

# *Church of the Messiah*

First Sunday after the Feast of the Epiphany  
10 January 2021

## ***THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD***



PRELUDE *In Dir ist Freude (In Thee Is Joy)* . . . . . BACH

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.**  
 There is one Body and one Spirit;  
**There is one hope in God's call to us;**  
 One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;  
**One God and Father of all. Amen.**

### The Peace

In this Season of Epiphany, this season of light and revelation,  
 may the peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## The Collect of the Day *First Sunday after the Epiphany*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

## The First Lesson *Genesis 1:1-5*

*After the Lesson, the Reader says:* The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 29

*Reader*

Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, \*  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.  
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; \*  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

**People**

**And in the temple of the LORD \*  
all shall cry, "Glory!"**

*Reader*

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders; \*  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.  
The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; \*  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.  
The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; \*  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**People**

**And in the temple of the LORD \*  
all shall cry, "Glory!"**

*Reader*

The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;  
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; \*  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.  
The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe \*  
and strips the forests bare.

**People**

**And in the temple of the LORD \*  
all shall cry, "Glory!"**

*Reader*

The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; \*  
the LORD sits enthroned as King forevermore.  
The LORD shall give strength to his people; \*  
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

**People**

**And in the temple of the LORD \*  
all shall cry, "Glory!"**

## Epistle *Acts 19:1-7*

*After the Lesson, the Reader says:* The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn #126 vv.1-4** *The People Who In Darkness Walked*

1. The people who in darkness walked have seen a glorious light;  
on them broke forth the heavenly dawn who dwelt in death and night.
2. To hail thy rising, Sun of life, the gathering nations come,  
joyous as when reapers bear their harvest treasures home.
3. To us the promised Child is born, to us the Son is given;  
him shall the tribes of earth obey, and all the hosts of heaven.
4. His name shall be the Prince of Peace forevermore adored,  
the Wonderful, the Counselor, the Mighty God and Lord.

*The Gospel opens*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Holy Gospel** *Mark 1:1-11*

*The Gospel closes*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Gradual Hymn #126 v. 5**

5. His power increasing still shall spread, his reign no end shall know;  
justice shall guard his throne above, and peace abound below.

**The Sermon** *The Rev. Keith A. Marsh, Rector*

**Hymn #297** *Descend, O Spirit*

1. Descend, O Spirit, purging flame, brand us this day with Jesus' Name!  
Confirm our faith, consume our doubt; sign us as Christ's, within, without.
2. Forbid us not this second birth; grant unto us the greater worth!  
Enlist us in your service, Lord; baptize all nations with your Word.

**The Baptismal Covenant**

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, as this season of Epiphany begins and we once again remember Jesus' own baptism by John, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers ?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil,  
and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people,  
and respect the dignity of every human being?

**I will, with God's help.**

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

*The congregational response to each petition: Stir us with your power.*

## A Prayer for Our Nation

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage: We come before you, humbly asking that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your gracious favor and glad to do your will. Bless our great nation with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure civility. Save us from violence, discord, hatred, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought to these shores out of many nationalities and ethnicities, kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in your Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to your law, we may show forth your praise and truth among all the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, allow our trust in you not to fail; all this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Confession of Sin and Absolution

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence is kept.*

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

### The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, let us boldly pray:

**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 and ever. Amen.**

### The Epiphany Blessing

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### Hymn #616 *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

- 1 Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;  
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.
- 2 He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong,  
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in his sight.
- 3 He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth;  
before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go;  
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

4 Kings shall bow down before him, and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing;  
to him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.

5 O'er every foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest,  
from age to age more glorious, all blessing and all blest;  
the tide of time shall never his covenant remove;  
his Name shall stand for ever, his changeless Name of Love.

## **THIS WEEK'S LESSONS:**

### **Genesis 1:1-5**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

### **Acts 9:1-7**

<sup>19</sup>While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup>He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' <sup>3</sup>Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' <sup>4</sup>Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' <sup>5</sup>On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—<sup>7</sup>altogether there were about twelve of them.

