

Mt. Zion – Finksburg UMC
January 14, 2024

Gathering / Countdown / Video / Prelude
Welcome / Birthdays-Anniversaries / Announcements

Opening Hymn **Near to the Heart of God** **Pg. 472**

Opening Prayer

Loving God, as we enter this sacred space, we heed the call to find rest in you. In the midst of life's challenges, grant us tranquility. May our worship be a refuge, where your peace reigns, and our hearts find solace. In your rest, we seek refuge. Amen.

Children's Moments

Jesus Loves Me

Joys and Concerns

Prayer Song **Sweet Hour of Prayer, Vs 1** **Pg. 496**

Pastoral prayer and **Lord's Prayer (spoken)**

Hymn of Preparation **When Jesus Came to Jordan** **Pg. 252**

Scripture lesson Matthew Chapter 3 Selected verses

Special Music Come, be baptized The Faithful Few

Renewal of Baptism Vows

Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

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!

Procession to the Water

(Dip your finger into the water and mark yourself with the sign of the cross on your forehead or left palm. Receive a seashell as a remembrance.) You are invited to remain at the altar for prayer.

Scripture lesson

Psalm 4

Video

Message:

The REST of the Story: Peace

Affirmation of Faith

Pg. 883

Tithes and Offering

Doxology

Pg. 94

Closing Hymn

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Pg. 206

Benediction

God Be With You 'til We Meet Again (sung)

REMEMBER YOUR BAPTISM AND BE THANKFUL

Baptism

