

Flowers are given by Cindy Walsh in celebration of her husband **Jim's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

PRELUDE

CALL to WORSHIP

One: Crafted and created by God,

**Many: We are called to let our lights shine.**

One: Gathered and grounded in Christ,

**Many: We are called to be a community of faithful followers in these days.**

One; Immersed and inspired by the Spirit,

**Many: We let loose with our hymns of prayer and praise to God. Alleluia and Amen!**

OPENING HYMN:

*Wonder of Wonders, Here Revealed*

No. 328

**Wonder of Wonders, here revealed; God's covenant with us is sealed.  
And long before we know or pray, God's love enfolds us every day.**

**Here in this sacrament we see God's grace unbound, for all, for me!  
May we respond with joyful praise in loving service all our days.**

**Now we our vow of faith renew, stretch wide our sights to global view,  
And claim with Christians far and near a larger family held dear.**

OPENING PRAYER – *Please have a bowl of water available with this prayer!*

**Holy One, with the waters of baptism, You name and claim each of us as Your beloved. We confess that we do not always let the truth of Your love disrupt and define our lives. We would rather let our categories of who is in and out order our days. Our brains are amazingly hard-wired to choose the paths of least resistance and reluctant to change. Move in our midst this morning just as You did that morning when Jesus went down to the river to pray, when he waded in the water, and heard Your love transform his life forever. We hold water in our hands this morning. We dip the tip of our fingers into water. We trace on our foreheads the symbol of the cross, reminding us that in life, in death, in life beyond death, we belong to You. This truth changes everything. In the name of the One who connects us through the holy moment of remembering our baptism today, Jesus the Christ, Amen.**

OUR ENCOUNTER with SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3:13-17

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

SERMON

*What is God Up To? Claiming Us*

**Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.  
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love.  
Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose.  
Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.  
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.  
Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow.  
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's community.**

DEDICATION of OUR INTENTIONS of GIVING for 2021 & LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

No. 565

**God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,  
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom costly cross, grave's shattered door:  
Gifted by you, we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise;  
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.**

**Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred;  
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, honoring you by loving all.**

**Lend your joy to all our giving, let it light our pilgrim way;  
From the night of anxious keeping, loose us into generous day.  
Then when years on earth are over, and we've lived our human span,  
God, fulfill beyond our dreaming, all our stewardship began.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE