

Rediscovering our United Methodist

# Roots



“Baptism”

**January 7, 2024, 10:30 a.m.  
Baptism of the Lord/  
Epiphany**

**First United Methodist Church of Newton  
111 Ryerson Avenue, Newton NJ**

# Order of Worship

(\*Please rise in body or in spirit.)

PRELUDE Christie Spriggs

GREETING Rev. Todd R. Lattig

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive) Kathleen Meredith

We come to the water —

**to celebrate God's goodness!**

We come to the water —

**to celebrate God's love!**

We come to the water to remember —

**that we are beloved, cherished, and forgiven!**

\*HYMN "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry" TFWS 2051

\*OPENING PRAYER (unison) Kathleen Meredith

**Holy God, we thank you today for the gift of baptism and**

**how it unites us as one by the Holy Spirit. We thank you**

**that before we do anything, you claim us as beloved,**

**surround us in community, and nurture us to be your**

**people. As we celebrate the meaning of baptism today, we**

**ask once again for your cleansing love to wash over us. Help**

**us to remember that we all belong to the body of Christ; we**

**each have a special role in your family; and we are sent out**

**into the world to do good and resist evil in your name.**

**Amen.**

ANTHEM Chancel Choir

"Be Thou My Vision"  
Melinda McCoy-Miller, flute

COMMUNITY PRAYER Rev. Lattig

CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER Chancel Choir

KIDS ROCK CHILDREN'S SERMON Rev. Lattig

SCRIPTURE READING Kathleen Meredith

## Mark 1: 4-13

<sup>4</sup> This messenger was John the Baptist. He was in the wilderness and preached that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. <sup>5</sup> All of Judea, including all the people of Jerusalem, went out to see and hear John.

And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> His clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey.

<sup>7</sup> John announced: “Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!”

<sup>9</sup> One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. <sup>10</sup> As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice from heaven said, “You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.”

<sup>12</sup> The Spirit then compelled Jesus to go into the wilderness, <sup>13</sup> where he was tempted by Satan for forty days. He was out among the wild animals, and angels took care of him.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God for this Word.**

SERMON

ROOTS: “Baptism”

Rev. Lattig

HOLY COMMUNION

(see insert)

OFFERTORY

Christie Spriggs

Please proceed up the center aisle to place your offering in the plate or scan one of the QR codes on the back of this bulletin to make your offering electronically using PayPal or Tithe.ly.

\*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Karhleen Meredith

**Gracious God, as we thank you for our baptism, our church, and your love, we give you our gifts today, remembering those who do not have the same freedoms we do, but who are just as much a part of your worldwide family. Bless what we give that we might unite with all who call you Lord and further your kingdom in the world. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

\*HYMN

“Baptized in Water”

TFWS 2248

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Lattig

POSTLUDE

Christie Spriggs

## This Week's Schedule

Monday, Jan 8	10 Chair Yoga (HH) 11:30 LWJ Yoga (HH)
Tuesday, Jan 9	10-1 Life With Joy (HH)
Wednesday, Jan 10	10-3 Life With Joy (HH) 6 Potluck Supper (HH)
Thursday, Jan 11	10-1 Life With Joy (HH)
Saturday, Jan 13	9-2 Treasures of Hope
Sunday, Jan 14	9 Joy Fellowship Service (HH) Sunday School (1B) 10:30 Sanctuary Service

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## Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor  
Music Coordinator/Joy Fellowship  
Liturgist  
Greeter  
Camera Operator  
Soundboard Operator

Rev. Todd R. Lattig  
Christie Spriggs  
Kathleen Meredith  
Fred Fox  
Jen Phlegar  
Jay Morrison



Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin to God and one another.

**Merciful God,  
we confess that we have not loved  
you with our whole heart. We have  
failed to be an obedient church. We  
have not done your will; we have  
broken your law; we have rebelled  
against your love; we have not loved  
our neighbors; and we have not  
heard the cry of the needy. Forgive  
us, we pray. Free us for joyful  
obedience, through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen.**

Hear the Good News: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
Glory to God. Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy are you, O God, and blessed is your son Jesus Christ.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which our Lord gave himself up for us he took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in unison with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

