

**Today's Worship**  
**October 17, 2021**  
**21st Sunday After Pentecost**

**WELCOME** Rev. Dr. Rob Bruce

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Leader and People

L: The Lord continually watches all of God's own sheep.

**P: They are led to green pastures and brought before stilled waters.**

L: Praise God for God's tender and loving care of us.

**P: Thanks to God for all the mercies God shows to us.**

L: Let us enter God's house with hearts filled with joy.

**P: O Lord, open our spirits to respond to your words of compassion.**

**AMEN.**

**MUSIC** **Let Your Love Flow Through Me** All  
Roger Strader 1979

*Chorus*

Let Your love flow through me,  
Let Your love flow through me,  
Make me a blessing Lord  
Wherever I may be  
Keep me pure, keep me clean  
So that You might be seen  
Let Your love, let Your love  
Flow through me.

So many folks are lonely,  
O Lord they need someone to care  
And when I look about and see them  
I can't help making this my prayer.

Chorus

Lord, broken hearts are many  
and I know some just can't stand the pain  
And Lord, I know your eye is on them  
They need love, Your shelter from the rain.

Chorus

**MUSIC** **Yes, Lord Yes** All  
Lynn Keesecker 1983

I'll say Yes, Lord yes, to Your will and to Your way  
I'll say yes, Lord yes, I will trust You and obey  
When the Spirit speaks to me, with my whole heart I'll agree  
And my answer will be, Yes, Lord, yes.

Repeat

**PASTORAL PRAYER** Tracey Wimpy

**LORD'S PRAYER** All

**Our Father, which 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, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever.**

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE Rev. Dr. Bruce

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE Rev. Karen Hoyt

I present Brittany Cain for baptism.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Since the earliest times, the vows of Christian baptism have consisted first of the renunciation of all that is evil and then the profession of faith and loyalty to Christ.

*(To the Candidate)*

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

**I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

**I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

**I do.**

According to the grace given to you, will you remain a faithful member of Christ's

holy Church and serve as Christ's representative in the world?

**I will.**

*(To the Congregation)*

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

**We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Brittany in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Brittany with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may grow in her trust of God, and be found faithful in her service to others. We will pray for her, that she may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.**

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

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?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, 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, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in 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.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Eternal Father: When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations. Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and those who receive it, to wash away their sin and clothe them in righteousness throughout their lives, that, dying and being raised with Christ, they may share in his final victory.

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

Brittany, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Now it is our joy to welcome our new sister in Christ. Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as a member of the family of Christ.

## RECEPTION INTO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

As a member of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

**I will.**

## COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Members of the household of God, I commend Brittany to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.

**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.**

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

## SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 25:31–40 (NIV) Ms. Wimpy

31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ 37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

## MUSIC

**People Need the Lord**  
Greg Nelson & Phill McHugh 1983

All

Every day they pass me by  
I can see it in their eyes  
Empty people filled with care  
Headed who knows where?  
On they go through private pain  
Living fear to fear  
Laughter hides their silent cries  
Only Jesus hears.

People need the Lord, People need the Lord  
When will we realize People need the Lord?

We are called to take His light  
To a world where wrong seems right.  
What could be too great a cost  
For sharing life with one’s who’s lost?  
Through His love our hearts can feel  
All the grief they bear  
They must hear the words of life  
Only we can share.

People need the Lord, People need the Lord  
At the end of broken dreams He’s the open door.  
People need the Lord, People need the Lord  
When will we realize That we must give our lives?  
For people need the Lord, People need the Lord

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Dr. Bruce

## SERMON

**Whatever**

## MUSIC

**Take My Life**

All

Frances Ridley Havergal 1874 Music: Louis J. Herold 1839

Take my life and let it be, consecrated Lord to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days – let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise

Take my hands and let them move, at the impulse of Thy love  
Take my feet and let them be, swift and beautiful for Thee  
swift and beautiful for Thee

Take my voice and let me sing, always only for my King  
Take my lips and let them be, filled with messages from Thee,  
Filled with messages from Thee

Take my love my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself and I will be every only all for Thee  
Every only all for Thee

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne,  
It shall be thy royal throne

## BENEDICTION

Ms. Wimpy and All

Hear the cries of those in need! Go into God’s world, enabled by Christ to be in ministries of compassion for all God’s people. Love this world as God has loved you. Care tenderly always for all of creation. Go and faithfully serve in the name of Jesus.

**ALL: We go into God’s world to Love Christ Love People and Help People Love Christ. AMEN**



*Loving Christ Loving People Helping People Love Christ*

## *Welcome! We’re Glad You’re Here!*



We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, filthy rich, dirt poor. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying newborns, skinny as a rail or could afford to lose a few pounds.

We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or like our pastor who can’t carry a note

in a bucket. You’re welcome here if you’re “just browsing,” just woke up or just got out of jail. We don’t care if you’re more Methodist than Asbury, or haven’t been in church since little Joey’s Baptism.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters.

We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you’re having problems or you’re down in the dumps or if you don’t like “organized religion;” we’ve been there too.

If you blew all your offering money at the dog track, you’re welcome here. We offer a special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don’t work, can’t spell, or because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts and you!

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