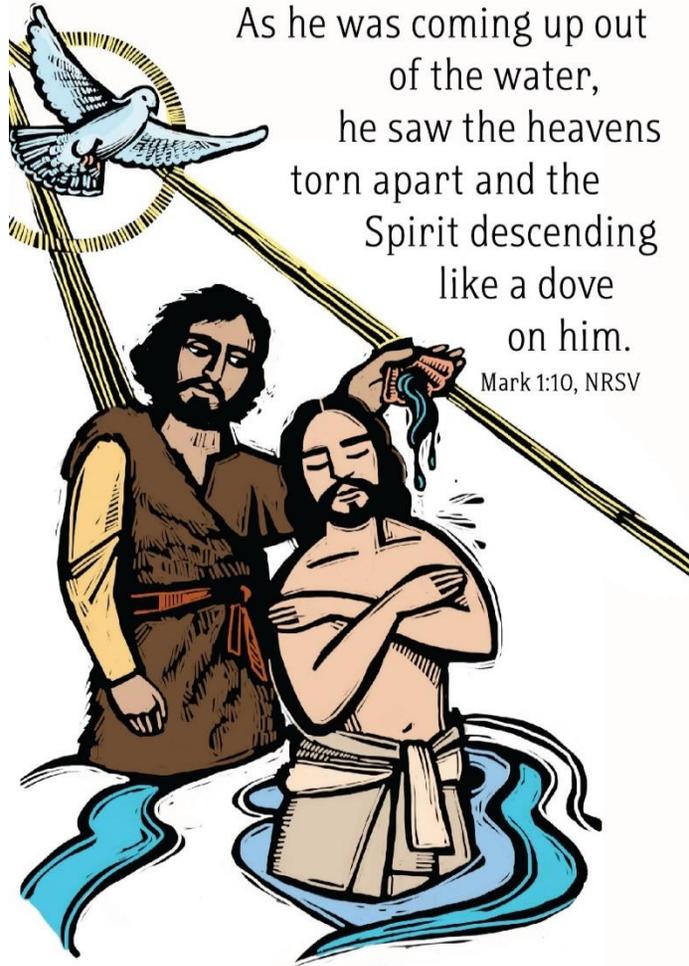


Milliken Presbyterian Church



“In the Beginning”

First Sunday after Epiphany

January 10, 2021

The Gathering of God’s People

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome as we gather in the presence of the Spirit to worship the God of covenant grace, freely poured out upon us today. May we listen for His Spirit speaking to us through His Word.

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

The voice of God is powerful, reaching to the ends of the earth.
God’s voice is full of majesty, calling through time and space.
God’s steadfast love is permanent and everlasting.

God’s faithfulness is as firm as the heavens above.

The voice of God calls us to worship in spirit and in truth.
Come, let us gather to worship. Let us join our prayers, praise, and thanksgiving voices together.

Let us lift our hearts and spirits in joyful prayer!

Eternal God, whose very Spirit hovered over the waters and brought all things to life, we praise You this day. You wash us with this same waters, cleansing us body and spirit, that we may draw closer to You. Come, this day, and draw closer to us that we may be filled with Your holy presence and celebrate the life and glory of Your eternal love. Amen.

Hymn

Majesty

Majesty, worship his majesty; Unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise. Majesty, kingdom authority, flow from His throne unto His own, His anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus. Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King. Majesty, worship His majesty, Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings.

Call to Confession

Christ did not come to baptize us with the Holy Spirit so that we might keep on living just as we always have. We can have a new beginning when we come repent and confess our sin together.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God of time and space, Your coming into our world leaves us in awe! For it was Your Spirit that hovered over the waters of creation and Your Spirit that stirs the waters of our renewal. Yet, O Lord, we act as if we are still unclean; still subject to our sin; still at the mercy of the darkness of soul and powers. We prefer our ways, our paths, our ideas to risking following Yours. You remind us, Creator God, that the waters You gave us are also the covenant waters given to us through Your Son. Forgive us and help us embrace Your Covenant way of living, that the waters which have cleansed us might also renew us as Your children.

A time of silent prayer... In Christ's name we pray. **Amen!**

Assurance of Pardon

The hymnist wrote, "What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus." Scripture tells us that through His sacrifice and through His baptism, we can be forgiven and made clean.

We proclaim what we believe. In Christ we are forgiven!

The Hearing of God's Word

First Scripture Lesson

Psalm 33: 6-9

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of His mouth. He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; He puts the deep into storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere Him. For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm.

Second Scripture Lesson

Mark 1: 4-11

And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

The Message

In the Beginning

Rev. Jan Brooks

Responding to the Word

Hymn

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

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 His name, I'm fixed upon it, name of God's redeeming love.

O to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be! Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring 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.

Prayers of the People, including the Lord's Prayer

The Sending of God's People

Charge and Benediction

Let us go into the world serving others with the love of Christ!

Postlude

"Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future."

—Paul Boese