

REACH OUT IN CHRIST

JANUARY 2, 2022

10:00 AM

Prelude "Love Came Down" Brown

Welcome

Hymn "O Come , All Ye Faithful" #234:1-4

Call to Worship

L: In the very beginning, God separated the darkness and the light. God called the Light "Day" and the Darkness, God called "Night".

**P: We were once people who dwelled in darkness, but God has given us the true Light, Jesus Christ.**

L: God has blessed us and adopted us as God's own beloved children, through the sacrament of Baptism.

**P: The water of baptism brings to us healing and reconciliation; it is a symbol of nourishment and cleansing.**

L: This day is the day of the remembrance of Jesus' Baptism.

**P: As we hear the words of his baptism, let us be reminded of our own adoption by God and celebrate the joyous connection to the Almighty God.**

Anthem Choir - "Manger Carol" Larson

Scripture Luke 3:1-22

Sermon "What Should We Do?" Pastor Rusty Belcher

Hymn "Go, Tell it on the Mountain" #251

Service of Holy Communion

Postlude "Break Forth Thee Heavens" Broughton

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**Circle of Prayer**—Maytum family, Sandra Buck, Douglas Pike, Larry Thompson, Kittie Brown, Charlie Monroe, Brenda and Mike Smeby, Sergei Barth, Jack Eckardt, Aida Weldon, Murphy Mullens, Tom Hannon, George Kranz, Lettie Witt, Terry Polen, Rod and Michelle Bailey, Jessica Strande, Cheryl Chmura, Susan Granner, Kay Cooper, Fiona Kishundyal, Jeanne Summerford, Marv Hiuser

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The red roses on the altar are presented by Ainsworth Brown to the glory of God and in memory of her children Hope, Mareia-Rose, and Herbert.

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**\*SANCTUARY IS OPEN**—But we are not back to normal yet due to the continuation of the COVID19 pandemic. **We need to be vigilant especially because of the new virus variants. Masks are encouraged and recommended if you are unvaccinated. Please get your vaccination to minimize the possibility of getting infected or infecting others.** Sitting will be in every other pew for the time being. Don't come if you are feeling sick. Thanks for your cooperation!

**\*UMW**—Unit meeting 1/4, 1pm. All are welcome!

**\*NEWSLETTER**—The Good News for January 2022 is available today. Ask an usher if you would like to have a hard copy. We send newsletters out by email. Give us your email if you want to be on the list.

**\* CRAFTING GROUP**—Meeting Mondays 12:30-3pm in upstairs Craft Room. Come for fellowship and all kinds of crafts like sewing/crocheting. Materials and equipment provided

**\*CHOIR**—Practice Wednesdays at 6pm

**\*BIBLE STUDY**—cancelled this week

**Luke 3:1-22** 3 In the fifteenth year of the rule of the emperor Tiberius—when Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea and Herod was ruler over Galilee, his brother Philip was ruler over Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was ruler over Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas—God’s word came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. <sup>4</sup> This is just as it was written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet, *A voice crying out in the wilderness:*

*“Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight.*

*<sup>5</sup> Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be leveled. The crooked will be made straight and the rough places made smooth.<sup>6</sup> All humanity will see God’s salvation.”*

<sup>7</sup> Then John said to the crowds who came to be baptized by him, “You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don’t even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham’s children from these stones. <sup>9</sup> The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup> The crowds asked him, “What then should we do?”

<sup>11</sup> He answered, “Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same.”

<sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized. They said to him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup> He replied, “Collect no more than you are authorized to collect.” <sup>14</sup> Soldiers asked, “What about us? What should we do?” He answered, “Don’t cheat or harass anyone, and be satisfied with your pay.”

<sup>15</sup> The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. <sup>16</sup> John replied to them all, “I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I’m not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can’t be put out.” <sup>18</sup> With many other words John appealed to them, proclaiming good news to the people.

<sup>19</sup> But Herod the ruler had been criticized harshly by John because of Herodias, Herod’s brother’s wife, and because of all the evil he had done. <sup>20</sup> He added this to the list of his evil deeds: he locked John up in prison. <sup>21</sup> When everyone was being baptized, Jesus also was baptized. While he was praying, heaven was opened <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit came down on him in bodily form like a dove. And there was a voice from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness.”

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEW PORT RICHEY, FL



<https://gablesucc.org/product/baptism/>

Pastor—John Griswold  
Music Director--Ruthie Nelson  
Accompanist--Faye Monroe  
Ushers—Gloria Peters & Carolyn Arnold  
Greeter—Carolyn Morong  
Tech Team—Ray Calvert and Gary Sawyer  
5901 Indiana Avenue, New Port Richey, Florida, 34652  
Office Phone: 727-842-7674  
Office email: [frontoffice@fumcnpr.com](mailto:frontoffice@fumcnpr.com)  
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00am-12:00pm  
[www.fumcnpr.com](http://www.fumcnpr.com)