



January 12, 2025
 First Sunday after Epiphany

WE GATHER

CENTERING

PRELUDE

River

Composer: Thomas Keesecker, living
 Ann Bartlow, Piano

WELCOME

Jennifer Young, Chair, AIM (Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry)

CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER

Brian Jones, Liturgist

ONE:	Remember your baptism!
ALL:	A sign of God's love for us that never ends.
ONE:	Remember your baptism!
ALL:	A sign of our belonging in this community of God's people.
ONE:	Remember your baptism!
ALL:	A call from God to change our hearts and lives.
ONE:	Remember your baptism!
ALL:	We remember and give thanks.

ONE:	<p>God, you make us one family in your name, and look on us with love even when we haven't got things quite right. Turn us, and re-turn us, O God, until we are oriented toward your providing grace. Let your voice echo in our hearts this day, calling out Beloved and leading us to a new way of life.</p>
ALL:	Amen.

WORD

ANTHEM

Down in the River to Pray

Arr.: Marcello Noia, b. 1963

Chancel Choir: Dr. Michael Wu, Director

Ann Bartlow, Piano

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Quarters for Kids

Brian Jones

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Kris Neale, Ministry Intern

ONE:	<p>You pour out your love, O God, and invite us into a new way of life, not simply resting on the faith of our forebears.</p>
ALL:	<p>You call us to take care of one another here and now, to ensure that everyone has enough and no one goes without, to see each other as fellow beloved children in your family. We confess that we have more than we need, and we are not overly interested in giving it away. We confess that we have plenty of interpretation and justification so that we don't need to follow your instructions when it comes to our possessions.</p>

	We confess that we have been caught by the ways of the world and find it difficult to leave them behind to turn to your kingdom way.
ONE:	Draw us out into the wilderness, God,
ALL:	where we can learn your way free from the powers that seem to control things.
ONE:	Lift our eyes to recognize your image in the faces around us,
ALL:	and lift our hands to seek out our neighbors in need.
ONE:	Guide us to live as good ancestors, looking forward and not only back,
ALL:	giving of ourselves in response to your giving yourself, choosing to share so that all may live with dignity and enough.
ONE:	Refocus us on your love
ALL:	and strengthen our love to truly reflect yours.
ONE:	We ask in Jesus' name.
ALL:	Amen.
ONE:	Assurance of forgiveness: Friends, hear and believe this good news: You are a child of God, Beloved, and whatever the voices of the world may say, you belong first and foremost to Jesus Christ forever. Trusting God's goodness, live in love, today and always. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Brian Jones, Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 3:1-22

Brian Jones, Liturgist

MESSAGE: "And So It Begins"

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, Pastor

*HYMN #252

When Jesus Came to Jordan

Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1973 (Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22)

Music: attr.: William Walker, 1835; harm.: Carlton R. Young, 1988

Congregation

Ann Bartlow, organ

WONDER

MISSION MOMENT

Juice, Joe & Justice

Chuck Spencer

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Kris Neale, Ministry Intern

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Brian Jones, Liturgist

WHAT NOW

COMMISSIONING OF LEADERSHIP BOARD

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, Pastor and Kris Neale, Ministry Intern

Bill Maas, Chair

Mike Coppersmith

Rachel Hedrick

Brian Jones

Mike Kitzman

Nancy Kneisly

Jane Rall

Janelle Veazey

Jennifer Young

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, Pastor

**ALL: 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 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,
the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

***HYMN #384**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Words: Charles Wesley, 1747

Music: John Zundel, 1870

Congregation

Ann Bartlow, organ

SENDING FORTH

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell

POSTLUDE

Eight Little Preludes and Fugues

Prelude and Fugue in F Major

Composer: J. S. Bach, 1685-1750

Ann Bartlow, organ

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are given by Jane Rall in loving memory of her husband, Bill.

A rose on the altar is in celebration of Stephen Bryan Benjamin, the son of Glenn and Stephanie Benjamin and grandson of Erna and Stan Benjamin born on January 4, 2025.

A rose on the altar is in celebration of Tucker Cates Shoemaker, the son of Brook and Sarah Shoemaker and grandson of Pastor Laura and Matt Norvell born on January 8, 2025.

A rose on the altar is in celebration of the birthday of Seraphina Stubbs, granddaughter of Nancy Kneisly.

SERVING US TODAY

Acolyte: Grace Basford and Cora Miller

Altar Guild for January: Carol Henley

Audio Visual Volunteers: Brian Hahs, Debbie Spriggs and Eric Winchenbach

Chat Room Host: Mary Stark

Congregational Welcome: Jennifer Young

Fellowship Hosts: Carol and Gordon Henley

Liturgist: Brian Jones

Nursery Staff: Mary Gordon and Tessa Ricketts

Sunday School Teachers -Elementary Grades: Jan Spencer and Janelle Veazey

Sunday School Teachers – Middle School Grades: Jeff Bryant and Sara Romeyn

Welcome Team: Bill and Lloydie Zaiser

FAITH UMC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, Pastor

Ann Bartlow, Organist

André Coleman, Tenor Section Leader

Valerie Kunsman, Office Administrator

Kris Neale, Ministry Intern

Curtis Osborne, Coordinator of Intergenerational Nurture

Tessa Ricketts, Nursery Staff

Suzanne Smedberg, Youth Coordinator

Kim Webster, Finance Manager

Dr. Michael Wu, Music Director

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