

Astoria First United Methodist Church  
January 9, 2022

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*Baptism of our Lord*

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**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
*(\*please stand if you are able)*

<b>GATHERING MUSIC</b>	<b>Kristin Hammond</b>
<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	<b>Chuck Albright</b>
<b>WORDS OF WELCOME</b> <i>(CONGREGATION &amp; ZOOM PARTICIPANTS)</i>	<b>Pastor Michael</b>
<b>CENTERING MUSIC</b>	<b>Kristin Hammond</b>
<b>*CALL TO WORSHIP</b> <i>(If you are able, please stand)</i>	<b>Chuck Albright</b>
L: Our God is a God of power and strength!	
<b>P: God has created each of us with tender care.</b>	
L: Our God is a God of majesty and awe!	
<b>P: God walks with each of us every step of the way.</b>	
L: Our God is a God of glory and wonder!	
<b>P: God loves each of us with tenderness and passion.</b>	
L: Our God calls us each by name.	
<b>All: God calls each of us to unite in worship together!</b>	
<b>WORSHIP WORDS</b>	<b>Pastor Michael</b>
<b>*OPENING HYMN</b> <i>(verses 1-4)</i> <i>“Come thou Almighty King”</i>	<b>Congregation</b> <b>UMH#61</b>
<b>*OPENING PRAYER</b>	<b>Pastor Michael</b>
<b>OT SCRIPTURE READING</b> <i>Selections from Isaiah 43</i> <i>(Israel's Only Savior)</i>	<b>Chuck Albright</b>

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. You are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from

the west I will gather you. I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**“Allegro in A Major”**  
*(by Leopold Mozart)*

**Kristin Hammond**

**PSALTER READING**

***Selections from Psalm 29***  
*(Ascribe to the Lord Glory)*

**Chuck Albright**

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness. The voice of the Lord is over the waters, the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over many waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon. The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, “*Glory!*” The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever. *May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!*

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

**Pastor Michael**

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Congregation**

When our hearts are hard as stone, soften us with your grace. When our lives are riddled with sin and pain, heal us with your mercy. When our ears are ringing with self-doubt and cynicism, strengthen us with words of faith and love. When our minds are muddled with confusion and fear, enlighten us with the radiance of your wisdom. Speak to our spirits from the truth of your being, the reality of your love, and the promise of your forgiveness, that we may hear your voice clearly and follow where you call us to go.

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**Pastor Michael**

Hear the truth of God’s voice breaking through the clouds of our lives: “You are my child, the one I dearly love. I delight in your creation, I delight in your healing, and I long for your wholeness.” In the powerful, loving, always accepting, and forgiving, unimaginably in the Name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Together we are all forgiven.

**THE EPISTLE**

**“Acts 8:14-17”**

**Chuck Albright**

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then *they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.*

**INVITATION TO OFFER OUR BEST GIFTS TO GOD**

**Pastor Michael**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**Congregation  
UMH#95**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**                    *(Unison)*

**Pastor Michael**

Mighty One, your voice is powerful, shaking the wilderness and stripping the forests bare. Speak words of blessing upon our offering this day, that nothing may hinder the good our gifts may do in your name. Give strength to your people, through the gifts we bring before you, that all may know the glory of your Spirit, through Christ Jesus, our Lord. **AMEN.**

**HYMN OF PREPARATION**                    *(verses 1-5)*  
*“How Firm a Foundation”*

**Congregation  
UMH#528**

**GOSPEL LESSON**                    *“Luke 3:15-17, 21-22”*

**Pastor Michael**

**SERMON**                    *“Inexpressible Joy”*

**Pastor Michael**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**Pastor Michael**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**Pastor Michael**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom (kin-dom) come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, (kin-dom), the power, and the glory, forever.*  
**AMEN**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**                    *“Lead On, O King Eternal”*

**Congregation  
UMH #580**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**Pastor Michael**

## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**We welcome to our friends from the Warrenton UMC  
as they join us for worship.**

**We still need volunteers for liturgist each week.  
Please call Sue Hicks or Mary Frances Gunn if you wish to help.  
If you want to provide special music – let Mary Frances know.  
We now have recordings of the worship services available as a link.**