ORDER OF WORSHIP

***PREPARATION – VIP#161 – Spirit of the Living God (x2)***

CALL TO WORSHIP L: For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies **C: For the love which from our birth, over and above us lies: All: Gracious God to thee we raise, this our sacrifice of praise**

OPENING HYMN – *VIP#518 – This is my Father’s world*

OPENING PRAYERSINVOCATION (All)**God of heaven and earth,** **we gather in the name of Jesus to hear your holy Word and to be immersed in your Spirit. Speak to us with grace and truth and pour out your love upon us so that this temple may resound with joyful shouts of glory; through Christ our Lord. Amen.** CALL TO CONFESSION *[pouring water into the font]* (L) A prophet appeared in the wilderness, calling the people to repent, be baptized, and prepare the way of the Lord. We return to the water to confess our sins, giving thanks for the grace of Jesus Christ, the one who has come to save us (time of silence). PRAYER OF CONFESSION (All) **God of all glory, you look from heaven and see us as we are— not worthy to kneel at your feet, not ready to welcome your way. Forgive us, gracious God in Christ, stoop down to save us; loosen the ties that bind us to sin and set us free to love and serve you; in Jesus’ name. Amen.** DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS *[lifting water from the font]* (L) Hear the good news of the gospel: as a voice from heaven said to Jesus, so God says to each of us: you are my beloved child, and with you I am well pleased. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

WELCOME TESTIMONY Time

***THE WORD OF GOD***

COLLECT: Eternal Father, at the Baptism of Jesus you revealed him to be your Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful to their calling as your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT – Genesis:1-5  
Responsive Reading – Psalm 29 (VIP#584)

EPISTLE – Acts 19:1-7

GOSPEL – Mark 1:4-11

HYMN

1. What can wash away my sin?  
   Nothing but the blood of Jesus;  
   What can make me whole again?  
   Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

*Chorus: Oh! precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

1. For my cleansing this I see—  
   Nothing but the blood of Jesus!  
   For my pardon this my plea—  
   Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
2. Nothing can my sin erase  
   Nothing but the blood of Jesus!  
   Naught of works, ’tis all of grace—  
   Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
3. This is all my hope and peace—  
   Nothing but the blood of Jesus!  
   This is all my righteousness—  
   Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

MESSAGE – Rev. Alison Iton

***RESPONSE TO THE WORD***

LITANY – GOD OF THE WATERS (said alternately):

God of the waters. Water of birth,  
**moving us from safety into the world.**

God of the waters. Water of connection,  
**engaging the playful Spirit, the passionate Christ,  
the challenging God.**

God of the waters. Water of life,  
**sustaining, quenching, cleansing.**

God of the waters. Water of trouble,  
**journeying us from here to there,** **from the known to the unknown.**

God of the waters.  
**Birth us. Connect us. Live in us. Trouble us.**

*(Scott A. Ressman)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES RECEIVING AND DEDICATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (L):Let us pray to the Lord, saying, ***Give strength, O lord, and bless us with peace.*** All-glorious God, maker of heaven and earth, hear us as we pray: ***Give strength, O lord, and bless us with peace.*** We pray for the world you have made…move again over these troubled waters, steeped in chemicals and stained with blood. Where the Covid viruses are causing dis-ease and death, restore us to health. Where carelessness and violence bring chaos restore order, goodness, and life. ***Give strength, O lord, and bless us with peace.*** We pray for the church you have redeemed…Renew in us the gifts of your Spirit and the call to Christian discipleship. Where history and heresy have divided us, make us one in the baptism we share. ***Give strength, O lord, and bless us with peace.*** We pray for the peoples you have created…Give to the leaders of this nation the wisdom to know what is good. Where people are poor and hungryprovide justice and daily bread. ***Give strength, O lord, and bless us with peace.*** We pray for the loved ones you have given us…bless our families, friends, and neighbors; keep them safe from trouble and danger. Where there is sorrow, sickness, or suffering send your Spirit of comfort and healing (time for silent naming). ***Give strength, O lord, and bless us with peace.*** All this we pray in the name of the Lord Jesus, whose voice is our strength and salvation, whose breath is the Spirit of peace. Amen. THE LORD’S PRAYER *(sung, Malotte)*

CLOSING HYMN

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining  
   In the midst of the darkness, shining  
   Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us  
   Set us free by the truth you now bring us  
   Shine on me, shine on me

*Chorus: Shine, Jesus, shine  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word  
Lord, and let there be light*

1. Lord, I come to your awesome presence  
   From the shadows into your radiance  
   By the blood I may enter your brightness  
   Search me, try me, consume all my darkness  
   Shine on me, shine on me
2. As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
   So our faces display your likeness  
   Ever changing from glory to glory  
   Mirrored here may our lives tell your story  
   Shine on me, shine on me

COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

Go now, and live in the spirit of your baptism,  
even when you are led into wild and hard places.  
With repentance and trust, give yourselves to God,  
and with fasting and prayer, strengthen yourselves against the ways of the tempter. And may God enfold you in tender and lasting love. May Christ be beside you in times of struggle.  
And may the Spirit guide you back to the path whenever you stray, that you may keep the covenant. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, **in the name of Christ. Amen.**