

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

JANUARY 15, 2023

10:00 a.m.

CELEBRATING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Ministers of the Church

The People of St. Michael

Our Vestry & Staff

Zollie White II, **Senior Warden**
850-321-2817
Charlie Clark **Junior Warden**,
850-631-0780
Linda Billups
Kimberly Douglas
Margaret Edwards, **Vestry Clerk**
Dr. Shaun Laurie
Laurette Scott, **Treasurer**

Dr. Kathleen Rodgers, **Financial Secretary**

Monique Alleyne, Ivana Kenny Carmola
and Debralee LaSeur-Helfand, **Organists**

Chris White, **Drummer/Choral Director**

John Grayson, **LEMS Co-Ordinator**
J. Byron Greene, **Outreach Coordinator**
Elizabeth Humes, **Admin .Assistant**

Our Clergy

The Right Reverend John Howard
Bishop – Diocese of Florida

The Reverend Hugh Chapman, **Rector**
340-513-1123

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HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE TWO

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE

Debralee LaSeur-Helfand

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in the Diocese of Florida for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN L46, v1-3, Blessed Martin, Pastor, Prophet Carl Haywood

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Holy God, you raise up prophets,
Praise and honor do we sing.
For your faithful, humble servant,
Doctor Martin Luther King. | REFRAIN
Blessed Martin, pastor, prophet,
You the mountaintop did see;
Blessed Martin, holy martyr:
Pray that we may all be free. |
| 2. Moral conscience of his nation,
Reconciling black and white,
Dreamed he of a just society,
We must carry on his fight. | 3. Teacher of Christ-like non-violence
To the outcast, poor and meek;
Greater weapon 'gainst oppression
Is to turn the other cheek. |
| REFRAIN | REFRAIN |
| 4. Preacher of Christ's love for neighbor,
He won Nobel's prize for peace;
Peoples, beat your swords to plough shares,
Wars 'twixt nations all shall cease. | 5. Champion of oppressed humanity
Suff'ring throughout all the world
He offered pride and dignity
Let Christ's banner be unfurled! |
| REFRAIN | REFRAIN |
| 6. So, when felled by sniper's bullet,
Under heavens overcast,
He could cry, "Thank God Almighty,
I am free, I'm free at last!" | |
| REFRAIN | |

THE WORD OF GOD

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. *Amen.*
Celebrant: There is one Body and one Spirit;
People: There is one hope in God's call to us;
Celebrant: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People: One God and Father of all.
Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Let us pray

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

The people sit.

THE LESSONS

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah (49:1-7)

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God." And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength--he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 40:1-12

1. I waited patiently upon the Lord;* he stooped to me and heard my cry.

2. *He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay;* he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.*

3. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;* many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord.

4. ***Happy are they who trust in the Lord!* they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.***

5. *Great things are they that you have done, O Lord my God! How great your wonders and your plans for us!* there is none who can be compared with you.*

6. *Oh, that I could make them known and tell them!* but they are more than I can count.*

7. In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure* (you have given me ears to hear you);

8. *Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required,* and so I said, "Behold, I come.*

9. In the roll of the book it is written concerning me:* "I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep in my heart."

10. *I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation;* behold, I did not restrain my lips; and that, O Lord, you know.*

11. Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance;* I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great congregation.

12. *You are the Lord; do not withhold your compassion from me;* let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

A Reading from the Epistle to the Corinthians (1:1-9)

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN: L134 ,v1&2, Take Me to the Water

Spiritual

1. Take me to the water,
take me to the water,
take me to the water to be baptized.

2. None but the righteous,
None but the righteous,
None but the righteous shall see God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus according to John (1:29-42)

John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God." The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SEQUENCE HYMN

L134, v3&4, Take Me to the Water

Spiritual

3. I love Jesus,

I love Jesus,

I love Jesus, oh yes, I do.

4. He's my Savior,

He's my Savior,

He's my Savior, oh yes, He is.

Musical interlude – procession to the font

Celebrant

The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

I present Bryson Amir Ceasar to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God Help

Celebrant

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Celebrant

Question: Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer: I renounce them.

Question: Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer: I renounce them.

Question: Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer: I renounce them.

Question: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer: I do.

Question: Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer: I do.

Question: Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer: I do.

Celebrant:

Will you who witness this vow do all in your power to support this person in his life in Christ?

People: We will.

Celebrant:

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

People: 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.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: 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.

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

People: I will, with God's help.

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

People: I will, with God's help.

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

People: I will, with God's help.

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

People: I will, with God's help.

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

People: I will, with God's help.

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATE

The Celebrant then says to the congregation:

Let us pray for this person who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Leader: Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Open his heart to your grace and truth.

People: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Send him into the world in witness to your love.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Let us pray

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. *Amen.*

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying

The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. *Amen.*

PRESENTATION

The child is presented by name to the Celebrant by the godmother.

The celebrant says,

Name this child.

THE BAPTISM

I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. *Amen.*

You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. *Amen.*

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

Presentation after Baptism **L121, v1, Baptized in Water** Hancock

1. Baptized in Water, sealed by the Spirit,
Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King:
Heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,
Faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Presentation of a candle to the parents.

Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arm upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this Holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By Him, and with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. *Amen.*

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following invitation.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn L227 We Shall Overcome Spiritual arr. by Carl Haywood

1. We shall overcome, we shall overcome,

We shall overcome some day.

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,

We shall overcome someday.

2. We'll walk hand in hand, today.

3. God is on our side, today.

4. We are not afraid, today.

5. We shall live in peace, someday.

Meditation Hymn L199, I don't feel No Ways Tired

Burrell

I don't feel no ways tired,

I come too far from where I started from;

Nobody told me that the road would be easy,

I don't believe

He brought me this far to leave me.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son and Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart, through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn

L229, Keep the Dream Alive

Brinson

Martin's dream for all of us so set his soul afire,

And lifted him to soaring heights

That he might with his God conspire;

To change the course of history

That all be brothers, all be free.

Keep the dream alive, Keep the dream alive;

We will have the victory,

Just keep the dream alive. 2x

DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Go in peace and to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

ANNOUNCEMENT

INVITATION TO ALL

ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

INVITES EVERYONE TO THE

REVIVE YOUR SOUL AGAIN SERVICE

ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023

10:00 am

SPEAKER: REV. RACHEL HILL

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR PEACE AND HEALING



For those at Home

Fr. Laughton Thomas, Rosalyn Greene, Ella Woodbury, James Manning, Toni Jarmon, Rev. Leslie & Renee White, Rev. Ralph Griffith, Leonel Jones, Charles Walton, Joan Jackson Taylor, Christine Seymour, Mary Ann Nottage, Kove Lawson, Cynthia Holland, Genevie Vaughn, Harriet Bowen, Livy Hitchcock, Sheila Gonzales, Sam & Sharal Jugger, Allan Johnson, and Fr. Terrance Rosheuvel.

For those in the care of the Doctor

Andre Simon, Dourest & Joann Robinson, Leslie Baker, John Melville, Lauren Sapp, Dr. Derek Spencer, Marva Davis, Delores Brown, Hattie Olivia Scott, Alexis Shermise Brown, Jasmine Hartin, Shevette Newkirk, Rudolph & Melva Griffith, Delois Abraham, Stella Harris, Pamela Harris Williams, Klcey Scott, Erica Scott, Renrick & Veronica Alleyne, Jeffery Adams, Mayleen Rosheuvel, Ena Mason, Darlene Sheppard, Merrick Winston Edwards, Devonias Sears, Landon Dyre, Brittany Lee, Herma Watson Taylor, Barbara Gruden, Carolyn Allen, Carl Maxwell, Ann Dupree, Al Lawson Jr. Bill Bush, Nohemy Reid, Luann Hickman, Harold Dickey, Sterling Rinks, Scott Allen, Ashley Griffith, Oscar Felker, Fritz Roy, Mark Thomas, Daniella Greenway Thomas, Terrence Harris, Barbara Stovell, Lynn Kimmel, Will Baker, David Thomas, Barbara Lynn, Lee Scott and Leslie Warren.

For those on the front lines in the fight against the Coronavirus Pandemic

Especially all doctors, nurses, scientists, and our own, Dr. Shaun Laurie, Dr. Nwamaka Onyeozili, Dr. Ross Howard McMillan, Dr. Ciara Robinson, Dr. Alaine Sharpe, Zuri A. White and Cheston Williams.

For those in the Military

Linzie Bogan II, Clark Bogan, Brianne Edwards, Vashti Thompson, Thandi Williams and Douglas Sampson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Contribution Documentation

Parishioners if you submit a cash contribution, please document your name, the date of the contribution and the total cash in/on the envelope. This enables us to properly document and verify what has been submitted. Thanking you in advance for your attention to this request.

Kathleen L. Rodgers

Your Vestry At Work

Dear Parishioners,

Your vestry met for its first meeting of 2023 on Monday, January 9th. We are thankful for your support of our parish during 2022, and look forward to your continued investment of time, talent and treasure in this new year. If you have not yet submitted your pledge for 2023, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible so that we can complete budget plans for the year.

You will be pleased to know that a revival-style service is planned for Sunday, January 22nd. Our speaker for this service will be Deacon Rachel Hill, the vicar at Grace Mission. Please invite family, friends and neighbors to join us in this special service of renewal. Also, share the attached flyer so many will come and be revived.

As you know, Bishop Howard is scheduled to visit St. Michael on January 29th for a Service of Confirmation and Reaffirmation. There will be a special reception following the service, which the vestry will host along with the families of confirmands and those being reaffirmed.

Every year, on February 13th, the Episcopal Church recognizes Absalom Jones, Priest, the first African American priest in the Episcopal Church. On Sunday, February 12th a joint service is scheduled at St. John's to celebrate the life and ministry of Absalom. Both congregations -- St. Michael and St. John's -- will participate fully in the service, including acolytes, LEMs, choir members and greeters. Father Lonnie Lacy, St. John's rector, will be the Celebrant, and Father Hugh will be the Preacher. There will not be a service that day at St. Michael.

We look forward to seeing you at these special services.

