

We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Great God, who baptized Jesus, and confirmed in your early disciples the gifts of the Spirit, grant us to hear and see your creative movement among us. Make your voice plain as you strengthen us to face the problems and possibilities of life. Grant us to be joyful and give thanks in all circumstances as your children so that we may serve you and others humbly. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYERS/THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

With these gifts we give thanks for release from slavery to the world's agenda. In awe and wonder we commit ourselves anew to the ministry of hope and healing that Jesus lived on earth. Use our offerings to extend Christ's mission where we cannot go, and to support this parish in our efforts to be faithful where we are. In Jesus' name. Amen.

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN**

All Who Love and Serve Your City

UMH 433 (vs. 1 & 5)

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Jenny Lee

POSTLUDE

Upper St. Croix Parish

ONE Parish THREE Churches:
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
January 10th, 2021
"Baptism of the Lord"/
"Law Enforcement Appreciation Sunday"



The United Methodist Church

10 am Online Zoom Service

CONTACT INFORMATION

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www.upperstcroixparish.org

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
January 10th, 2021
“Baptism of the Lord”/
“Law Enforcement Appreciation Sunday”

This bulletin is for a Zoom Service and home service.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION

PASSING OF THE GREETINGS

“Peace be with You!”

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

Creator God,

your voice brought forth life out of the watery chaos.

We praise you, O God.

Jesus Christ, your baptism opened in us life-giving streams.

We praise you, O Christ.

Holy Spirit, in baptism you anoint us
and fire our souls with power.

We praise you, O Spirit.

Holy Triune God, where our sins dry us up,
flood us with your grace.

Have mercy on us.

When we forget who we are,
once more call us “Beloved.”

Have mercy on us.

When we fail to be water for the thirsty,
flood us with the Spirit of Christ.

Have mercy on us. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *When Jesus Came to Jordan*

UMH 252 (vs. 1 & 3)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Glory be to you, O God, whom we worship in awe and wonder. You are the author of all beginnings and all that is pronounced “good.”

In you both day and night have purpose, both calm and storm have meaning. Open the eyes of our imagination that we may be ready to receive your gifts and discern your activity in our midst. In the name of Jesus, in whose baptism we, too, are baptized. Once we are beloved, help us to live as the children of God. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Proclamation of God’s Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Mark 1:4-11

4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11 And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PREPARATION - *Special Song*

Sharon Asp

SERMON *“Let Us Be the People who Serve!”* **Pastor Jenny Lee**

(If you are not able to join us for Zoom Live Service, one of your family members may read the written sermon, or view the video clip on Facebook, or listen to the Sermon by Phone.)



January 10th, 2021
Mark 1:4-11

Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph. D.
Upper St. Croix Parish UMC

“Let us Be the People who Serve!”

I want to start out by sharing a funny story I heard about this six years old boy. He was standing in a church lobby, looking at the large church wall. It was filled with names and small American flags by their sides. He asked a pastor, “What does it mean?” The pastor explained how that was a memorial of all the young men and women that died in the service. The little boy stood there silently and seemed to be very concerned. He finally looked up the pastor and asked with a serious voice, “What service was that at, the 8:30 or 11 o'clock service?”

Today, I want to talk about “service.” Last week, I told you that most people would like to be served by others rather than serve others. But, everyone serves or receives other’s service in their places. Last week, as I mentioned, we serve or are served even by family members, such as making coffee. I have a question for you. Do you mostly serve others or are you more often served by others? Remember, if you serve others more than you’re served, not only you, but also your children will receive God’s grace richly because of you. Among Israelite kings, there was the king Hezekiah. He became ill and was at the point of death, and Israelite was about destroyed (2 Kings 20:1). He prayed to God, and God allowed him to live for 15 years more. At that time, God says, “I will add fifteen years to your life. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my sake and my servant David” (2 Kings 20:6). Because God loved the king David, God gave David victory everywhere he went (1 Chronicles 18:13). Because of David, his descendant, the king Hezekiah, became God’s favorite. Again, are you a person who serves others or receives from others?

