgist: Leslie Truman

Children's Time: Bryan Russell

Acolytes: Richard, Sam and Nicholas Quartarone

Ushers: Angela Russell (Head Usher), Cooper Russell, Marcus Merritt,
Richard Quartarone

Altar Guild: Karen Merritt

Coffee, Cookies and Conversation: Spencer Adair

Counters: Ron Rezendes

Want more information about what's happening at St. Paul? We generally send out emails weekly. If you'd like to be on our email list, contact the church office at office@stpaulgrantpark.org or 404-688-7501.

Activities. Members, visitors, friends, all are invited to participate in the various ministries at St. Paul. If you need more information please call the church office 404-688-7501.

Every Sunday:

- 10am **Sunday School** (all ages)
- 8:45am **Worship First** (casual, contemporary service with Holy Communion)
- 11am **Morning Worship** (traditional service)
- 12-ish **Hospitality:** Coffee, Cookies and Conversation (Chester Commons, most Sundays)

Every Wednesday:

- 7:00pm **Chancel Choir** [kevinhowardhill@gmail.com]

Youth Group Variable schedule. Contact Treah Caldwell (miss.treah@gmail.com) to be placed on her contact list.

Nursery is available for infants and young toddlers on the 3rd floor of the education building prior to and during the worship service. After the Children's Sermon, children ages 3 through 2nd grade may go up to Children's Church on the third floor or remain in their pews with their parents.

St. Paul United Methodist Church ▪ 501 Grant St. SE ▪ Atlanta, GA 30312
www.stpaulgrantpark.org ▪ 404-688-7501

Rev. S. Ellen Hopkins ▪ Pastor
Kevin Hill ▪ Minister of Music
Larry Stokes ▪ Organist
Sh'Kur Francis ▪ Contextual Education Intern
Martika Harris ▪ Sunday Shepherd ▪ Director, Recreation Ministries
Becky Wellman ▪ Director, Golden Age Center
Ginny Pavey ▪ Office Manager

