

## March 1, 2009 SERVICE OF WORSHIP

11:00 am

First Sunday of Lent

Liturgical Color: Purple

### Preparation for Worship and Announcements

Dr. Mary Lynn Polk, Lay Leader

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, till all the world adore his sacred name.*

### Chiming of the Hour

*In silence and reverence, let us prepare our hearts for worship.*

### Prelude

*Promised Land*

arr. Cheryl Baker

Belle Canto

### Chiming of the Trinity

#### \*Call to Worship

Freddia Bartless, Evangelism Committee Chairperson

Leader: Welcome to the time of covenant renewal. The God of our salvation greets us here.

**People: We are reminded of God's promises to us; we remember the promises we have made.**

Leader: Sense the Spirit descending on us now. Hear God's welcoming voice.

**People: Surely God is with us. We can hear God calling our names.**

Leader: See the rainbow in the sky. Wonder at God's steadfast love.

**People: All creation proclaims the wonders of God. We come together to learn what God wants to teach us.**

#### \*Hymn No. 61

*Come Thou Almighty King*

Italian Hymn

#### Call to Confession

The Rev. James D. Dennis, Jr.

In our day, we cannot escape temptation, for it comes in so many forms, from so many sources. As Jesus was tempted, so are we. But we have yielded to temptation, and Jesus did not. Sometimes we do not even recognize the sins into which we have slipped. We seek to recall them now. Repent, and believe in the good news. Please join me in the unison prayer of confession followed by a time of personal and silent confession.

#### Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**Have mercy on your church, O God, for we forget the covenant into which you call us. We muddle along in our self-serving schemes rather than waiting on your word. We follow the path of least resistance without seeking your higher way. We forget our baptism into a faith community built on trust and forgiveness. We turn from the vision of heaven to the treacherous hell of competing egos. O God, we turn to you to lead us to a new day. According to your steadfast love, forgive us, we pray. Amen**

#### Words of Assurance

God is faithful to the covenant, even when we forget. In mercy and steadfast love, God lifts us above the sins of our youth and the transgressions of today. Christ brings us to God that we might receive a new spirit and a good conscience. We are God's beloved children who are welcomed into God's realm right here, right now, in the midst of life. Amen.

#### Reception of New Members

#### Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Olivia Katherine Sprouse

#### Old Testament Reading

Genesis 9:8-17

Page 8 (OT) in pew Bibles

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

#### Psalter No. 756

Response 2

Psalms 25:1-10

**Epistle Reading**

1 Peter 3:18-22

Page 284 (NT) in pew Bibles

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** (See insert for words)

*Hope of the World*

arr. Lloyd Larson

Chancel Choir along with Leah Wilson, flute

**Pastoral Prayer** (You are invited to the altar for personal prayer time.)

The Rev. James D. Dennis, Jr.

**Lord's Prayer** (In Unison)

**Offering**

**Offertory**

*Ornamented Prelude on "Forty Days and Forty Nights"*

Charles Callahan

**\*Doxology No. 95**

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Old 100<sup>th</sup>

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Children's Time**

The Rev. James D. Dennis, Jr.

*All children are invited to the front of the Sanctuary for a special message. Following Children's Time, 3-year-olds through Kindergarteners may leave the Sanctuary for Extended Session.*

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**\*Hymn No. 508**

*Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom*

For The Bread

**†\*Gospel Lesson**

Mark 1:9-15

Page 42 (NT) in pew Bibles

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

"Temptation"

The Rev. James D. Dennis, Jr.

**\*Hymn No. 269**

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

Land of Rest

**\*Benediction**

The Rev. James D. Dennis, Jr.

**\*Benediction Response No. 666**

*Shalom to You*

SHALOM

*Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.  
In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.*

**\*Postlude**

†Sermon Text

*\*Please stand if you are able*

*Nursery Provided*

# BAPTISMAL COVENANT II

## INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

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 CANDIDATES

I present **Olivia Katherine Sprouse** for baptism.

## RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

*The pastor addresses 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? **We do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? **We do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?  
**We do.**

As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service?  
**We will.**

Will you nurture **Olivia** in Christ's holy church, that by your teaching and example she may be guided to accept God's grace for herself, to profess her faith openly, and to lead a Christian life?  
**We will.**

*The pastor addresses the congregation:*

Do you, as Christ's body, the church, 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 **Olivia** 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 her with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may grow in her trust of God, and be found faithful in her service to others. We will pray for her, that she may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.**

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

### **THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER**

The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Eternal Father: 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 to the land which you promised.

**Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.**

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

**Declare his works to the nations, his glory among all the people.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and they who receive it, to wash away their sin and clothe them in righteousness throughout their lives, that, dying and being raised with Christ, they may share in his final victory.

**All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. Amen.**

**Olivia Katherine Sprouse**, 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.**

Now it is our joy to welcome our new sister in Christ. Through baptism she is 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 her as a member of the family of Christ.

### **COMMENDATION AND WELCOME**

Members of the household of God, I commend **Olivia** to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her 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, and our service, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

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.

**Choral Response**

*Happy the Home When God Is There*

St. Agnes

***Happy the home when God is there, and love fills every breast; when one their wish, and one their prayer, and one their heavenly rest. Happy the home where Jesus' name is sweet to every ear; where children early speak this fame, and parents hold him dear.***