

Pastor Dave: Recall the questions asked of us at baptism. Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

Many Voices: We do!

Pastor Dave: Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

Many Voices: We do!

Pastor Dave: 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?

Many Voices: We do! We will live these vows, for we are all beloved children of God; we are all one in the Spirit.

Pastor Dave: Long ago, our tradition says, Jesus took bread, gave thanks for it, broke it, and shared it with his friends saying:

Many Voices: This bread is broken, as my body will be broken. Eat and remember me.

Pastor Dave: Long ago, our tradition says, Jesus poured a cup of wine, offered thanks for it, and shared it with his friends, saying:

Many Voices: This wine is poured out, as my life will be poured out. Drink and remember me.

Pastor Dave: We join with all our siblings everywhere in singing your praises, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

[The United Methodist Church offers open Communion. That means *all* are welcome at this table. Today we serve by intinction: lightly dip the piece of bread into the cup then eat. Self-contained packets of bread and juice are also available. All the bread is gluten free. As you return to your seats you are invited to pause at the basin of water and remember your baptism.]

***Singing** "They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love" TFWS #2223

***Sending Forth** Pastor Dave

Exiting Music Accompanist

****Stand if you are able.***

Leaders in Today's Worship Service

ACCOMPANIST: JILL KOHLER
LAY READER: KAREN GABA
SONG LEADERS: GAIL GIRARD & SUSAN SPENCER

KW 1/3/2024

**Minooka
United Methodist
Church**

**Rev. Dave Buerstetta,
Pastor**

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Welcome to Minooka United Methodist Church

Sunday, January 7th, 2024

9:00AM

Mark 1:1-11 (The Voice)

¹ This is the beginning of the good news of Jesus, the Anointed One, the *Liberating King*, the Son of God.

² Isaiah the prophet told us *what would happen before He came*: Watch, I will send My messenger in front of You to prepare Your way and make it clear *and straight*.

³ *You'll hear him*, a voice crying in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Eternal One, a straight way in the wandering desert, a highway for our God."

⁴ *That messenger was John the Baptist*, who appeared in the desert *near the Jordan River* preaching that people should be ritually cleansed through baptism *with water as a sign* of both their changed hearts and God's forgiveness of their sins. ⁵ People from across the countryside of Judea and from the city of Jerusalem came to him and confessed that they were deeply flawed and needed help, so he cleansed them with the waters of the Jordan. ⁶ John dressed as *some of the Hebrew prophets had*, in clothes made of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist. He made his meals *in the desert* from locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He preached a message *in the wilderness*.

John the Baptist: Someone is coming who is a lot more powerful than I am—One whose sandals I'm not worthy to bend down and untie. ⁸ I've washed you here through baptism with water; *but when He gets here*, He will wash you in the Spirit of God.

⁹ It was in those days that Jesus left Nazareth (*a village in the region of Galilee*) and came down to the Jordan, and John cleansed Him through baptism there *in the same way all the others were ritually cleansed*. ¹⁰ But as Jesus was coming out of the waters, He looked up and saw the sky split open. The Spirit of God descended upon Him like a dove, ¹¹ and a voice echoed in the heavens.

Voice: You are My Son, My beloved One, and I am very pleased with You.

Entering Music Accompanist

Welcoming Pastor Dave

Preparing Accompanist

***Gathering** Lay Reader

Reader: We gather to celebrate with prayers spoken, hymns sung, and miracles recalled:

Many Voices: A baby's first cry, the petals of a rose, mist-covered hills, the restless tides of the seas, the power of love, and the endurance of hope.

One Voice: With gratitude and with joy at life's boundless possibilities, we pray:

Many Voices: Challenge us, O God, with your truth and inspire us with your love. Then as we return to our worlds of work and learning and living, enlighten us with your wisdom, and empower us with your strength. Amen.

***Singing** "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" UMH #158

Blessing Children Pastor Dave

Praying Lay Reader

[Centering Silence: May we find in the simplicity of silence connection to and wisdom from the God of All People.]

Reader: We always seem to be fumbling around, broken and ignorant humans that we are, and we so often expect you to stride in strong and knowing, and just sort us out, fix us, set us right. But this is not what you do, is it, God?

Reader: Instead of directing, controlling, or fixing, you step into human experience, merge your divinity with flesh, and serve the least and the weakest. You walk alongside us, stand with us, and teach us to find life in you. You teach us to grow together with you, and to participate in our own healing and salvation.

[quiet reflection]

Reader: It seems strange to use the word "humble" with reference to you, O God, but it is the best description we have of your gracious approach, your compassionate service, your selfless incarnation. So we praise you for your humility, and for the way you gently lead us into facing our brokenness, renouncing our self-righteousness, and embracing humility for ourselves.

[quiet reflection]

Reader: All this we pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray by saying... [Lord's Prayer, UMH #894]

***Singing** "Spirit Song" UMH #347

Giving Pastor Dave

Blessing our Gifts with Music and Prayer Accompanist & Lay Reader

Many Voices: God of redemption and new life, bless our offerings and help us to give of ourselves as those who know what a great gift we have been given. May our identity as beloved children inspire us to give our whole selves more freely. Amen.

Reading Scripture Lay Reader

Mark 1:1-11 (The Voice)

Reader: May God add blessing to the reading, hearing, and living of these words.

Many Voices: Amen.

Proclaiming "Secret Identity?" Pastor Dave

Singing "Eat This Bread" UMH #628 (x3)

Remembering Our Baptism and Celebrating Communion

Pastor Dave: Remember your baptism and give thanks! As a community of faith we gather around the waters of baptism to reaffirm our commitment to Christ and to experience anew the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

Many Voices: God of the waters, Water for us all, birth us. Connect us. Live in us. Trouble us. For we are all beloved children of God; we are all one in the Spirit.

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Verse 1

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Refrain

And they'll know we are Christians
By our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians
By our love.

Verse 2

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
(Refrain)

Verse 3

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:
(Refrain)

Verse 4

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
(Refrain)

CCLI Song # 26997

Peter Scholtes

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HYMNS

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Verse 1

Come, Christians, join to sing:
Alleluia! Amen!
loud praise to Christ our King:
Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice,
before his throne rejoice;
praise is his gracious choice.
Alleluia! Amen!

Verses 2

Come, lift your hearts on high:
Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky:
Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend;
to us he'll condescend;
his love shall never end:
Alleluia! Amen!

Verse 3

Praise yet the Lord again:
Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain:
Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore,
his goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore:
Alleluia! Amen!

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Spirit Song

Verse 1

O let the Son of God enfold you
With his Spirit and his love.
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
O let him have the things that hold you,
And his Spirit like a dove
Will descend upon your life and make you
whole.

Refrain

Jesus, O Jesus,
Come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus,
Come and fill your lambs.

Verse 2

O come and sing this song with gladness
As your hearts are filled with joy.
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name.
O give him all your tears and sadness;
Give Him all your years of pain,
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name. (Refrain)

Eat This Bread

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Come to Me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Trust in me and you will not thirst. (x3)