Margaret Edwards, Vestry Clerk

WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

We extend a warm welcome to our guests. Thank you for worshipping with us today. If you are without a church home, we invite you to join our church family. Please sign the guest register, include your home address, phone number and, if you would like to receive the monthly newsletter, news of special events and other happenings, please also add your e-mail address.

***OUR VISION** is to be a cornerstone for serving the spiritual needs of the greater Tallahassee community, extending an eternal invitation to join our caring parish and to enrich the spiritual life of all people as we journey with Christ.*

***OUR MISSION** is to experience the Gospel of Jesus Christ by feeding the mind, body and spirit of our community in fellowship and service.*



HOLY COMMUNION: All baptized Christians are encouraged to receive the real and living presence of Christ in Holy Communion. To receive the Bread, extend your hands upward, palms crossed. When receiving the Wine, please guide the chalice as it is offered. If you prefer, you may leave the Bread on your palm for the person administering the chalice to dip into the Wine and place on your tongue. All persons are welcome to give thanks for God's blessings at the altar rail, simply crossing your arms at the wrist with fingertips extending upward towards your shoulders.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY!

J. Gerald Grayson (1/18), Chioma Onyeozili (1/20).

Birthday Prayer

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace, which passeth understanding, abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Dourest Hospitalized

Our brother Dourest Robinson is again hospitalized but is on the way to recovery. Do keep him and JoAnn in your prayer.

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism

There continues to be the debate as to whether Christianity would have become the world religion that it turned out to be if it were not for the Apostle Paul. The Messiah came and proclaimed a message of love and forgiveness giving us what scholars claim – a look at the human face of God. So if you want to have an idea what our God looks like, go no further than Jesus the Son. Of course that harmless looking statement sparked yet another debate seeing most of the images of Jesus, have shown him with European features! In other words He looks too “white” for us brown people/people of color. In more recent times, artists have given us “a Jesus” who looks truly Palestinian and dark skinned with curly hair!

These debates I suppose are important for those who place a lot of emphasis on finding a savior who look like them. Some of us may remember the Black Jesus Movement, when all of our religious symbols were darkened (even Jesus’ disciples), just so people of color could identify more with the Christian Movement.

There was St. Paul however more than two thousand years ago reminding us that what truly unites us, makes us followers of the Christ, is the faith we embrace not the ethnicity of Jesus – it is the acknowledgement that we worship One Lord, we hold fast to One Faith and that we all need is to be baptized in the name of the Risen Christ. Baptism is of course an ancient rite of initiation that predated the Christian Church. Just recently in our Sunday readings we were reminded of John-the-Baptist’s ministry at the River Jordan, where many came from near and far to receive his baptism of forgiveness – yes even Jesus came! What John offered was the opportunity to renounce one’s former life – corrupted by the ways of the world, sin, and devil and to begin a new life (metanoia) – a complete 360 if you will. Did John practice emersion – that is making those who come for baptism go under the water – we will never know for sure, for the Jordan River was awfully shallow in parts. Most likely, those who came just did bend their bodies over so he could pour the water over their heads affording them a spiritual rebirth.

Fast forward to our times, where we allow for the practice of emersion (upon request) or as we will do today, the pouring of water over the child’s head (Bryson) as he becomes a member of the One Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, a child of God and an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven. Bryson will grow up believing, if we show him the right example, what it means to be a follower of Jesus and he too will come to believe in the One Lord, the One Faith, and the One Baptism as we all do.

Fr. Hugh+

SPECIAL PRAYERS

Capital Campaign Prayer

Most gracious Lord Jesus Christ and generous source of all abundance, in gratitude we invite you to expand our hearts as we seek to increase and improve this place of worship, peace, healing, forgiveness, outreach, service and fellowship. May all who enter here be restored and strengthened on their journey of faith. Guide us Heavenly Father, that we may make manifest your vision of a beloved and enlightened church and community, and be a shining example of the living presence of the Holy Spirit. May we and our Capital Campaign be a channel of God's abundant grace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. *Amen.*

Collect for the Coronavirus Pandemic

Almighty God, Heavenly Healer, we bring to you all who are affected by our present pandemic; for the infirm and infected, the anxious and afraid. By your power defend us and heal us. Let us see one another not as vectors of infection, but as opportunities for love and service, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Suggested daily Readings for the Second Sunday after the Epiphany: Jan. 16 – Jan. 21

Mon.	Gen. 8:6-22	Psalm 25	John 2:23 – 3:15
Tue.	Gen. 9:1-17	Psalm 26, 28	John 3:16-21
Wed.	Gen. 9:18-29	Psalm 38	John 3:22-36
Thurs.	Gen. 11:1-9	Psalm 37:1-18	John 4:1-15
Fri.	Gen. 11:27 – 12:8	Psalm 31	John 4:16-26
Sat.	Gen. 12:9 – 13:1	Psalm 30, 32	John 4:27-42

Today Sunday, January 15

Crucifer: Camille Usher

LEM: James Fort

MC: Hollis Sams

Lectors: Camille Usher, Thomas Payne

Vestry: Zollie White II

Organist: Debralee LaSeur-Helfand