

# **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

117 THIRD STREET, CHERAW, SC 29520

843-537-7002

[www.cherawfirstumc.org](http://www.cherawfirstumc.org)



***THE CHURCH WITH A HEART, IN THE HEART OF CHERAW.***

***A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP***

***JANUARY 10, 2021***

***BAPTISM OF THE LORD***

***REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT***

***LITURGICAL COLOR: WHITE***

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

Renie Seel and Peyton Taylor

**PRELUDE**

Peyton Taylor and Jessica Elvington

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: Darkness is gone. The heavens burst open with hope.

**C: We are forgiven and blessed.**

P: We are baptized by water and the Spirit.

**C: God has entrusted us with God's own message of hope.**

P: Come, Spirit of God, and rest upon us.

**C: Enable us to be people of hope and peace. AMEN.**

**MORNING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN**

“Shall We Gather at the River”

Words in Bulletin

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Mark 1: 4-11

**SERMON**

“The Heavens Break Open”

**HYMN**

“Come to the Water” by Matt Maher

Words in Bulletin

**REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Peyton Taylor and Jessica Elvington

**Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant<sup>i</sup>**

**Introduction**

Sisters and brothers in Christ: through the sacrament of baptism God's Spirit has been poured out upon water, water poured over and immersing us, water that flows freely for all who will receive it, water from the streams of God's saving power and justice, water that brings hope to all who thirst for righteousness, water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth. Today we come to the waters, to renew our commitments in each other's presence to Christ who has raised us, the Spirit who has birthed us, and the Creator who is making all things new.

**Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith**

And so, I ask you, will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

**We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, Reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin!**

Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?

**We accept the freedom and power God gives us To resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves!**

Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ, his body on earth?

**We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, put our whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as our Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races!**

Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?

**We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.**

Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

**We affirm and teach the faith of the whole church as we put our trust in God, the Father Almighty. In Jesus Christ, his only Son and in the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.**

### **Thanksgiving Over the Water**

The Spirit of the Lord is with us.

**Even so, come Lord Jesus!**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the life you birthed in us by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die. Your justice never fails. Your mercy is everlasting.

**Your healing river flows. Your Spirit blows where you will. We cannot stop you, God!**

But sometimes we try. We try to block the flow, we redirect the winds of the Spirit, or we walk so far away from the life-giving Stream that we do not hear its sound, and we forget its power. We parch ourselves.

**We are dry and thirsty, O God. Come, refresh us!**

Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

**Come upon us, Holy Spirit!**

Come upon these waters.

**Come upon these waters.**

Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.

**Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.**

Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.

**Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.**

Most Holy God, Abba, Father!

**Glory to you!**

Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord!

**Glory to you!**

Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness!

**Glory to you!**

Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!

**All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!**

Be refreshed and renewed. Remember that you are baptized, and rejoice! Remember that you are baptized, and rejoice!

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<sup>1</sup> United Methodist Church, Discipleship Ministries, © 2008



THE COMPLETION OF CREATION (THE CITY OF GOD)

# Shall We Gather at the River 723



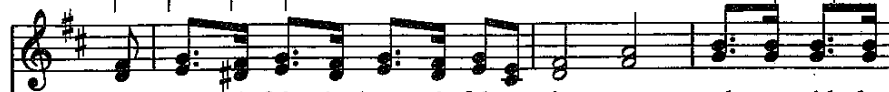
1. Shall we gath-er at the riv - er, where bright an-gel feet have
2. On the mar-gin of the riv - er, wash-ing up its sil-ver
3. Ere we reach the shin-ing riv - er, lay we ev-ery bur-den
4. Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv - er, soon our pil-grim-age will



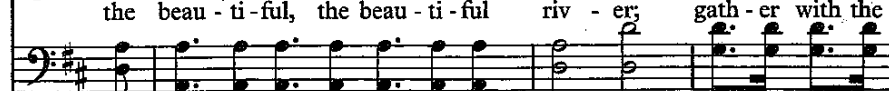
trod, with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow-ing  
spray, we will walk and wor-ship ev - er, all the  
down; grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro -  
cease; soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the



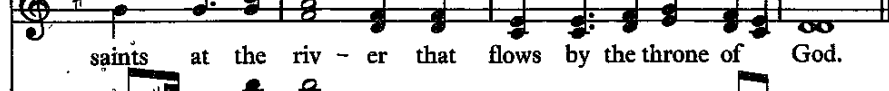
by the throne of God?  
hap - py gold - en day. Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er,  
vide a robe and crown.  
mel - o - dy of peacé.



the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er; gath - er with the



saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.



WORDS: Robert Lowry, 1864 (Rev. 22:1-5)  
MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1864

HANSON PLACE  
87.87 with Refrain

# COME TO THE WATER

By Matt Maher

O let all who thirst  
Let them come to the water  
And let all who have nothing  
Let them come to the Lord  
Without money, without price  
Why should you pay the price  
Except for the Lord?

