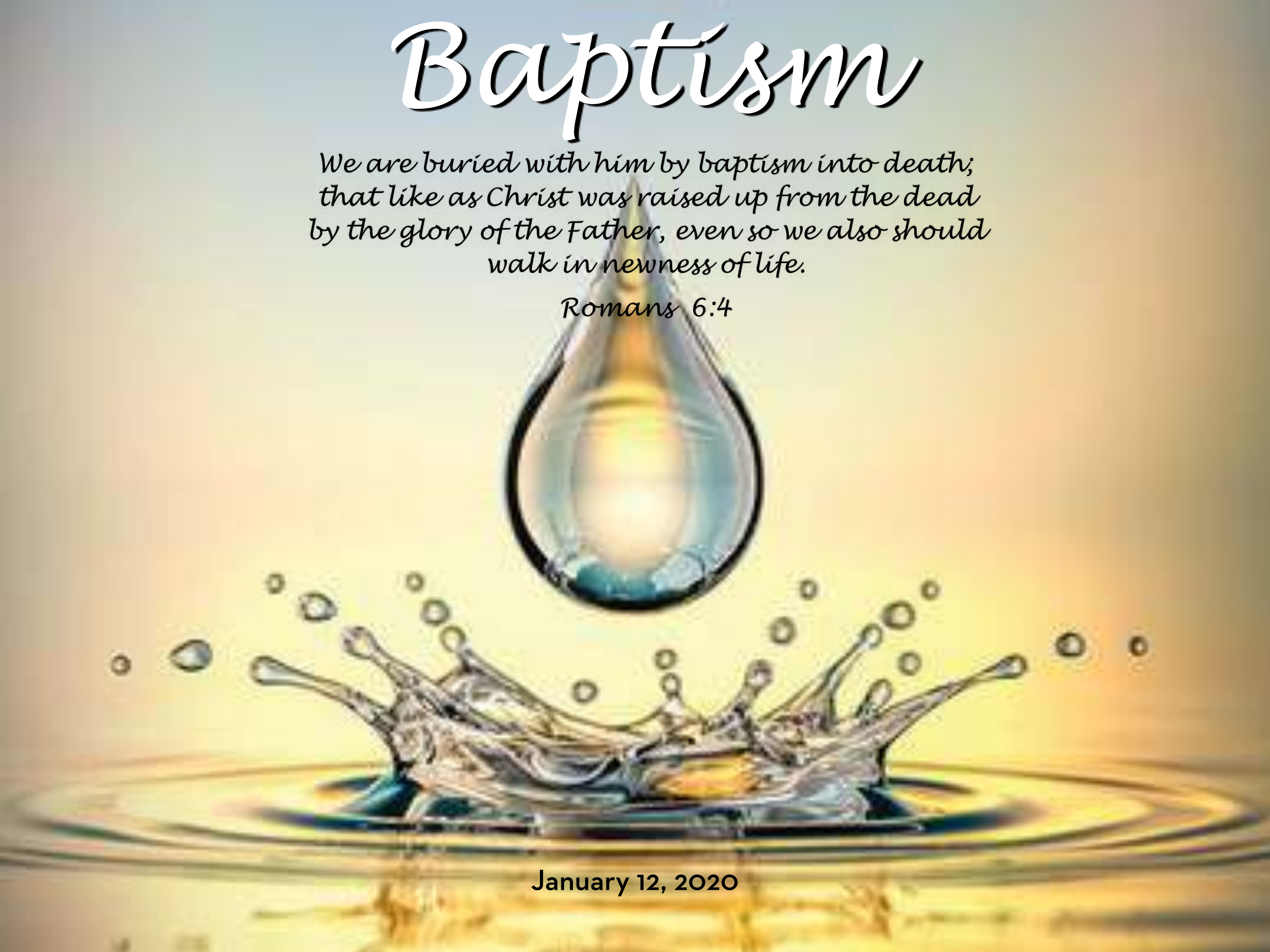


Baptism

*We are buried with him by baptism into death;
that like as Christ was raised up from the dead
by the glory of the Father, even so we also should
walk in newness of life.*

Romans 6:4



January 12, 2020

We Gather for Worship

Prelude & Entrance of Christ's Light

Gratitude Moments

*Call to Worship

L: We are called here together in Jesus' name.

