

✠ SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:1-22

SERMON

“Prepare the Way”

Rev. Howard James

✠ HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP

“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”

UMH 340

(You are invited to pray at the Communion railing.)

✠ CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

✠ BENEDICTION

✠ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

May the path that Christ walks to bring justice upon the earth, to bring light to those who sit in darkness, to bring out those who live in bondage, to bring new things to all creation: may this path run through our life. May we be the road Christ takes.

✠ POSTLUDE

“Let Us All Praise Our God” setting D. Cherwein

Nan Leggett, Organist

✠ Please stand if you are able.

The lovely flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God.

SERVING THIS MORNING

Greeters.....	Rob Conway & Tom Leggett
Music Director.....	L.A. Cothorn
Organist.....	Nan Leggett
Pianist.....	Geneva Ashley
Altar Committee.....	Sandy Turner, Margie Rabon, and Elizabeth Gibson

WHITEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

902 Pinckney Street, Whiteville, NC 28472

(910) 642-3376

wumc@whitevilleumc.org

Rev. Howard James

January 12, 2025

Baptism of the Lord



Mission Statement of Whiteville United Methodist Church

As people of the body of Christ, we will gather for and be strengthened by Word and Sacraments, participate in loving fellowship, grow in discipleship, and serve our community and the world in Christ's name.

Welcome to Whiteville United Methodist Church

Thank you for worshiping with us today! We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in our worship, program, and ministry life here.

We hope the worship will inspire and comfort you as we hear God's message proclaimed. During this time, now more than ever, may the grace and love of Christ surround you.

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please use a microphone.)

Rob Conway

PRELUDE

“Fugue” F. Zachau

Nan Leggett, Organist

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(Symbolizing the presence of the Spirit of the Lord in our service.)

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME

✠ **RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We come today to remember.

People: We come to remember Jesus' baptism and ours with thanksgiving

Leader: We come today to remember. . .

People: The day that the heavens opened, when the Holy Spirit's dove rested on Jesus and a heavenly voice declared God's pleasure.

Leader: We come to remember . . .

People: That the One greater than John, greater than all of us is coming again.

ALL: We come to worship and give thanks that we are known, and loved, and precious in God's sight.

✠ **HYMN OF PRAISE**

“To God Be the Glory”

UMH 98

✠ **UNISON OPENING PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, with joy and awe we praise you for claiming us as your sons and daughters, and for pouring your Holy Spirit upon us. Help us to prepare this earth for your glory, and shine your light on all your faithful children, for the sake of the one whose birth and baptism brought renewal and transformation to this world, Jesus Christ. Amen.

✠ **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

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. Amen.

✠ **GLORIA PATRI**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

✠ **WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND RESPONSE**

Leader: We are eager to worship you and offer our praise, but we are often reluctant to answer when we hear you calling our name. We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but shy away from the river, lest we be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Forgive us when we forget your promise to be with us always, O God. Renew us with the power of your ever-present love, and strengthen us to proclaim your justice throughout the world. Amen.

People: Hear the words of our creator, spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “I have called you by name. You are mine. Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.”

✠ **THE PASSING OF CHRISTIAN PEACE**

Piano Selection

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND PRAYER

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Chancel Choir

“Come to the Water” arr. by Jack Schraeder

✠ **PRESENTING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

“Praise God”

UMH 95

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

✠ **HYMN OF PREPARATION**

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

UMH 402

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Whiteville United Methodist Church.

Visitors, please complete a Visitor's Card, which can be found in the pew rack, and place it in the offertory basket in the Narthex. We are happy to have you here with us today. Thank you.

Church Council Meeting Monday, January 20 beginning at 6:30 in the parlor.

The Office will be Closed Monday, January 20th for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Frozen Soup Sale! The United Women in Faith are now taking orders for their highly anticipated yearly frozen soup sale. Order forms can be found in today's bulletin or the church office. We ask that forms be turned in by January 27th. Soup pick-up will be on Friday, February 21st from 10:00-12:00 noon. A donation is requested as payment to help support local missions. Please reach out to a member of our United Women in Faith with any questions. Thank you!

Blood Drive February 6th from 2:00-6:30 p.m. Please contact Peggy Huffman or Patricia Ray to reserve your time.

Souper Bowl Party February 9th after worship service in the church fellowship hall. Please join us for delicious soup, sandwiches, and good fellowship.

Prayer Concerns: Kyla Benton, Dick & Janice Simms, Cherlene Harrellson, Bob & Alma Deans, Thetus Sessions, Florence Marlowe, Mary Hutchins, Judy Curtis, Carolyn Nix, Phil Stoll, Wendy Hood, Robert & Cynthia Page, John Turner, Sabra Allen, Peggy & Ralph Huffman, Jim Rabon, Dan Biser, Jan Avant.

Prayers of Support for our ongoing ministries: WUMC Preschool & Staff, Scouts, Food Pantry.

Prayer Requests: Contact the Church Office at wumc@whitevilleumc.org to add or remove names. Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks.

Ongoing ministries:

Adult Sunday School: Meet in classroom @ 9:00 a.m.

Children's Sunday School (ages 3-12): Upstairs classroom @ 9:00 a.m.

Caregivers Support Group: 2nd Thursday of the month @ 1:00 p.m. in the parlor

Reaching Out: 4th Tuesday of the month @ 6 p.m. at Dale's Seafood

Fifty-Plus Exercise Class: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the parlor

Food Bank: distributes food on the First and Third Wednesdays 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Handbell Rehearsals: Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m.

Choir Rehearsals: Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

<i>2025 Church Budget</i>	<i>\$302,140.00</i>
<i>As of 01/05, Needed</i>	<i>\$5,810.00</i>
<i>As of 01/05, Received</i>	<i>\$6,625.00</i>
<i>Needed Each Sunday</i>	<i>\$5,810.00</i>
<i>Received on 01/05</i>	<i>\$6,625.00</i>
<i>Attendance 01/05</i>	<i>37</i>
<i>Online Views</i>	<i>24</i>

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