### **Mark 1:1-11**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah: "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" <sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

## **THIS WEEK'S ALTAR FLOWERS ARE GIVEN**

- to the Glory of God
- and in loving memory of Michael Duffield, son, husband, and father, by the Duffield family

## **BIRTHDAYS IN THE WEEK AHEAD**

- \* Hannah Albrecht \* Audrey Kriebel \* Eileen Patram \* Carol Bove \* Shirley Powell-Cohen \*
- \* Jay Butt \* Fran Bruno \* Deb Casey \* Laura Biehl \* Matt Boldt \* Bev Case \*
- \* Jeanne Ludlow-Bergin \* Ryleigh Lilly \* Drew Hautzinger \*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES**

### **CHURCH SCHOOL LESSONS & YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

- 10:30am today - “*Virtual*” Church School lesson and activities
- 5:00pm today - “*Virtual*” Youth of Messiah gathering

**HELP WANTED! A REQUEST FOR OFFICE VOLUNTEERS:** With Sue Phillips’ retirement as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, we are now without a Parish Administrator in the Church Office; and due to budget constraints, it is not anticipated that a new Administrator will be hired for 6 months. So, *the Rector could use some help!* (Are you thinking: *True words!*) If you could occasionally spare a few hours to be in the Church Office, answering phones, preparing mailings, and performing other odd jobs, it would be a huge help. We are hoping for enough volunteers to fill a schedule that allows each person only having to serve once every 2-3 weeks. Hours: 9:00am-1:00pm, Monday through Thursday. If interested, or if you have questions, please contact the Rector: 215-699-9204; rector@messiahgwynedd.org.

**2021 LITURGICAL CALENDARS ARE HERE:** As they have done for the past several years, William R. May Funeral Home, located on Main Street in North Wales, has provided the parish with liturgical calendars. These calendars feature the liturgical colors of the various church seasons, note Holy Days and Saints’ Days, and the readings assigned for each Sunday. The calendars are free and are available in the church office.

**YOGA CLASSES RESUME:** Now that the holidays are over, you might be feeling a bit sluggish; or perhaps you made a resolution to get in better shape; or maybe you’re just curious. Whatever the reason, you are invited to join in the weekly yoga sessions being offered by Diana Mulroy. The sessions are being offered in a virtual format, so it makes it easy and safe to participate. Classes are \$10.00/session, and all proceeds benefit the outreach projects supported by Belfry Bargains. Sessions are Monday and Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm; and Thursday mornings, 9:30am. Diana notes: “If there is a different time that might work better for you, email me and I’ll try to add it.” Contact Diana ([dimulroy@yahoo.com](mailto:dimulroy@yahoo.com); 267-481-6091) to register or for more information.

**YOUTH OF MESSIAH CONTINUE TO COLLECT NEW SWEATPANTS:** *Advocates for Homeless & Those in Need (AHTN)* is a Bucks County interfaith non-profit that serves the homeless and those in need by providing access to emergency shelter, food and other life-sustaining services. They are in desperate need of new sweatpants in all sizes to be distributed to homeless women and men who live in tent camps in the woods throughout the county. Collection bins are located outside the Rector’s office.

Some people have ordered items online and had them sent directly to the church, which is perfectly fine and eliminates the need to shop in crowded stores. And the 12-step groups that meet here at the church have also contributed items. Thank you to everyone who has donated to this worthy cause!

**2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN & BUDGET UPDATE:** To date, 125 pledges have been received, totaling \$368,640.00. This significantly trails last year's totals of 160 pledges, totaling \$457,305.00.

There are at least 33 households who pledged last year that we have yet to hear from. The vestry asks that you please complete and return your pledge card asap in order for the 2021 parish operating budget to be prepared. If you have not returned your completed card, please do so asap. If you did not receive a pledge card, have misplaced or need a new pledge card, please contact the church office in the coming week.

With this large gap in pledges of nearly \$90,000.00, coupled with the recent decision by Kids Unlimited, the day care that rented our downstairs since 2003, to close their operation, this presents a terrific hardship for Messiah to maintain programs and staff in the coming year.