And let all who seek  
Let them come to the water  
And let all who have nothing  
Let them come to the Lord  
Without money, without strife  
Why should you spend your life  
Except for the Lord?

And let all who toil  
Let them come to the water  
And let all who are weary  
Let them come to the Lord  
All who labor without rest  
How can your soul find rest  
Except for the Lord?

And let all the poor  
Let them come to the water  
And let the ones who are laden  
Let them come to the Lord  
Bring the children without might  
Easy the load and light  
Come to the Lord

Come to the Lord  
Come to the Lord  
Come to the Lord

I will run to you, I will run to you  
I will run to you my Lord

I will run to you, I will run to you  
I will run to you my Lord



# THE CONNECTION

Volume 16, Issue 2  
January 10, 2021

The Mission of First United Methodist Church is to win and nurture souls for Jesus Christ by sharing and living the message of salvation.  
[www.cherawfirstumc.org](http://www.cherawfirstumc.org)

## *A Few Words from the Pastor...*

*The Light Shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it! John 1:5 NRSV*

The Epiphany season is filled every Sunday with revelations about who Jesus is. It begins with the Magi/Wise Men from the east who came looking for a new king and ends with bright light shining on the Mount of Transfiguration. The Epiphany is an invitation each year for us to remember and ponder all that Jesus means to us.

What does it mean for us that Jesus is the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the Son of God, the Savior of humankind? How are we to respond to who Jesus is for us with each of these revelations? These questions remind me of an encounter with a bright light some of the boys in our neighborhood had one night. The boys were out one night just hanging out by a creek that ran along the edge of our subdivision. A police car went by and shined a spotlight their way. Terrified, all of them took off running. They ran through back yards, set dogs barking, and caused porch lights to come on to see what all the commotion was. Steve and Kevin were the only ones caught as they dashed across a street right in front of the police car. The police officer shined a penetrating light into their eyes and asked why they were running, where they had been, and what were they doing. Kevin told the officer they were not doing anything but that his parents were going to kill him for being stopped by the police. The officer laughed and said something like, young men I am not here to catch you, or punish you, I am here to make sure you are safe.

The light of Jesus is like that in our lives. It is a light that penetrates the dark places revealing the places that are not safe for us. It is also a light that leads us to right paths. Jesus as our King and our Lord governs our thoughts and actions so that they are transformed to the will of God (Romans 12:2). This enables us to reflect the light of Jesus' grace, love, mercy, and peace into the darkness and to bring hope to this world. Jesus as the Son of God is a light interceding for us at the right hand of the Father (Romans 8:34). Our Savior's life, death, and resurrection gives us abundant and eternal life now and forever like a security light. We embrace and reflect this light when we accept Jesus in our hearts and profess his good news with our mouths (Romans 10:9-10).

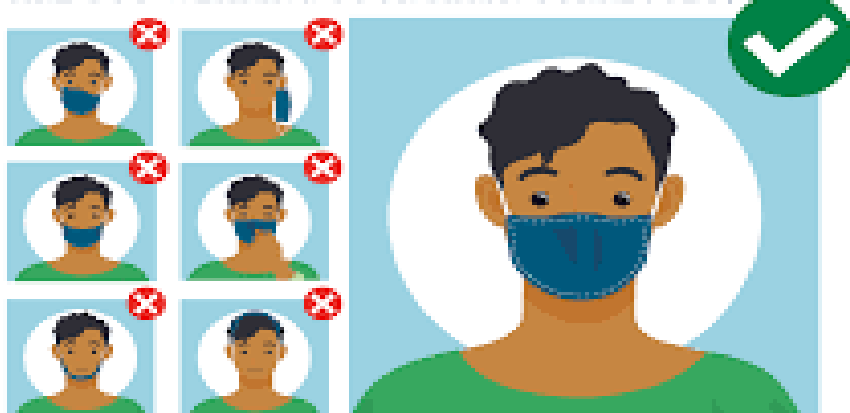
This epiphany season let us all seek the light of Jesus and then reflect that light so others may come to see the light and know the light through us.

*Pastor Debra*



**OUR PRAYER LIST** — Our President, our Congress, all Governors, Mayors, State, County, and Local employees, all health care workers, EMT's, all who defend our nation, all who make decisions for our nation, Jane Mayhew, Jane Campbell, Jeff Foster, Mabel Foster, Betty Thrailkill, Sarah Margaret Therrell, Jim Bennett, Margaret Stanton, Dare Marsh, Phillip Caulder, JoAnne Morgan, Taylor Novinger (Dr. Novinger's son), Randy Butler, Mary-Malette Wood, Christy Moore (Sally Smith's friend), Sam Eubanks, Harold Lomas, Pete Baker, Debbie Adams and Family.  
**NOTE: Names are left on the prayer list for two weeks; after two weeks, they are removed unless the church office is notified.**

## A mask worn incorrectly is not safe or effective.

ARE YOU WEARING YOUR MASK CORRECTLY?