P: We are one through baptism in his name.

L: Baptism adopts us fully into the family of God.

P: We are God's family.

L: Let us worship our God together.

*Hymn "This is the Spirit's Entry Now"

UMH #608

A Time for the Child in all of Us

Ministry of Music

Prayer (unison)

Gracious God, sometimes we really don't understand the impact of baptism. For so many, it seems like a ritual that happens once and then we move on. Help us to remember that, when we are baptized, we enter into new life with Christ, and we receive the power of your Spirit that will lead us throughout our lives. Remind us that baptism isn't just a thing we do, but a way of living because of Jesus Christ and the power of the Spirit in our lives. May we seek to be faithful in our journey together as your baptized children. Amen.

Sung Response "Come and Fill Our Hearts"

TFWS #2157

We Proclaim the Word

Reading the Word Matthew 3:1-2, 11-17

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

Message "Baptism" -

Rev. Dr. Deb Hanson

Renewal of Our Baptism (insert)

*Hymn "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters"

UMH #605

We Respond to God's Word

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer and Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

*Doxology (Please join in singing the following)

UMH #94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

O God, all that we have comes from you, including our very lives. Receive these offerings as gifts toward your call for us to make a difference through our church's mission and ministry. Amen.

We Go Forth to Serve

*Hymn "Hymn of Promise"

UMH #707

*Choral Benediction (Congregation encircles the Sanctuary)

May the Lord, gracious God bless and keep you forever. Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor. Lift up your eyes and seek His face, and His grace forever. May the Lord, mighty God bless and keep you forever.

*Pastor's Charge

Postlude

**Please stand as you are comfortable*

*TFWS = The Faith We Sing UMH = United Methodist Hymnal
Large print bulletins are available from the greeters*



UPCOMING EVENTS

1/14 - 9:30 am the Peace Circle will meet at the church.

1/14 - The Church Council meeting will be held at at 6:00 pm.

1/18 - Visioning committee meeting is at 11:30 am will be held at Kevin Fickenscher's home.

Sundays - Church Service starts at 10 a.m. Sunday School is right after the children's sermon and we look forward to catching up with you during coffee hour after the worship service...see you there

Everyday - Be a Prayer Warrior and lift up the world and it's people in prayer.

Sometime this week - write a note, card or visit one of our family members who are either living in assisted living, nursing care or homebound.

2020 Flower chart - is posted in the Narthex. You can bring your own arrangement or have the church order them at a cost of \$25 to you. This is a great way to honor, remember, thank or let someone know they are appreciated.

Altar flowers - this week are Dedicated in Loving memory of Son/Brother, Jay Sarosiek by Sue and Kaya.



PRAYER LIST

Dan Strange

Bobbie Noble

The Westcott Family

Sylvia Bartlett's Family

Judy Doyon

Rev. Charles Hartman

Our Denomination

Our Church Family

All those living in assisted living, nursing care or homebound



WORSHIP TEAM

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson

Pastor's Assistant - David Richards

Liturgist - Graham Baker

Lay Leader - Susan Sarosiek

Acolyte - Kaya Sarosiek

Director of Music - Bevan Bloemendaal

Greeters - The VanReenen Family

Ushers - Ken & Jenya Westbrook

Sound Tech - Sue Sarosiek

Worship Service Tech - Steve Scott

Photographer - Dave Atkinson

Sunday School - Cathy VanReenen

COMMUNION SUNDAY PRAYER MINISTRY

The Prayer Team is made up of individuals who know the power of prayer and will be stationed near the communion rail to offer prayers of healing for yourself or someone you know needing to be lifted up in prayer after you have received the elements. January's Prayer Team is Sue Richards.



THINGS TO KNOW

Welcome from Rev. Deb -

Welcome! Whether you are joining us for worship for the first time or after many years of attending here at First UMC, we want you to know that you are welcome!

We are an inclusive community that invites everyone to be part of our church fellowship. Thank you for being here, and we hope that you have had a meaningful experience of worshiping our God so you leave this place feeling that you have been blessed to be a blessing. Please join us again!

