

Live from St. John's Chapel – A Thursday Evening Prayer Service

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, come into the presence of the Lord today!

People: **We come, with all the joys and sorrows, all our hopes, dreams, and cares.**

Leader: You have been fashioned by God's love. You are called across the waters of creation to be a blessing.

People: **We have been called to be people of hope and light.**

Leader: You have been offered nourishment and cleansing by creation's Waters.

People: **Help us to receive again the blessing of adoption by God.**

Opening Prayer

All: **God who watches over us, offering us light and hope, be with us this day as we hear the story of Jesus' baptism. Help us to remember your healing, cleansing, and claiming love for us. Remind us again of the many ways in which you reach out to us. May the image of the waters be for us an image of hope. Bring us closer to you, loving God. Embrace us again with your love. We open our hearts to you this day. Now let us pray the way our Savior taught us ...**

***The 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 debts, As we forgive our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell, the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the One Holy Universal Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Meditation

Stones, Pebbles and Rocks – Rev. Mark Katrick

Pastoral Prayer

Leader: Creator God, when everything first began, water became a symbol of refreshing, of washing away, of renewing. Through the waters of creation, you brought forth abundant life.

After Jesus came up out of the waters of baptism, your Spirit proclaimed that He was your beloved Son in whom you were very well pleased. Our spirits resound with that proclamation. Jesus dedicated his life to you completely and without reservation. Help us to dedicate our lives to you, to offer our best, to be of service to you by serving in your world. We now lift before you the names of people near and dear to us who need your healing touch and your tender mercies (*silence*).

We also lift ourselves as people in need of your grace. Our world is in the midst of strife; wars, oppression, famine, hunger, alienation, situations in which we have abused the world and each other. Our country is in turmoil.

All: Heal our nation and this world, Lord. Renew us with your life-giving waters and re-affirm our baptisms as your children. Let us go forth to be people of peace and mercy. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Benediction (Psalm 29)

Leader: God is lord over the waters and rules forever. May the God who reigns over all creation, give us strength and bless us with peace.