

Reading for January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Woodbury Methodist Church

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Creator Spirit, who hovered over the waters at creation's birth,  
who descended in the form of a dove at Jesus' baptism,  
who was poured out like fire and wind at Pentecost,  
who marked us as your beloved children at our baptisms:  
Come to us, open our hearts and minds, so that we may hear your Word in scripture  
and be renewed by your power, so that we may be your faith-filled people serving  
others in your name.

## **A reading from the book of Genesis 1:1-5 and Mark 1:4-11**

### **Six Days of Creation and the Sabbath**

<sup>1</sup> When God began to create<sup>Ⓜ</sup> the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God<sup>Ⓜ</sup> swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

### **MARK**

<sup>4</sup> so John the baptizer appeared<sup>Ⓜ</sup> in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with<sup>Ⓜ</sup> water, but he will baptize you with<sup>Ⓜ</sup> the Holy Spirit."

### **The Baptism of Jesus**

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from the heavens,  
"You are my Son, the Beloved;<sup>(d)</sup> with you I am well pleased."

This Scripture is the feast of Wisdom  
**Thanks be to God**