**2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE NOW:** If you currently use weekly offering envelopes for your pledge, you will again receive envelopes for the coming year. Envelopes are now available for pickup, located on a table in the hallway outside the Rector's office. Questions: please contact the bookkeeper Sarah Patram [sarah@messiahgwynedd.org](mailto:sarah@messiahgwynedd.org); or the church office. Thanks!

**PARISH ROOF REPLACEMENT APPEAL:** In periods of heavy rain, quite a bit of water now enters the Parish Hall, even making its way into the basement rooms, damaging floors, walls and ceilings along the way. Inspection of the roof shows that spot repair is no longer possible; the entire roof now needs replacement. As any homeowner can attest, repairs like these rarely come as a total surprise, but never at an opportune time. And yet, the project demands that a way be found to accomplish it.

Cost for the project totals \$125,000.00. Following advice from the investment committee, the vestry has unanimously endorsed a financial plan consisting of:

- withdrawing \$40,000.00 from the endowment;
- a \$50,000.00 loan from the diocese at only 2% interest for 5 years;
- and an appeal to fund the remaining \$35,000.00 from members of the congregation. In a month, we have raised \$55,440.20 toward this goal! THANK YOU!! Funds raised above the stated \$35K goal will ease the needs imposed by the endowment withdrawal and diocesan loan.





To everyone who has contributed so generously, THANK YOU!!! If you are still considering a donation, we ask you and your household to prayerfully consider a financial gift or pledge to meet this important need. Work will begin soon, before any further damage is done to the interior spaces of the building.

- If making a donation by check: Please make check payable to: *Church of the Messiah*; include *Roof Replacement* on memo line of your check.
- You can also make your donation electronically using TITHELY: Go to the church website: [messiahgwynedd.org](http://messiahgwynedd.org); click the DONATE button; in the “TO” field, scroll down and choose: Roof Replacement.
- If you are unable to make a donation at the current time, but wish to make a pledge for future giving, please complete and return the form enclosed in the parish mailing or notify the Church Office ([rector@messiahgwynedd.org](mailto:rector@messiahgwynedd.org)).

Thank you for whatever assistance you can give toward this important parish project!

**WEEKLY PARISH EMAIL MESSAGES & NOTIFICATIONS:** Each week, the Rector sends an email to all parishioners with important notifications and information about parish events and other happenings. If you are not currently receiving these messages, please contact the Church Office (215-699-9204; [office@messiahgwynedd.org](mailto:office@messiahgwynedd.org)) so we can add you to the database.

**IF YOU DO NOT HAVE INTERNET ACCESS:** Please contact the Church Office (215-699-9204; [office@messiahgwynedd.org](mailto:office@messiahgwynedd.org)) so we can add you to the mailing list of those parishioners who receive hard copies of the messages and sermon by mail.

**IN CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS:** Should you have an urgent need to contact the Rector outside of Church Office hours, please use his cell phone: 215-692-2667.

### **THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH: January 11-17**

<b>Monday</b>	Church Office Hours: 9:00am–1:00pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	Church Office Hours: 9:00am–1:00pm AA, Alanon, Alateen – 7:30pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Church Office Hours: 9:00am–1:00pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Church Office Hours: 9:00am–1:00pm
<b>Friday</b>	Church Office CLOSED
<b>Saturday</b>	Church Office CLOSED
<b>Next Sunday</b>	<b>Second Sunday after The Epiphany</b> <b>NO IN-PERSON WORSHIP THIS MORNING</b>

### **CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH STAFF**

The Rev. Keith A. Marsh, Rector  
 Sarah Patram, Bookkeeper  
 Hannah Albrecht, Organist & Choir Director  
 Tiffany Reichley, Family Ministries – Children  
 David Reichley, Family Ministries – Youth  
 Mike Linn, Sexton

**CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH VESTRY**

David Prezuhy, Sr. Warden

Barbara Stevenson, Jr. Warden

Sam Frenkel, Treasurer

Tina Madison, Clerk

Class of 2021: Vicky Fogel, Susan Miller, Charles Sudlow

Class of 2022: Cheryl Berry, Megan Myers, Michael Stinson, Paul Vollmar

Class of 2023: Tim Beaver, Jennifer Marsh, Jon Marshall, Mercer Sisson

**CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH**

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