

CENTERPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

centerportumc.org

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

MAY 22, 2022

ROOTED IN LOVE

+denotes congregation please stand if able

Congregation please respond with the bolded lines

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION

Creator Spirit, who in the beginning hovered over the waters, who at Jesus' baptism descended in the form of a dove, and who at Pentecost was poured out under the signs of fire and wind, come to us. Open our hearts and minds so that we may hear the life-giving Word and be renewed by your power, in the unity of the Father and the Son, now and forever.

WELCOME AND BREATH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

+OPENING PRAYER

Holy God of glory and majesty, you have called us by name. We pray in this moment for courage and the strength to answer your call. As we open our ears to hear your Word this day, open our hearts also, that we may experience again the renewing power of rebirth in the Holy Spirit. Inspire us in this time of worship, that we may claim our own identity as your beloved children, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

+OPENING HYMN # 400

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

United Methodist Hymnal

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Come divine Interpreter, bring our eyes to read and our ears to hear the mystical words from you that speak of your love and grace. Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 3:1-17

New Revised Standard Version

Nicodemus visits Jesus

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

CHILDREN'S TIME

(Young people invited to come forward then dismiss to Sunday School)

PRAYER SONG

"Come to the Water"

Matt Maher

Leap of Faith

O let all who thirst, let them come to the water
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:
Without money, without price, why should you pay the price
Except for the Lord?

And let all who seek, let them come to the water
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:

Without money, without strife, why should you spend your life
Except for the Lord?

And let all who toil, let them come to the water
And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord:
All who labor, without rest, how can your soul find rest
Except for the Lord?

And let all the poor, let them come to the water
Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord:
Bring the children without might, easy the load and light:
Come to the Lord.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Franklin Robert Newman

*Please respond as indicated in **bold***

INTRODUCTION

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.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE

Lay Leader: I present Franklin Robert Newman for Christian baptism.

QUESTIONS TO PARENTS

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 put your trust in Christ, pledge to follow where he leads and promise to serve him in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? **I do.**

Will you nurture Franklin in Christ's Church, that by your teaching and example he may be guided to accept God's grace for himself, to profess his faith openly, and to lead a Christian life? **I will.**

QUESTION TO SPONSORS (GODPARENTS)

Will you who sponsor Franklin for baptism support and encourage him in his Christian life? **I will.**

TO THE CONGREGATION

Do you, as Christ's body, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ? **We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Franklin now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Franklin with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow in his trust of God, and be found faithful in his service to others. We will pray for him, that he may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal God: When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah, you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan River to the Land which you promised.

In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Holy Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and he who receives it, to wash away his sin and clothe him in righteousness throughout his life, that, dying and being raised with Christ, he may share in his final victory.

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON/EXTENDING OF HANDS

Franklin Robert, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST – THE CHRIST CANDLE

WELCOMING BY THE CONGREGATION

Now it is our joy to welcome our new brother in Christ.

Through baptism, you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you as a member of the family of Christ.

Members of the household of God, I commend Franklin to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase his faith, confirm his hope, and perfect him in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 3:14-21

New Revised Standard Version

Rooted in God's Love

For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, He may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through His Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him, who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

MESSAGE

"Rooted in Love"

Pastor Roy

MORNING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, we come today with joy for our baptism; we come with praise for your glory; we come with gratitude for your love. As we offer these gifts to you, send your Spirit upon us, that our hands and our hearts may do your work in the world. As we offer our lives to you, bless us with your strength, that we may join you to work for the blessing of peace throughout the world. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

"Faith Like a Child"
Leap of Faith

Jars of Clay

Dear God, surround me as I speak, the bridges that I walk across are weak
And the frustrations fill the void, that I can't solely bear

Dear God, don't let me fall apart, You've held me close to you
But I have turned away and searched, for answers I can't understand

Chorus: They say that I can move the mountains, and send them falling to the sea
They say that I can walk on water, if I would follow and believe, with faith like a child

Sometimes, when I feel miles away, and my eyes can't see your face
Well, I wonder if I've grown, to lose the recklessness, I walked in light of you (*Chorus*)

"I've got joy like a fountain!" "Be kind unto others," "In Jesus Christ Your Son" (*Chorus*)

They say that love can heal the broken, they say that hope can make you see
They say that faith can find a Savior, if you would follow and believe, with faith like a child

BENEDICTION

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The flowers on the altar are given in celebration of Franklin's Baptism, by his grandfather, Frank Marchetta

Today, Sunday, May 22, 2022 by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, we welcome Franklin Robert Newman, son of Peter & Dominique Newman, grandson of Elizabeth & the late Robert Newman, and Donna Gaudio Marchetta & Frank Marchetta. He was born on September 29, 2021 and has an older sister, Willamina. Franklin's Godparents are William Newman & Alexa Gaudio.