New Address -

Congratulations to Rev. Deb and Dave who moved into their new home at Wesley by the Sea after Christmas. Their new address is: Deb Hanson & Dave Atkinson, 47 Dorfield Lane, PO Box 1363, Wells, ME 04090. Their home phone is available in the church office. Please use that if you have a need to reach Rev. Deb when she isn't in the office.

Blessings Bank -

The donations collected from the Blessings Bank at the beginning of each church service is going toward helping a school in Cameroon. Our Sunday school kids have a connection with the school and our donations provide them with supplies and the ability to keep educating the children. Thank you for sharing your blessings!

Coffee Hour -

Come join us for coffee, snacks and fellowship directly after the church service in Sanborn Hall. We'd love to catch up.



WITH THANKS

We celebrate the life of Sylvia Bartlett -

Sylvia May Bartlett, 94 of Rye, passed away peacefully in her own home on Tuesday, January 7, 2020. Born in Bangor, Maine, on November 20, 1925, she was the daughter of Jotham and Gertrude Lane.

She is survived by her brother, Marlin Lane and his wife Patricia; daughter, Karen Blaisdell and her husband, John; son, John Bartlett and his partner, Joette MacKenzie; son, Richard Bartlett and his wife, Lynne; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Sylvia grew up in Lincoln, Maine and during school break at Mattanawcook Academy she made uniforms for soldiers at a Vassalboro woolen mill. She attended UMO, then worked at Dow AFB where she met her husband, John Donaldson Bartlett, a USAF Master sergeant. Moving to Rye in 1960, her civil service continued at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and then for the Social Security Administration.

Upon retiring Sylvia enjoyed traveling, writing poetry and being an active member of the First United Methodist Church, in Portsmouth.

“One Feast of Many Gifts from God”

By Sylvia Bartlett

I breakfasted on dewdrops wrapped in crocus blooms,
For lunch assorted won-ton clouds, (I swallowed quite a few.)
At four I sipped the nectar of the salt sea air
with hors' d'oeuvres of laughter and long-time friendships shared.
Dinner was a masterpiece, I wished to taste it all,
conversation flavored with spicy sprigs of wit and music overall.
Dessert quite took my breath away, I could scarcely drink it in,
sunset, red and pink and gold. Now tomorrow, to begin again.



FUMC PORTSMOUTH A RECONCILING CONGREGATION

We, the congregation of the First United Methodist Church of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, are dedicated in worshipping, learning, and serving with all people as we embrace Jesus Christ's message of love and acceptance. As a United Methodist Church we stand fully behind the statement "Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors". We celebrate our diversity and invite all persons regardless of age, gender, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, marital or socioeconomic status, nationality, physical or mental ability into full membership and participation in the life of this community of faith.



New England Annual Conference Tri-State District
The Rev. Sudarshana Devadhar, Bishop
The Rev. Taesung Kang, District Superintendent

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
129 Miller Avenue - Portsmouth, NH 03801
Office Phone 603-436-6038 office@fumcportsmouth.net
Pastor office hours - Tuesday and Thursday 9 am - 12 pm
[call to ensure availability]
Pastor - Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson

Check out our website at www.fumcportsmouth.com

Like and Follow Us On:



Reaffirmation of Baptism

Greeting

L: Dear friends, on this day of re-creation we recall Christ's baptism, and we claim and remember our own.

P: We gather at this font of living water to celebrate the gift of God's redeeming grace.

L: For just as the body is one and has many members and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

P: For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, male or female—and were all made to drink of one Spirit.

L: Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

*Affirmation of Faith

L: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

P: We do.

L: : Do you believe in God?

P: We believe in God, the creator of heaven and earth.

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

P: We believe in Jesus Christ, the only one begotten son of God before all worlds.

L: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

P: We believe in God, the Holy Spirit.

L: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and community, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer?

P: We will, with God's help.

L: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being?

P: We will, with God's help.

L: Let us pray.

