



*Bright Hope Laurel  
United Methodist Church*

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# *First Sunday After the Epiphany / Baptism of Our Lord*

Sunday, January 12, 2024

Chimes of the Trinity

Prelude and Lighting the Altar Candles

Welcome

## Call to Worship

L: When we pass through the cleansing waters of baptism and the troubled waters of our lives, God declares:

**P: I will be with you.**

L: When we go through the fires that refine us and the fires that threaten our livelihoods, God declares:

**P: I will be with you.**

L: Even when we travel to the far corners of the earth or down into the depths of our souls, God declares:

**P: I will be with you.**

L: So come, let us worship God whose love never fails, whose presence never leaves, whose mercies never end.

**P: Praise be to God who, in the form of Jesus, waded into the waters of baptism to prove God's solidarity with us! Amen.**

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2024.*

## Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Creator of the universe, we gather amazed at your power and glory. We are eager to worship you and offer our praise, but we are often reluctant to answer when we hear you calling our name. We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but shy away from the river, lest we be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Forgive us when we forget your promise to be with us always, O God. Renew us with the power of your ever-present love, and strengthen us to proclaim your justice throughout the world.

*Silence*

# Words of Assurance (Isaiah 43:1)

Hear the words of our creator, spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "I have called you by name. You are mine. Do not fear, for I have redeemed you."

*Adapted from Laura Jaquith Bartlett on the Ministry Matters website, <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>.*

*Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/01/confession-epiphany-1-c.html>.*

\* Opening Hymn "Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine" #606

\* Gospel Reading Luke 3:15-22 NRSV

Solo "Take Eat"

## Children's Message / The Lord's Prayer

Sermon "Cutting Loose & Binding Together"

## Prayer

The Great Thanksgiving #13

*\*During this time, you will be given the opportunity to remember your baptism. If you wish to do so, please make your way through the communion line and then to the baptismal font.*

## Response

*During this time, we want to invite you to respond through the following ways:*

**Quiet Reflection** - You are invited to remain seated and reflect on what you have heard or experienced in today's service. How will you take it with you this week?

**Prayers for Healing** - Remain seated or visit the prayer rail to pray for yourself, a friend, or any of those who have let us know of their need for healing:

*Darrell Wilson; Debbie & Kaitlyn Miles; Donna Grasso; Harry Burns; Carolyn Webb; Eddie Leindecker; Frances Powell; Glenn White; Howard Jenkins; Katie Rice; Brenda Thompson; Debbe Kassie*

Pastor Shonnie is available up front to pray with you personally if you would like someone to join you in prayer.

**Tithes & Offerings** - Reflect on and offer resources to God's ministry in and around this community.

Doxology

\*Closing Hymn

*"Spirit Song"*

#347

Announcements

Benediction

Postlude