February 21, 2021

10:00 a.m. – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

**WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY**

**Prelude**

*Doug Yetter, piano*

**We Gather in Praise!**

*Praise Team*

**God Is On The Move**

Anytime a heart turns from darkness to light; anytime temptation comes and someone stands to fight; anytime somebody lives to serve and not be served, I know, I know, I know, I know:

God is on the move, on the move, Hallelujah!
God is on the move in many mighty ways.
God is on the move, on the move, Hallelujah!
God is on the move, on the move today.

Anytime in weakness someone falls upon their knees or dares to speak the truth that sets us free; anytime the choice is made to stand upon the Word, I know, I know, I know, I know: 

*Refrain*

I see a generation standing on the truth.
In each and ev’ry nation, God is on the move.

Anytime the Gospel stirs a searching soul, and someone says, “Send me. Here I go.”
I know, I know, I know, I know: 

*Refrain 2X; bridge*

**Welcome & Sharing the Mission & Ministry of Epworth**

*Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith*

**Passing the Peace of Christ & Preparing Our Worship Space**

**Opening Hymn**

*Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith*

**Down by the Jordan**

Down by the Jordan, a prophet named John was baptizing, preaching a message the people found bold and surprising. “God will forgive! Show that you’ll change how you live! Surely God’s new day is rising!”
Jesus, you went to be baptized along with the others, taking Your place among sinners, God’s lost sons and daughters. Then with great love, God’s Spirit came as a dove! Your work began in those waters.

Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God’s Spirit. Freed and forgiven we’re welcomed with joy! Can you hear it? This is God’s sign! This is how God says, “You’re mine!” Let’s take the good news and share it!

Children’s Celebration

Mickie McManamon

**WE ENGAGE THE WORD**

*When Jesus Came to Jordan* ³

When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John, He did not come for pardon but as the sinless one. He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins, to speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.

He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss, for us and our salvation to die upon the cross. So when the dove descended on Him, the Son of Man, the hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.

Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make; this very day invade us, and every bondage break. Come, give our lives direction, the gift we covet most: to share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.

*Gospel Lesson* ⁴

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 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. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

May this scripture inspire us all…

$ to walk in the way that leads to life.

We Pray for Our Pastor

Rob Linder
Anthem

I AM NOT AFRAID

Epworth Select Chorus

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

☞ WE RESPOND TO THE WORD ☞

Sharing Our Gifts

Offerings are given through check, on-line giving, & Texting at 302-488-0038
Bless your heart for supporting our ministries!

Black History Moment

BLEED THE SAME

We all bleed the same. We’re more beautiful when we come together.
We all bleed the same. So tell me why, tell me why we’re divided.

Woke up today; another headline,
another innocent life is taken in the name of hatred.
So hard to take, and if we think that it’s all good,
then we’re mistaken, ’cause my heart is breaking.
Are you left? Are you right? Pointing fingers, taking sides.
When are we gonna realize... [Refrain]

(Bridge) If we’re gonna fight, let’s fight for each other.
If we’re gonna shout, let love be the cry.
We all bleed the same. (*Last time to TAG)
So tell me why, tell me why we’re divided.

Tell me, who are we to judge someone
by the kind of clothes they’re wearing or the color of their skin?
Are you black? Are you white? Aren’t we all the same inside?
Father, open our eyes to see... [Refrain - Bridge]

Only love can drive out all the darkness. What are we fighting for?
We were made to carry one another; We were made for more. (Repeat) {Refrain} (Bridge)

*TAG: Let’s stand united, let’s stand united.

Prayers of Response

Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith

The Lord’s Prayer

Sung Responsively

☞ WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD ☞

THE RIVER

I know a place, where we can go, to lay the troubles down eatin’ your soul,
I know a place, where mercy flows, take the stains, make you whiter than snow.
Like a tide, it is risin’ up, deep inside, a current that moves and makes it come alive.
Living water that brings the dead to life. Oh, oh.
We’re goin’ down to the river, down to the river, down to the river to pray, ay, ay. Let’s get washed by the water, washed by the water and rise up in amazing grace. Let’s go down, down, down, to the river. You will leave changed. Let’s go down, down, down, to the river. Never the same.