The word “service” is interesting. We use the word “service” for military service, police officers’ service, volunteer service for the community, and even name “service” for Christian worship service and the wait staff service at a restaurant. Among the several kinds of ‘service,’ what types of service do you most express your gratitude? Perhaps it will be at a restaurant because you mostly say “thanks” to the wait staff who serves you at a restaurant.

How about police officers? How often do you express your gratitude to them? I saw some people put their appreciation on their car bumper or window with stickers that say “thank you, cops.” I know that some people don’t have good impressions of police officers, but I hope you do not generalize all cops. We can live in a safe community because of their service. I appreciate UMW’s effort to express our gratitude for their service. Accepting UMW’s idea, we keep the Sunday of this week as Police Officers’ Appreciation Day. We should recognize their service and give them thanks in our daily life. Not only to police officers, but also we have to express our gratitude to one another because we serve one another, and we live together. According to a study, the one who has a gratitude mindset can live a happier life than someone who complains or grumbles. The gratitude mindset is God's will toward us because it makes us happy and rich in grace.

The First Thessalonians, chapter 5, verses 16-18, says, “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” I know it is not easy. How could we be joyful and give thanks in all circumstances? It is our choice in every case. It is not only when we are in a good mood or condition, but always, and in all cases. We cannot do it by ourselves, but if we stay in Jesus Christ, we can do it because God

makes things happen for us. Remember, "the one who calls us [you] is faithful, and he will do it" for us (1 Thessalonians 5:24). We should be different from non-Christians in a way. Even though the other cannot be joyful always and give thanks in all circumstances, we Christians can do it because of Jesus Christ.

In today's Scripture, we read about Jesus' baptism. Since John the Baptist began his baptismal ministry, the first record about baptism is Jesus' baptism. Through his baptism, we can identify who we are. We, Christians, are a reborn people in Jesus Christ through baptism. Baptism symbolizes a rebirth that we die in Christ, and we are born again in Christ. The Second Corinthians says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17). We Christians, who are new creations, live according to the Holy Spirit, not according to the flesh. If we complain or blame people or the world, it is evidence the Holy Spirit is not in us because the Holy Spirit keeps us in peace and joy. If we are joyful and harmonious with one another in Christ, it is evidence the Holy Spirit is in us and among us because "God was reconciling the world to God-self in Christ." (2 Corinthians 5:19) We also know about the people who complained in the wilderness and who died in the wilderness without seeing the Promised Land. The gratitude mindset not only leads us to happier lives but also makes us be alive by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, let us have a more gratitude mindset and express it to one another in 2021.

At his baptism, Jesus was identified by God, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you, I am pleased." And the scripture says, "the Spirit descends on him like a dove." The Good News is that God identifies us as the children of God through our baptism. We are beloved ones by God. So, God is with us always in the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we can serve people in all circumstances with gratitude. After being baptized, as he began his public ministry, baptism symbolizes that we initiate God's ministry in the church community's unity. We learned that Jesus served people. Jesus' ministry was a servant ministry. Jesus also said by himself, "I came to serve people, not be served." Jesus said, "The Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). He became a friend to the poor, the weak, and the powerless. He fed them, cared for them, and healed them. He served them even washing their feet. In a society of Israelite, washing other's feet was the job of servants. He showed his disciples how they should serve others. "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet" (John 13:14). Most of us might want to be leaders or teachers. However, who is our Lord and teacher, Jesus became an example of how to serve others so that we should follow the way Jesus taught.

