

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - LITTLE ROCK



Being good neighbors to make Little Rock a place where children THRIVE.

**JANUARY 9, 2022 | FIRST TRADITION 11:00 AM | BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

## GATHERING

### **PRELUDE**

James Stanley

*Triumphant Trumpets on Shall We Gather at the River* | Grimoaldo Macchia

### **CALL TO WORSHIP †**

### **PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST †**

LEADER: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also, with you.

### **OPENING HYMN †**

*Come, Christians, Join to Sing* | United Methodist Hymnal 158

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **CHORAL ANTHEM**

*Let Us Not Become Weary* | Benjamin Kornelis

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

### **GOSPEL READING** † | Matthew 5: 13-16

LEADER: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, O Christ.

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,  
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,  
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,  
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

### **SERMON**

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

When true simplicity is gained,  
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,  
To turn, turn, will be our delight  
Till by turning, turning we come round right.

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

### **OFFERTORY**

*When I Think Upon Thy Goodness* | Franz Joseph Haydn

Kelley Ponder

### **DOXOLOGY** † | United Methodist Hymnal 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

## **A PRAYER FOR ESSENTIAL LIFE †**

**All: Let us take hold of the life that really is life!**

Leader: Go into the world pursuing justice.

**All: Let us take hold of the life that really is life!**

Leader: Go into the world seeking to share.

**All: Let us take hold of the life that really is life!**

Leader: Go into the world putting love into action.

**All: Let us take hold of the life that really is life!**

Leader: Go into the world seeing the Christ in all we meet.

**All: Let us take hold of the life that really is life!**

## **SENDING FORTH IN THE NAME OF THE LORD**

## **HYMN OF COMMITMENT †**

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* | United Methodist Hymnal 206

During the singing of the hymn, individuals desiring to join the church are asked to come to the chancel so the pastors may offer membership vows and welcome you to the congregation.

## **RESPONSE FOR NEW MEMBERS**

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

## **BENEDICTION †**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Toccatina on Great God, We Sing that Mighty Hand* | Grimoaldo Macchia

## **NEWS & EVENTS**

### **COVID Update--Omicron**

The spread of the Omicron variant of COVID is beyond alarming. As we have done since the beginning of the pandemic, we are adjusting for the sake of community health. We will continue to hold in-person worship, but I encourage you to take advantage of our live-stream and worship from home, especially if you have been exposed or are experiencing even the slightest symptoms. If you choose to worship in person, you will be required to wear a mask for the entire service. As I asked last week, please spread out in the worship spaces by not sitting directly behind or in front of other households. I am grateful that several Sunday school classes have chosen not to meet in-person for several weeks. Hopefully, these measures will keep each other safe and prevent us from having to move our services solely online. The bit of hope in this is that the experts predict this variant to peak quickly. That is my prayer along with the safety and health of your family, our community, God's great creation.

Gracefully,  
David

### **Afghan Family Update**

We officially have a rental house for our Afghan family of 5. For their safety, the address is being kept private at this time. However, there is much to be done to get the house up and running. Please check out our Amazon wish list and help us prepare the house. To view the list, visit the following page and click the Amazon link. <https://fumclr.org/familyupdate/>

The list will be added to frequently, so always check back. The items you purchase will be sent directly to the Church for delivery by a member of the welcome team.

We are looking for small groups to sponsor a “cleaning pack”, “first aid pack”, and “school supplies pack”. These will be starter packs for the families. You can add any items you think fall into that category and package them like a gift! If your group would like to donate a pack, please email Rev. Haley.

The kids are presently being registered for school in the LRSD and are very excited.

You can support the family with your continued prayers as well as monetary donations. If you donate, please mark your donation with “Afghan Family” and it will go to rent, utilities, food, and more as they learn life in the US. Finally, if you have connections with lawn care services or would like to sponsor that monthly, please contact Rev. Haley at [hjones@fumclr.org](mailto:hjones@fumclr.org).

### **Essential Conversations**

Over the next few weeks in worship, we will be exploring what it means to claim what is essential in our lives. As each pastor shares their discernment journey, we hope that you will also come to name what you call “essential” in your own life. To help you in this process, Rev. Brittany will be hosting online conversations on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. on zoom. Just come as you are, ready to discuss and determine what parts of your life God is calling essential. If you would like to join us, visit this page on the website: [www.fumclr.org/essentials](http://www.fumclr.org/essentials).