I’ve seen it move, in my own life, took me from dusty roads into paradise. All of my dirt, all of my shame, drowned in the streams that’ve made me born again. Like a tide, it is risin’ up, deep inside, a current that moves and makes it come alive. Living water that brings the dead to life. Oh, oh. {Chorus}

TAG 1: Let’s go down. (Oo... Oo... Oo...) Let’s go down. (Oo... Oo... Oo...) Let’s go down. {Chorus}

TAG 2: Oh, down. (Oo... Oo... Oo...) Gotta go, gotta go, gotta go down in amazing grace. Down, down, down to the river. Gotta go, gotta go, gotta go down in amazing grace.

Benediction & Three-Fold Amen

Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith

Postlude

REFLECTION

Doug Yetter, organ

* = Please stand as you are able;  $ = congregational response
2020-21 Worship Series

Discipleship Journey

The Invitation
The Benefits
The Host
Inner Practices
Facing Challenges
Communal Practices
Celtic Spirituality
Creativity & Spirituality
Bulletins for the month of February are sponsored in honor of their daughter, Laine Pace’s birthday, February 24, by her parents, Laurel & Denny St. Germain.

Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God and:

Stephen Ministers, wearing blue name badges, will be at each service if anyone in the Epworth family wants to talk about any life challenges.

The special Peace Candle on the Chancel shines to remind us of God’s desire for peace throughout our world and our call to be God’s peacemakers.

DVD and Broadcast Ministries: All Church Service at Epworth are presented using multimedia technology. The screens above the Chancel area are used for text, videos, photographs and live cameras. Each service is digitally recorded for archive purposes as well as for distribution to our homebound members on DVD. These recording may also be broadcast or archived on our web page. Therefore; you may, at any time, be seen and recorded on camera - anywhere throughout the Sanctuary.

Assisting with today’s service as

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<tr>
<th>Acolyte</th>
<th>Ben Carper, Alex Tamburello, Noah Ryan, Mickie McManamon</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sight &amp; Sound Ushers</td>
<td>Head Usher: Jim Blakeslee</td>
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<td>Usher Coordinator – Worship Pathway: Jim Blakeslee</td>
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The Church Family... Lay Leader: Mike Tyler
Lead Pastor: Rev. Dr. Vicki Gordy-Stith ... Pastor of Community & Communications: Rev. Dr. Bo Gordy-Stith
Minister of Music: Doug Yetter ... Coordinator of Caring Ministries: Mickie McManamon
Office Manager: Darlene Ford ... Special Projects: Debbie Hunt ... Administrative Assistant: Barbara Kurtz
Lead Interpreter: Sandy Davis ... Sound Tech: Ben Carper ... Video Production ... Alex Tamburello
Preschool Director: Betsy Plowman ... Nursery: Cathy Crawford
Custodian: Wanda Hudson ... Maintenance: Mike Harrigan ... Cemetery Superintendent: Jay Stevenson

Worship Resources

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1 God Is On The Move: Ian Eskelin, Tony Wood, Cliff Williams & Mikey Howard ©2015 Wordspring Music, LLC
2 Down by the Jordan: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2000; Erneuerten Gesangbuch, 1665
3 When Jesus Came to Jordan: Fred Pratt Green, 1973; William Walker, 1835
4 I Am Not Afraid: Words by Pamela Martin; Music by Lloyd Larson ©2009 by Beckenhorst Press, Inc.
5 Bleed the Same: Chris Stevens, Bryan Fowler, Toby McKeehan & Mandisa Hundley ©2017 Moody Producer Music
6 The River: Jordan Feliz, Joshua Silverberg & Colby Wedgeworth ©2015 CentricSongs
7 Reflection: Robert J. Powell ©2018 Lorenz Publishing