Martin Luther said that "Christian worship should be like washing Jesus' feet," which means we should serve God and others humbly. We name Christian worship as Sunday service, Wednesday service, Christmas Eve service, Easter service, etc. Let us think of ourselves. How much are you humble for Sunday service? How do you prepare your mind for Sunday service? Especially because we have a virtual online service, perhaps we may lose our manner to worship God. However, remember, we are not watching a movie or entertainment on TV, but we worship God even via Zoom. Jesus said, "A time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship God in Spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers God seeks. God is Spirit, and his worshipers must worship in Spirit and in truth" (John 4:23-24). Who knows it is time God seeks true worshipers. Because God is Spirit, we can worship God at home, at church, and everywhere. However, do not forget our service should be like worshiping God. We use the word "service" for every service, such as at a society or restaurant, perhaps because we should serve people as we worship God. Jesus said in a parable of the sheep and goats, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). God allowed us a new year. It is an excellent opportunity for us to serve others more humbly and joyfully. Let us be a people who serve others humbly and express gratitude gently to others who serve you in a new year. Thanks be to God. Amen!

Announcements (Insert) January 10th, 2021

1. Today is "Baptism of the Lord Sunday, and Law Enforcement Appreciation Sunday". We give thanks to police officers.
2. January 23 is the day of North West District gathering/training. If you are interested in attending, please let pastor Jenny know.
3. We will have a New Membership and Renew Membership Class during Lent season (the week of 2/14 - before Easter, for 7 Weeks). If you are interested or have any questions, please let pastor Jenny know by January 31.
4. The Children's Messages will be uploaded on our parish Facebook page by 4 pm every Monday. Please encourage your kids to view the messages.
5. We lost a member of Central UMC, Raymond Buggert, on Dec. 25, 2020. Sympathy cards can be sent to his sister, Florence Buggert at 329 Geneva Ave N #217, St. Paul, MN 55128.
6. Pastor Jenny's office hours: Grantsburg- 9 to 5 pm Tuesdays and Wednesdays, St. Croix Falls- 11 to 4 pm Thursdays.
7. An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday (January 10th) at 10 am, and here is the zoom service LINK. This link will be posted on our parish website and Facebook page also. The link will be changed every Sunday.

Topic: Sunday Zoom Service, 1-10-2021

Time: 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada) Click the link to Join Sunday Morning Zoom Service.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83905537078?pwd=WlpoaVdCR1RuVkm5UVUvTlNyNm5GUT09>

Meeting ID: 839 0553 7078, Passcode: 164036

- If you are attending the Zoom service for the first time, you may be asked to download the Zoom app. It is free, you will need it.
- If you want to join with your smart phone with video, click the link.
- If you want to dial the number without video, you may dial along with meeting ID and passcode.

+1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 839 0553 7078

Passcode: 164036

Any questions regarding technological issues of the service, contact pastor Jenny.

8. You can also participate via **Toll Free Call (smart phone or landline)** every Sunday at 10:00 am by calling 1-888-222-0475 and enter participant code 2938435.
9. You can hear "**the service (the scripture lesson, song, sermon and prayer-about 30 minutes) by phone**" whenever you are able by calling 1-715-298-0854. We will upload a new service every Sunday afternoon.
10. We need volunteers to be the liturgist every Zoom Sunday. If you are willing to be a liturgist, let Pastor Jenny know which Sunday you are available, and we welcome a special song with your family members.
11. If you miss a Zoom Live Sunday service, you may view a video clip on Facebook or use materials (mailed, emailed or on the Parish website) for a home service. You may want to send your giving (offerings) to your church. If you have any questions regarding services or offerings, please email the church office at: centralumc2016@gmail.com
You may send your giving (offering) to the church (**Please make your check payable to your individual church's name.**)

Atlas UMC: PO Box 254, Luck, WI 54853

Grantsburg-Central UMC: PO Box 128, Grantsburg, WI 54840 St.

Croix Falls UMC: PO Box 458, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

12. This Week's Birthdays and Anniversaries:

*If we miss your birthday, please let us know by email or phone call: centralumc2016@gmail.com / 715-463-2624

Kenneth Olson 1/13

Jim Loomis 1/14

Pauline Bistram 1/15

