**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

 *\* Indicates, please stand if able.*

 Baptism of the Lord January 8, 2023 9 am.

 Liturgist: Howard Gomer

WELCOME, PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\***CALL TO WORSHIP

L: In the very beginning, God separated the darkness and the light. God called the Light "Day" and the

 Darkness, God called "Night".
**P: We were once people who dwelled in darkness, but God has given us the true Light, Jesus**

 **Christ.**
L: God has blessed us and adopted us as God’s own beloved children, through the sacrament of

Baptism.
**P: The water of baptism brings to us healing and reconciliation; it is a symbol of nourishment and**

 **cleansing.**
L: This day is the day of the remembrance of Jesus’ Baptism.
**P: As we hear the words of his baptism, let us be reminded of our own adoption by God and**

 **celebrate the joyous connection to the Almighty God.**

\*OPENING PRAYER*(Isaiah 42, Psalm 29, Matthew 3)*

**Spirit of righteousness, God of power and might, help us be a light to the nations and a reflection of your glorious salvation. Work in our lives and in our ministries, that the world might know the power of your love and grace. As you alighted upon Jesus at his baptism, descend upon us this day, that we may be a people of hope and possibility. Wash us clean and renew our spirits, through Jesus Christ, our lord. Amen.**

**\***OPENING HYMN ***Make Me a Captive, Lord*** #421

CHILDREN’S TIME Roxie Hostrawser

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord. We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires. Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Again let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light. We ask this in Jesus’ Name. AMEN.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The love of God is always offered to us, freely, joyfully, for all eternity. Rejoice, dear friends, this is the Good News of our Lord. AMEN.

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Shon

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(In Unison)*

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BRINGING OUR GIFTS TO GOD WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS

The wise travelers brought their gifts to honor the promised child. Let us bring the gifts of our lives, in gratitude for God’s bright light of love.

SPECIAL MUSIC Bell Choir

**\***DOXOLOGY *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”* #95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER Pastor

SCRIPTURE Ephesians 4:17-25

\*HYMN OF PRAISE ***Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters***  #605

MESSAGE ***RESETTING MY LIFE*** Rev. Shon

CLOSING HYMN ***Lord, I Want to Be a Christian***#402

**\***BENEDICTION *(Psalm 29, Matthew 3)*

L: Rejoice in the glory of your baptism each and every day.

**P: We will live in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

L: Let your spirits soar like eagles but be as gentle as doves.

**P: We will drink deep from the waters of grace.**

L: Go forth to announce the glory of our God.

**P: We go, renewed and made whole, as a blessing to all.**

POSTLUDE Bell Choir

**SCRIPTURE:** **Ephesians 4:17-25** (NIV)

17So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

20That, however, is not the way of life you learned 21when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. **25**Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**PRAYER FAMILIES:** Pray for all those who need healing, or have health issues. Specifically, pray for Karen Dolsey and others. Also continue to pray for those in Ukraine and other areas of the world where people are suffering.

**SEWING DAY:** Is scheduled for Wednesday January 18 from 1:00 pm until 3:30 pm. If interested, please contact Charlene Galston.

**CORPORATE PRAYER:** Corporate Prayer Workshop, Jan. 15, 22, 29, Sunday, 10:30 am after worship service.

**UMC of WISCONSIN’S VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION:** Is putting together a group to go to Marion Alabama, February 4-12, 2023 to partner with a Marion group to do home repair. More information available on the mission outreach bulletin board.  If interested, contact Charlene Galston, 715-896-9055.

**WEBINAR OF FRESH EXPRESSIONS OF THE RURAL CHURCH:** Jan. 28, Sat. 9 am – 12 pm. If

you are interested, let the pastor know.

**SPRC TRAINING:** Jan. 28, Sat. 9 am – 12 pm and Jan. 29, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm. Location TBA.

**LEADERSHIP RETREAT:** “Renewing the Church in a Post-Pandemic World” Feb. 24-25. Rev. Scott

 Carlson leads this workshop.

**SCRIP CARDS:** When you are thinking of ideas for gift giving or personal use, consider Scrip cards**.**

Stop at the gathering area on Sundays or call Marcia at 715-284-3346

**USHERS/GREETERS:** Tom & Lois Epps

**THIS WEEK AT THE CHURCH:**

 Tues: Finance 5:30 pm Trustees 6 pm

 Ad Council 6:30 pm

 Wed: Prayer Meeting 10 am Wed. Connections 4:45- 6 pm

 Pre-Con 5-6 pm The Youth 6-7 pm

 Confirmation Class 7-8 pm Choir Practice 6-7 pm

 Bell Choir Practice 7-8 pm

**Black River Falls**

**United Methodist Church**



**UMC Mission Statement:**

"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

 PASTOR Rev. Inwha Shon

 ORGANIST Matthew Schluntz

 MUSIC DIRECTOR Amanda Lang

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