P: In this and all we do, keep us faithful to our Savior Jesus Christ, forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing of Water

L: Let us pray: We thank you, God, for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. In the time of Noah you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning. In the time of Moses and Miriam your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land. In the fullness of time you sent Jesus Christ who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb. Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all nations by water and the Holy Spirit.

L: Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water that by it we may be reminded of our baptism into Jesus Christ and that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may be kept faithful until you receive us at last in your eternal home.

P: Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

The Congregation Remembers Baptism

L: Eternal God, you have come to us in Jesus Christ, given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins, bless us now with the grace we need to fulfill what we have promised.

P: Keep us faithful to our Savior Jesus Christ, forever and ever. Amen.

L: Remember your baptism and be thankful.

P: Amen.

Reaffirmation at the Baptismal Font

*Please stand as you are comfortable.



SERMON TRANSCRIPT GIVEN BY
REV. DR. DEB HANSON

“Baptism: You Are My Beloved” - 1/12/2020
First UMC - Rev. Dr. Debra J. Hanson

SCRIPTURES: Matthew 3:13-17

THEME: We are God’s beloved children.

In January of 2011, I watched with great interest as Ted Williams - called the man with the golden voice - was reunited with his mother. Julia Williams put her hands in her face, weeping for joy, looked up at Ted, said, “I love you. Don’t disappoint me again!” Ted’s struggles with drugs and alcohol had caused him to lose everything, and even when he did have phone conversations with his mother, she said he would push her away because she tried to encourage him to turn his life over to God. Eventually, Ted did just that, and he seems to be staying sober, giving his mother hope.

Ted said that it was shame that kept him from staying in contact with her all those years, but, at that point, he had turned his life around and been off drugs and alcohol for two years, and he looked for help from others, including his mother, to help him stay on track. The most recent information I could find about him was that he was a sportscaster at a radio station in Ohio and doing well. Julia’s love for her son was steadfast, and she said that the only thing that continued to give her hope was her faith in God’s presence with him and constant praying.

The love that good parents have for their children is beyond words. It is deep and abiding and strong and persistent. Those of you who are parents or aunts, uncles, or who play any kind of role in a child’s life have some understanding of the word “beloved.” In our Matthew passage today, Jesus appeared in the wilderness and asked John to baptize him. John resisted, and who could blame him? After all, Jesus was the Messiah, so shouldn’t Jesus be the one to baptize John? But Jesus also persisted, so John baptized him, and as Jesus came out of the water, he heard the voice of God saying, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” This is my son, the Beloved. God claimed Jesus; God named Jesus; God loved Jesus. Jesus’ baptism was the beginning of his ministry, but more than that, it was an act of affirmation, identifying Jesus as God’s Son, as God’s chosen One.

In Isaiah 42, we have almost a job description of who this Messiah will be: a servant chosen by God: God’s delight; one who brings justice; a strong voice that teaches righteousness; upholds the covenant; is a light to the world; opens the eyes of the blind; and releases the prisoners. We believe that Jesus was the fulfillment of that prophecy, and that not only did he carry out that mission during his time here on earth, he revealed the truth about our God who loves and cherishes ALL human beings. Jesus embodied God; he revealed the character and personality of God to us.

I find the choice of words at Jesus’ baptism so powerful: “You are my beloved.” Those aren’t the words of a distant, disinterested, punitive God, but the words of a very real, loving, connected God. In fact, Eugene Peterson translates the words in The Message this way: “This is my Son, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life.” Delight of my life! Jesus’ baptism not only proclaimed his identity, but it was his inauguration into ministry. Martin Luther once said, “Baptism is something done in church one day, but it takes the rest of life to complete.” (from Lindy Black’s sermon notes found at Text This Week.com, commentary section for this Sunday’s readings.) Jesus began his work once his identity as God’s son and his calling to do God’s work in the world was established.

In this week’s commentaries on the Matthew scripture passage, Rev. Sarah Dylan Breuer wrote about the connection between fathers and sons in the culture of Jesus’ day. She reminds us that sometimes we hear the saying “Like father, like son,” and in Jesus’ day that was not just an observation about how the

son resembled or acted like his father. It actually was the belief that the sons either honored or brought shame to their fathers in the way they acted or the choices they made. If we think about the son in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, the youngest son who took all the money and left, spending it carelessly and then returned home penniless, we find that he not only dishonored himself and should have been totally disowned, but he dishonored and brought shame on his father in the eyes of the community.

