

LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 10, 2021 Baptism of the Lord
“At Home Worship”

Call to Worship

A voice comes from heaven and calls us beloved.

Water washes over us and we are changed.

A voice tells us we are precious in God's sight.

Our love, praise, and gratitude greet the Spirit who blesses us in baptism.

Let us worship the One who calls from the water - the God of love and transformation.

Opening Prayer God of love, in this time of worship help us hear you claim us as your own as you call us beloved; help us claim our own identity as precious and honored. As we reaffirm our baptism this day, remind us who we are and whose we are. Strengthen us to do the work of peace and justice to which you call us that we may, by your grace, transform our fragmented world into your beloved Kingdom. Amen.

Scripture Reading “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you” Read Isaiah 60.1-6

Prayer of Confession God of water and Spirit, it is hard to hear your voice calling us beloved amid the sound of voices around us. Even when we hear your voice, it is hard to believe the depth of your love for us. Open our ears, Beloved One, to hear your voice. Open our eyes to see your amazing presence in the world. Help us feel your strength filling us and enabling us to be and do what you call us to be and do and forgive us our doubts and excuses, we pray. Amen.

Time of Silent Confession *Our loving God invites us to share the confessions of our hearts.*

Words of Assurance Trust the promise of the One who said at your birth, ‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name, and you are mine.’ May we believe this in our hearts and be at peace in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Scripture Reading “Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.” Read Mark 1.4-11

Remembering our Joys and Concerns in Prayer *We come to worship with many concerns upon our hearts but also joys in our lives. You are invited to share them with God in this time of silence.*

Baptism of the Lord Prayer (insert) and **The Lord's Prayer**

Scripture Reading “A voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” Read Matthew 3.13-17

Meditation As we consider Jesus' baptism on this second Sunday of the new year, I'm wondering if you remember your baptism. If, like me, you received this Sacrament as an infant, chances are that you do not. Perhaps, however, you have seen family photos of the special day or wore a baptismal outfit handed down through the generations. Maybe there are stories that have been handed down as well – such as the one my family tells of the baptism of my youngest son, Aaron. He was born in November and we planned his baptism for January (silly, right?!). We did have an ice storm on that Sunday so my family was unable to travel to join us; in addition, the church treasurer had forgotten to call the oil company for a delivery so the tank was empty and the church cold. So, we all crowded into the parsonage for worship. Thirty years later, I can still picture the

District Superintendent sitting in the hallway outside our bathroom!

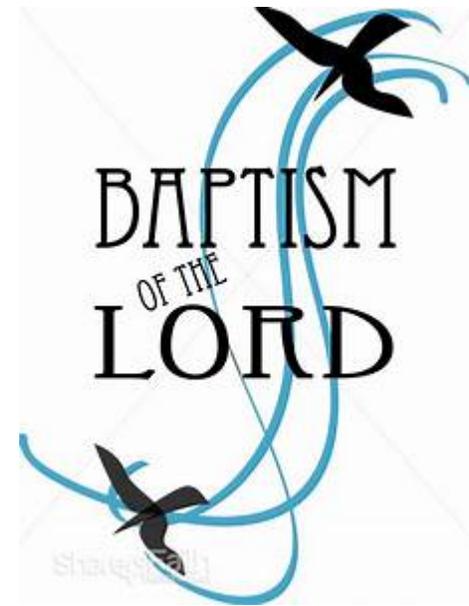
Did those baptized in the Jordan remember their encounter with John the Baptist for decades afterwards? Given Mark's description of this man "*clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist and he ate locusts and wild honey,*" chances are good that they did. But, hopefully, it was his message that they remembered more for John proclaimed, "*The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me...I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.*" Imagine the excitement in the air as God's people waited for the coming of their Messiah.

When he arrived, as Matthew's gospel explains, Jesus felt that he should be baptized by John – who was astonished at this request – but was privileged to baptize Jesus nonetheless. As John did, one of the most Spirit-filled moments of the Scripture narrative occurred. As the heavens opened, God's Spirit descended upon Jesus and God claimed him as His very own, reminding us of the words of the prophet, Isaiah: "*I have called you by name, you are mine.*"

Whether we remember our baptism day or not, what is most important to know is that this very same experience of God's Spirit happened for us that day. As the water of baptism was placed upon us, God's Spirit blessed us. At that moment, we were welcomed into the family of God. For me, and I pray for you as well, that welcome set the course for a life of faithful discipleship, a life devoted to following the Christ in whose name we were baptized. For this Sacrament and this sacred calling to be disciples for Christ, we give thanks to the God who calls us God's very own; may we claim our identity as precious and loved.

Reaffirmation of Baptism (insert)

Words of Benediction Go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit, filled with faith and hope. Go forth as beloved children of God to proclaim the hope and peace of Christ.



Baptism of the Lord

Lisbon United Methodist Church
welcomes, nurtures, and serves
all people
with the love of Christ.