### Make sure:

-  Your nose, mouth, and chin are covered.
-  Your straps should hold your mask snugly around your face without any gaps.



## Thank You For Your Cooperation With Our COVID-19 Safety Protocols!

- Enter Through Office Lobby
- Temperature Checks
- Exit Through Sanctuary Front Doors after Worship as Directed by Ushers
- Maintain 6ft Distance
- No Singing
- Wear Masks Properly and the Entire Time You Are in the Church

**BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES:** All Bible Study and Sunday School classes are postponed until further notice due to the high incidence of COVID-19 in our area.

**SYMPATHY:** First UMC extends its sympathy to Debbie Elmore upon the death of her father, Sam McCuen, on December 29, 2020 and to Debbie Adams upon the death of her father, Henry Brasington, on January 5, 2021.

**BOOK AVAILABLE:** Copies of the book titled "Resurrection, A Pastor's Reading of the Major New Testament Resurrection Passages" by Pastor Phil Thrailkill, are available in the church office. They are \$15.00 each and the money is being donated to FUMC.

**J.O.Y CLUB:** The J.O.Y Club will not be meeting until further notice. Mary and Renie will advise when the first meeting will be.





### *Nurture and Care Ministry Reaching Hearts*

First United Methodist Church's Nurture and Care ministry works extremely hard to help shut-ins stay connected with our church especially during the covid-19 pandemic. Phone calls, cards, and gifts help those who cannot attend church at this time know we love them and are thinking about them. The transport ministry has provided rides for several individuals to doctor's appointments. If you would like to be contacted by one of our ministry volunteers, or if you need a ride to a doctor's appointment, please contact the church office at 843-537-7002.

**MEMORIAL GIFTS:** If you would like to give an "in memory" gift to FUMC, you may designate it to any area listed below: Contingency Fund, Endowment Fund, Memorial Fund, Music Fund, Adult Exercise Class, Salkehatchie Summer Service, Bus Fund, Youth Ministries, Children's Ministries, Building Upkeep Fund, Parsonage Upkeep Fund, Grounds Upkeep Fund, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, Flower Fund, and named Scholarships. Call the church office for more information.



Join us for virtual worship when you cannot be here in person. Sunday Morning Worship Services are recorded each week in the sanctuary. The service is available by 2 p.m. on the Sunday it is recorded. To worship with us virtually go to [www.fumc.org](#). Click on the tab labeled "video sermon archive." Then click on the service you want to participate in and enjoy worshipping with your church family. The most recent sermon will always be at the top of the list



### **Your Help Needed!**

We do not currently have a person on staff to provide music for worship. Volunteer musicians are providing the music for the prelude and postlude each Sunday. We are using recordings of hymns. If you can play the guitar, piano, organ we need your help to provide music for our worship service in this transition. Please contact Jenny Keefe at 843-601-2586 and offer to share your

God-given talents with our church.

**ENDOWMENT FUND:** Have you considered remembering the church in your will/bequests? The Endowment can grow through your special giving, if you would like to make a contribution to this fund, mark on the "for line" of your check Endowment Fund.

## IN MEMORY OR HONOR

*In Memory of Jim Thrailkill*

Betty Thrailkill and Family

*In Memory of Amy Smith*

Bobby & Kim Toole, M&M Keith Smith, M&M Jeff Johnson, M&M Harold Lomas, M&M Pete Baker

*In Memory of Billy Wicker*

M&M Keith Smith, M&M Rhett Butler, M&M Harold Lomas, M&M Pete Baker

*In Memory of Jack Baker*

M&M Keith Smith, M&M Rhett Butler, M&M Harold Lomas

*In Memory of Henry Brasington*

M&M Pete Baker

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Sunday, January 10, 2021**

10:00am Worship in Sanctuary  
5:30-7:00pm UMYF

### **Monday, January 11, 2021**

6:30pm Boy Scouts (Scout Hut)

### **Tuesday, January 12, 2021**

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open  
12:00pm January 17 Bulletin Deadline

### **Wednesday, January 13, 2021**

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open

### **Thursday, January 14, 2021**

8:30am-4:30pm Church Office Open

### **Sunday, January 17, 2021**

10:00am Worship in Sanctuary  
5:00pm Finance Committee Meeting  
5:30-7:00pm UMYF  
6:00pm Church Council Meeting

#### FUMC STAFF

Rev. Debra Armstrong, Pastor (daarmstrong@umcsc.org) 843-537-7002 O 843-253-3132 C

Angie Smith, Ministry Assistant (fumcangiesmith@gmail.com)

Holly Haire, Child Development Ministry Director (fccdm@yahoo.com)

**Now Hiring!** - Music Director

**McArn Items:** Soups  
**Head Usher:** Greg Sanderson  
**Attendance January 3:** 55

**Year to Date Received:** \$2,296.00  
**Year to Date Expenses:** \$7,510.10