So, “when we say that Jesus is God’s Son, we are also making claims about God” and who God is. Rev. Breuer writes: “When we say that Jesus is God’s son, going about the family business, we are saying not only that Jesus is like God; we are saying that God is like Jesus.” When we see Jesus, we see, understand, experience God. And when we are baptized into Jesus’ baptism, we rise from the water, and God says: “You are my beloved child, the delight of my life!” As Christians, we claim to be followers of Jesus, which means that we are connected with God through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, AND we are connected to each other through our baptism. (Found at Text This Week.com under commentaries for 1/9/11)

Baptism is God’s naming and claiming of us as God’s own child. Baptism is God’s work of bringing us new life in Christ. It is God’s adoption of us, and it is not only who we are, but also WHOSE we are. In Christ, we are called, commissioned, sent to be the embodiment of Christ in the world. We bring Christ into a living breathing Being who makes a difference in other people’s lives by the way we live ours. As the Church of Jesus Christ in the world, we are Christ to the world; we are the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

Evangelist Dwight Moody said: Show me a church where there is love, and I will show you a church that is a power in the community. In Chicago a few years ago a little boy attended a Sunday school. When his parents moved to another part of the city the little fellow still attended the same Sunday school, although it meant a long, tiresome walk each way. A friend asked him why he went so far, and told him that there were plenty of others just as good nearer his home. "They may be as good for others, but not for me," was his reply. "Why not?" she asked. "Because they love a fellow over there," he replied. If only we could make the world believe that we loved them there would be fewer empty churches, and a smaller proportion of our population who never darken a church door. Let love replace duty in our church relations, and the world will soon be evangelized. (Moody's Anecdotes, pp. 71-72, found at Sermon Illustrations.com)

Too many churches have lost their passion for making disciples for Christ. Too many churches have lost their passion for Personal Holiness - meaning our relationship with God, and Social Holiness - meaning our relationship with the world and social justice. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism preached that we need a balance of both, and both are connected to each other. We start by claiming our identity as God’s children, and I think that has to start with believing that God loves us!

Every so often I encounter someone who really believes that he or she has been so bad that God could not possibly love them. That is a denial of God’s ability to love and the grace of God that is offered freely to everyone. The difficulty isn’t that God doesn’t love them but that they refuse to accept it. Ted Williams, whom I mentioned at the beginning, finally accepted it. His mother told him over and over again, and he would quickly hang up because he couldn’t believe it. He said in the interview with Meredith Viera that he just couldn’t handle hearing that God loved him - he had been so bad. But somewhere along the way, God touched his heart, and he finally accepted the gift of God’s love, and he turned his life over to Christ. He accepted that he was God’s beloved child, just as he was his mother’s beloved child.

So I ask each one of us today - including myself - do we believe that we are God's beloved children? Are we willing to accept God's love and grace in our lives? Are we willing to live out our baptism, following in Jesus' example and teachings? Are we willing to work at growing in God's grace and sharing that grace with others as we interact with, live in, and reach out to the world?

In your bulletin is a reaffirmation of baptism, and invite you to join with me as we affirm our baptism together. At the end, I invite you to come up and touch the water in the baptismal font and remember that you are God's beloved child. If you would like to bring a friend or spouse with you, please feel free to share that experience.

Reaffirmation of Baptism

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L: Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

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L: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ? P: We do.

L: Do you believe in God? P: We believe in God, the creator of heaven and earth.

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ? P: We believe in Jesus Christ, the only one begotten son of God before all worlds.

L: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? P: We believe in God, the Holy Spirit.

L: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and community, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer? P: We will, with God's help.

L: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being? P: We will, with God's help.

L: Let us pray together.

P: In this and all we do, keep us faithful to our Savior Jesus Christ, forever and ever. Amen.

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L: Let us pray:

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L: Remember your baptism and be thankful.

P: Amen.

Reaffirmation at the Baptismal Font