

**COMMUNION SUNDAY**  
**8/2/2020**  
**10 a.m.**

**GATHERING MUSIC**      *Give Thanks*      Deb Verdegan, Piano

**WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & INTRODUCTION TO OFFERING**  
Rev. Cathy Christman

- Communion today – please have bread, juice/wine, and a vessel of water prepared;
- New Sermon Series starts today: Splash Zone
- Drive Thru Prayer available next Sunday – 8:30-9:30am under the carport;
- Next Class starts August 5 and 6 – “*How To Be Antiracist*” by Ibram Kendii. There are 2 virtual/video classes and 1 in-person class.

**PRELUDE**      *Lord, I Need You*      Deb Verdegan, Piano

**CENTERING WORDS AND OPENING PRAYER**

“While the truth that we cannot escape God’s all-seeing eye may weigh us down at times, it is finally the only remedy for our uneasiness. Only under God’s steady gaze of love are we able to find the healing and restoration we so desperately need.” –Marjorie Thompson

These last few months have been testing and trying not only for our church family but also our world. We are ready for a splash of life! We are ready for a renewal of our spirits!

Now is the time! Now is the time for a renewal of the call to membership, to faithful discipleship. Now is the time to feel the life-giving waters of our baptisms splash over us once again. Now is the time for healing and restoration. Now is the time for God’s steady flow of love to bring life to our weary souls.

God of life, Repentance is hard and many of us don’t know how to do it in a way that bears real fruit in our own souls and in our relationships with others. At our baptisms and membership Sundays, we celebrate a new life, a renewed life as followers of Jesus Christ. We celebrate a verbal commitment to renouncing the spiritual forces of wickedness and evil in our world. As we recall flowing waters of life, may we feel a renewed call today to repent from our ways and turn to God’s ways. Amen.

**SONG**      *All Who Hunger*      F2126  
Deb Verdegan, Piano  
Rev. Cathy Christman & Deb Verdegan ,vocalists

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

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.

**SCRIPTURE READING**      Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**      Splash Zone #1 – Repentance

**SERMON**      *Making Changes*      Rev. Cathy Christman

**MINISTRY MOMENT:** *Sacrament of Holy Communion*

*Please have a bowl of water, bread and juice/wine prepared.*

*Communion liturgy is on a separate sheet.*

**CLOSING SONG**      *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*      U671  
Deb Verdegan, piano  
Rev. Cathy Christman & Deb Verdegan, vocalists

**SENDING FORTH**

**POSTLUDE**      *Blest be the Tie that Binds*      Deb Verdegan, piano

**THANK YOU TO REV. CATHY AND DEB VERDEGAN AS  
VOCALISTS AND DEB VERDEGAN AS MUSIC DIRECTOR  
FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE SERVICE TODAY.**

The service today was recorded live at SUMC Sanctuary.

CHURCH STAFF

Pam Mickelson, Administrative Assistant  
Lidije Hashani, Custodian



**STOUGHTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
REV. CATHY CHRISTMAN  
525 LINCOLN AVE  
STOUGHTON WI  
608-873-3273**

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**E-mail: [office@stoughtonumc10.org](mailto:office@stoughtonumc10.org)  
[pastor@stoughtonumc10.org](mailto:pastor@stoughtonumc10.org)**

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**All services can be viewed on YouTube:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR4nW9246ErVgBo\\_3v917\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR4nW9246ErVgBo_3v917_w)**

## **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

For our “Splash Zone” sermon series, you are invited to be a part of a special water communion ritual. Please prepare your communion elements as well as a small container of water. We'll be remembering God's gifts in this holy meal and the waters of our baptism that bind our lives together - near and far.

As a Christian community we are accustomed to regular participation in this holy meal. In this ritual, we are given a taste of Christ's vision of a table where all feast together, in peace, in loving relationship, and in justice. This morning we enter that vision again, adding another piece to the story.

Today, we remember the beginning - where the Spirit of God hovered over the waters of Creation. Blessing water as a source of life for all the Earth, God has made us dependent on this resource.

Water reminds us of our limits – without it, our lives and communities cannot be sustained.

Water reminds us of what refreshes and renews our bodies and souls both spiritually and physically.

And water reminds us of our relationship to other creatures – animals, plants, and humans alike, all thirst. We remember that we are all connected and it is our responsibility to share this earth and its resources with all of God's beloved creation.

This morning, as we feast and splash in our prepared water bowls, may we listen for God's voice in the waters - water from our sinks, our faucets, water from our rivers and home. The waters from all around our community unite as one again and remind us of our own connection – to the earth, to one another, and to God, our primary source of life.

As I pray today, play in your water. Feel the coolness. Remember times when water renewed you and brought peace to your spirit. Break your bread, swirl your Communion cup. Remember the times when God's spirit renewed you through this holy meal.

## **BLESSING OF THE ELEMENTS**

Creator God, we ask your blessing upon the waters brought forth by us all. You have entrusted us to care for creation, for the earth, and for water. Forgive us for the ways we mistreat this precious resource. Forgive us, O God, for all the ways we betray the gifts of water and its relationship to all life.

As we break bread and share the cup together, we remember that night Jesus gathered with his disciples in the upper room, similar to the settings we have in our homes. As comfortable as they were, they feasted recalling the life-changing ministry of Jesus. Jesus offered them bread and cup knowing that they were receiving more than just a symbol of his life. They were recipients of a life-saving grace. Today, God, as we bring our offerings to our sacred tables from our communities near and far, may we be reminded of how you weave our lives together, bodily, spiritually, relationally, ecologically. May we remember our baptism. May we remember our calling to resist evil together, to seek justice for all who thirst, and to use all of our resources for your kingdom.

With joy and thanksgiving, we pray. Amen.

## **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

## **GIVING OF BREAD AND CUP**

## **PRAYER AFTER MEAL**

God of life, we give you thanks for this holy mystery – in the bread and the cup. We give you thanks for this holy mystery in the power of our baptismal waters. As we find ourselves in the splash zone this month, help to hold onto that feeling of response, that feeling of call. Help us to use our resources, our gifts for your kingdom. Amen.