

**First United Methodist Church of Freehold
Bulletin**

**Sunday, January 7, 2024
Baptism of the Lord**

We will be celebrating communion this morning.

For those of you joining us from home, please have bread and juice/wine available to participate.

Announcements: Verl McKinney

Prelude

Welcome: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Call to Worship: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Leader: From the waters of Creation, the earth sprang forth.

People: From the waters of a womb, God's blessed Son was given to us.

Leader: From the waters of a river, people were baptized and marked as God's Children.

People: Praise be to God, whose loving gifts and presence have called us together.

Leader: Let us shout our love to God for God's abundant love.

People: AMEN.

*Opening Prayer: (In Unison)

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. AMEN.

*Opening Hymn: "I Sing the Almighty Power of God" UMH #152

*Praise Hymn: "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" UMH #203
(v. 1, 2, 3)

Introduction to Prayer: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

[For those joining us online, please submit your prayer requests in the comments on the virtual attendance sheet, or email the church office. Your prayer requests will be lifted up in next Sunday's service.]

Prayer Hymn: "Away in a Manger" UMH #217

Pastoral Prayer: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 36:25-27; Luke 1:4-11 Susan Zuckerman

Friendship Moment and Passing of the Peace

*[For those joining us online, please take a moment to sign the online attendance form:
www.freeholdmethodist.org]*

Message: "Through Water and the Spirit " Rev. Yoseb Jeon

Offering Time: Today's Special Offering will benefit The **Tanzania Development Fund**. Through the Tanzania Development Fund, you will help to bring 80 clergy salaries up to a living wage for the next two years and support the building of a new church to reach more disciples of Jesus Christ and serve the community.

Giving Page: www.freeholdmethodist.org/give

Offertory: "3 Notes" Mitch Samu

*Doxology: "Thank You God" Mitch Samu

*Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

God of strength and glory, you created all that is. You continue to sustain the world with the power of your love. You give us life and hope, and with grateful hearts, we bring these gifts to you. May they bring forth your realm of peace for all peoples. Amen.

Celebration of Communion: UMH pages 12-14
*Sung Responses: "Communion Settings" TFWS #2257 (b, c, d)

Communion Hymn: "Let Us Break Bread Together" UMH #618

Prayer: (In Unison)

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Closing Hymn: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" UMH #251

*Benediction: Rev. Yoseb Jeon

*Postlude: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"
(Reprise) UMH #251

Scripture Passages

Liturgist: Susan Zuckerman

Ezekiel 36:25-27

²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you, and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put my spirit within you and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances.

Luke 1:5-11

The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

⁵ In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸ Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. ¹⁰ Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹ Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.

The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Opening Hymn:
“I Sing the Almighty Power of God”
UMH #152

(Verse 1)

I sing the almighty power of God,
That made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad,
And build the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God’s command,
And all the stars obey.

(Verse 2)

I sing the goodness of the Lord,
Who filled the earth with food,
Who formed the creatures thru the Word,
And then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,
Where'er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread,
Or gaze upon the sky.

(Verse 3)

There's not a plant or flower below,
But makes Thy glories known,
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
By order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee
Is ever in Thy care;
And everywhere that we can be,
Thou, God, art present there.

Praise Song:
“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” (v. 1, 2, 3)
UMH #203

(Verse 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.

(Verse 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,
Are precious in His sight.

(Verse 3)

He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and 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.

**Prayer Hymn:
"Away in a Manger"
UMH #217**

(Verse 1)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

(Verse 2)

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

(Verse 3)

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

**Doxology:
"Thank You God"
Mitch Samu**

Thank you God,
Thank you God,
Thank you God,
For giving me this life I get to live.

Thank you God,
Love you God,
Praise you God,
Forever I will give all I can give.

Amen!

**Communion Settings
TFWS #2257
(b, c, d)**

Holy, holy, holy Lord;
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Blest if the one who comes
In the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

Amen. Amen. Amen.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

Communion Hymn:
"Let Us Break Bread Together"
UMH #618

(Verse 1)
Let us break bread together
On our knees,
Let us break bread together
On our knees.
When I fall on my knees
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

(Verse 2)
Let us drink wine together
On our knees,
Let us drink wine together
On our knees.
When I fall on my knees
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

(Verse 3)
Let us praise God together
On our knees,
Let us praise God together
On our knees.
When I fall on my knees
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Closing Hymn:
"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"
UMH #251

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.**

(Verse 1)
While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.**

(Verse 2)
The shepherds feared and trembled,
When lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth.

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.**

(Verse 3)
Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.**

Announcements

January 7, 2024

Welcome to worship at the First United Methodist Church of Freehold. Whether you are joining us in person, or virtually, we are glad you are with us.

JERSEY CARES COAT DRIVE:

Thank you to everyone who donated coats. We donated 33 coats; many were brand new with the original tags attached! Thank you for your wonderful generosity!

Grocery Cards can be purchased in the Coffee Room following service. **Total sales of gift cards for 2023 were \$46,500 resulting in \$2,325 profit to FUMC!**

January Birthdays

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| (1) Ed Beach | (21) Gilliane Lux |
| (7) Cindy Curtis-Budka | (21) Gerhard Lux |
| (12) Melanie Bowen | (24) Bobbe Malinconico |
| (21) Gabrielle Lux | (26) Beth Avallone |