

Woodbury United Methodist Church



Sunday January 21, 2024

10:30 AM Worship

Woodbury United Methodist Church

January 21, 2024
Baptism of the Lord

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *“Creation Shall Be at Peace”* Page

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The Lord says: I have called you by name,
you are mine.

All: We are God’s beloved children forever.

L: When we pass through the waters,

All The Lord is with us.

L: When we pass through the rivers

All: They will not overwhelm us.

L: When we walk through fire

All: The fire shall not burn or consume us.

L: We are precious in God’s sight,
honored and beloved.

**All: We are formed by God,
and called by name.**

L: Let us worship our God who loves us.

All: Let us bring God our worship and praise!

*OPENING HYMN *“I Sing the Almighty Power of God”* UMH #152

OPENING PRAYER

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 1:1-5

Following each lesson is said:

May we hear through this reading the Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

*HYMN

Down by the Jordan

TFWS 3045

Down by the Jordan, a prophet named John was baptizing,
Preaching a message the people found bold and surprising:
"God will forgive! Show that you'll change how you live!
Surely God's new day is rising!"

There by the river, the crowd came with great expectation:
"Are you God's Chosen One, sent here to rescue our nation?"
"No!" John replied. "He who is mightier than I
Judges and offers salvation."

Jesus, you went to be baptized with all of the others,
Taking your place among sinners, God's lost sons and daughters.
Then with great love, God's Spirit came as a dove!
Your work began in those waters.

Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God's Spirit.
Freed and forgiven, we're welcomed with joy! Can you hear it?
This is God's sign! This is how God says, "You're mine!"
Let's take the good news and share it!

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:4-11

SERMON

The Rev. Herb Miller

REAFFIRMATION OF OUR BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

The pastor addresses the congregation, and the congregation responds:

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.

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.

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.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

(Those who would like are welcome to come forward to have water placed on their forehead)

BLESSING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Following each prayer is said:

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayers

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY *“Down to the River to Pray”* Traditional

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

*CLOSING HYMN *“This Is the Spirit’s Entry Now”* UMH #608

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *“When Jesus Came to Jordan”* William Walker

Please join us downstairs for a time of fellowship and refreshment.

*Please stand as you are able.

Visitors are warmly welcomed!

Thanks to all those making special contributions to our worship service today; Liturgist; JoAnn Belhman; Carol Quinby and James Levario, Greeters and Ushers; Mark Davis, AV Tech

The Prayer Corner

Continued prayers for the release of hostages and for peace in the Middle East; for the end of the war in Russia and the Ukraine; prayers for our congregation and new leadership that we will serve God together in the coming year with a sense of joy and purpose, prayers for stabilization and peace in Ecuador; for help and support for those who have suffered loss in the recent storms we've had this winter; healing for Bob Asman.

Woodbury United Methodist Church

We are a welcoming Christian fellowship who celebrate and share God's love with everyone. We seek a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. Inspired by His example, we strive to be God's hands in this world. Empowered by God's word, we proclaim the Gospel and serve through worship, study, mission, and community support.

Rev. Herb Miller, Pastor
Barb and Jeff Hunt, Lay Leaders
Christopher Shay, Director of Music
Matti Paparazzo, Administrative Assistant

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Pastor Herb email revherbertmiller@gmail.com

Food Bank

Woodbury UMC needs two volunteers each Friday in February to help at the Woodbury Food Bank. Beginning Sunday, January 14 there will be signup sheets in the Narthex, the Vestibule outside the church office and downstairs at coffee hour.

Volunteers are asked to work from 10:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Food Bank is located behind LaBonne's. If you can give some time on one of these Fridays, please sign up. Please contact Meg Temple with any questions.

Ashes for all - Volunteers needed

In an effort to bring the church to the people, we will be offering Ashes to people at various places throughout the town. We need some volunteers willing to take a shift someplace in the area. We will provide instructions on what to do and how to answer possible questions. Its a great opportunity to serve the church and community. Please speak to Pastor Herb or email him at revherbertmiller@gmail.com

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers are given by Carolyn Shay in loving memory of her dad, Arthur "Ty" Ayars.

For those of you interested, we are still doing altar flowers to honor loved ones. If you would like to buy some flowers, you can fill out a slip in the office. All flowers are \$30.

Here are a couple of highlights from last weeks service for you to review

THE CUP OF ENDURANCE RUNS OVER

We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed. ...For years now I have heard the word "Wait!" It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This "Wait" has almost always meant "Never." ...Perhaps it is easy for those who

have never felt the stinging darts of segregation to say, "Wait."

But when you have seen vicious mobs lynch your mothers and fathers at will and drown your sisters and brothers at whim;

When you have seen hate-filled policemen curse, kick and even kill
your black brothers and sisters;

When you see the vast majority of your twenty million Negro brothers smothering in an airtight cage of poverty in the midst of an affluent society;

When you suddenly find your tongue twisted and your speech stammering as you seek to explain to your six year old daughter why she can't go to the public amusement park that has just been advertised on television, and see tears welling up in her eyes when she is told that Funtown is closed to colored children, and see ominous clouds of inferiority beginning to form in her little mental sky, and see her beginning to distort her personality by developing an unconscious bitterness toward white people;

When you have to concoct an answer for a five year old son who is asking: "Daddy, why do white people treat colored people so mean?"

When you take a cross county drive and find it necessary to sleep night after night in the uncomfortable corners of your automobile because no motel will accept you;

When you are harried by day and haunted by night by the fact that you are a Negro, living constantly at tiptoe stance, never quite

knowing what to expect next, and are plagued with inner fears and
outer resentments;

When you are forever fighting a degenerating sense of "nobodiness"--
then you will understand why we find it difficult to wait.

There comes a time when the cup of endurance runs over, and men
are no longer willing to be plunged into the abyss of despair. I hope,
sirs, you can understand our legitimate and unavoidable impatience.

-Letter from a Birmingham Jail.

WINTERS OF DELAY

"There's a famine in your nation today. You can't understand it.

Every city you have in your country today is a little powder keg.
Riots breaking out, day in and day out. And, America, you wonder
what is wrong. You must be told, America, that a riot is the language
of the unheard. And what is it that America has failed to hear? It's
failed to hear that the economic plight of the Negro poor has
worsened. It's failed to hear that the promises of freedom and
equality have not been met. It fails to hear that large segments of
white society are more concerned about tranquility and the status
quo than about justice and humanity.

And this is it. A famine has broken out. And there isn't any way to
deal with this famine. It's a misguided outbreak – as I have said –
riots are socially destructive and self-defeating, and I will stand up
and condemn them at every point, but at the same time I must
condemn the conditions that make people feel so hopeless. What
makes them feel in such despair that they engage in this kind of
misguided action. America needs to hear something. And that is, that
our summers of riots are caused by winters of delay. As long as the
Negro doesn't get freedom, and as long as he doesn't get it now,
there's going to be tension all over this nation.

There's a famine in this country. A moral and spiritual famine,
because somewhere America strayed away from home. But I can
hear the voice of God saying, 'America, it isn't too late, if you will
only come to yourself. ... Jesus is saying to America, 'Come home.'"

– From a 1966 sermon entitled: *"The Prodigal Son"*