

Baptism of the Lord
1st Sunday After Epiphany
January 10, 2021



"Awe and Wonder"

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Diane Adams, Liturgist

Strength and peace are the prayer of the Psalm this week. The Psalmist says "let me count the ways" that we can know the strength of the Holy One. With awe and wonder we behold the presence of God in all the elements of creation—water, fire, air, earth. And it is this glory that assures us that God, indeed, is holding our lives.

Threshold

“God is Holding Your Life”

**Lift up your eyes, behold the hills.
From where will help and rescue come?
We call the One who made the earth,
Who bless'd the stars, the moon and sun.**

**God is holding your life
God is holding your life
God is holding your life, we believe**
[repeat refrain]

Opening Collect Prayer

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Holy and Awesome God, You who created everything in a spectacular show of light and matter. Open us this day to the wonder of your power so that we might know the everlasting strength of your reign on earth as it is in heaven.

People: We praise you for your mighty works, holding our lives in the fabric of the cosmos. Amen.

Hymn GTG 23 “God, You Spin the Whirling Planets” *verses 1-3*

- 1 God, you spin the whirling planets, fill the seas and spread the plain, mold the mountains, fashion blossoms, call forth sunshine, wind, and rain. We, created in your image, would a true reflection be of your justice, grace, and mercy and the truth that makes us free.
- 2 You have called us to be faithful in our life and ministry. We respond in grateful worship joined in one community. When we blur your gracious image, focus us and make us whole. Healed and strengthened as your people, we move onward toward your goal.
- 3 God, your word is still creating, calling us to life made new. Now reveal to us fresh vistas where there's work to dare and do. Keep us clear of all distortion. Polish us with loving care. Thus, new creatures in your image, we'll proclaim Christ everywhere.

Psalm Reading

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Give glory to ADONAI, you heavenly court, give ADONAI glory and strength!

Give forth the glory that God's Name deserves,
and worship ADONAI in the splendor of holiness!
The voice of ADONAI resounds over the waters;
the God of glory thunders over the raging seas.

God's voice is powerful,
God's voice is full of majesty.

The voice of ADONAI snaps the cedars, shatters the cedars of Lebanon.

It makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
The voice of ADONAI strikes with bolts of lightning;
the voice of YHWH shakes the wilderness,
the wilderness of Kadesh.
The voice of God twists the oaks,
and strips the forests bare;
and in God's Temple all cry, "Glory!"
ADONAI sits in judgment over the flood;
ADONAI is its Ruler forever.
Give strength to your people, ADONAI!
Bless your people with peace!

**Introduction from Richard Bruxvoort Colligan and Song:
"Awe and Wonder"**

Reflection

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Instrumental Musical Selection

Offering

Diane Adams, Liturgist

"Selah" Moment

Diane Adams, Liturgist

As we explained last week, the Psalms have a repeated direction throughout—the word "Selah." While scholars are not sure exactly what it means, we are taking it to mean a "pause in the action." Pause is something that we need and our faith calls us to this holy pause. We will use an instrumental sound to remind us to take a pause, a breath, and remember that the settling of our hearts can offer the feeling that we are held in the hands of the Divine. We will hear [the sound] and then have some silence. Feel free to close your eyes if you like. Imagine yourself held in safety and love and care. When you hear [the sound] again, open your eyes.

Silence

Prayers of the People

Each week we will have a moment to write prayer concerns on small pieces of paper. We will then place these prayers in a container [*bowl, box, etc.*]—a symbolic action of placing them in God's hands, God's care.

Let us continue our prayers. I will offer a category of concern and we will allow a brief pause, then we will respond as indicated. As a prayer posture for this worship series, I invite you to cup your hands, ready to receive God's love and peace, and in preparation to be God's love and peace in the world.

Let us pray for the leaders of this world and this church community...

People: God of Justice, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who live in conflict around the world...

People: Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who are experiencing loss of any kind in this pandemic...

People: Comforting Healer, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who are homeless, hungry and alone...

People: Emmanuel, God-Is With-Us, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who live in comfort, for Christ-like hospitality and generosity...

People: Transforming Spirit, hear our prayer.

Holy and Living One, for those we have named and the ones whose names we do not know, **hear our prayer.**

Let the people say, "Selah"

People: Selah!

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

[People join in singing]

Sung Prayer Response

"Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands"

**Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it,
protect it like a candle flame, with tenderness enfold it.**

**Put peace into each other's hands with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways,
in touch with God's creation.**

Passing the Peace

Diane Adams, Liturgist

Will you make a gesture of extending your cupped hands toward others who may be with or near you as a sign of offering the peace that Christ gives us? If you are alone, place your cupped hands over your heart, as a sign that you send your heartfelt peace out to the world.

The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

[People join in singing]

**Give thanks for strong yet tender hands
held out in trust and blessing.
Where words fall short let hands speak out;
the heights of love expressing.**

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Now go in the knowledge that God is holding your life
even as we hold each other.
You are not alone.
You are loved. Amen.

Postlude

“God Is Holding Your Life” Worship series design © Worship Design Studio by Marcia McFee. Used, adapted, and live-streamed with permission. www.worshipdesignstudio.com.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-737704. All rights reserved."

CCLI Copyright License #11462454 CCLI Streaming License #20370027

FPC Monroe Worship Team

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler, Pastor
Rob Edwards, Minister of Music
Diane Adams, Liturgist
Chelsea Whiteoak, Guest Soloist
Isaac Fankhauser, Sound Team
Josh McMann, Sound Team
Randy Stiffler, Sound Team



108 Washington Street
Monroe, Michigan 48161
734-242-1545