

***THE CHIMES AND SERVICE OF LIGHT**

(The Living Flame on the altar reminds us that we must carry the message of God's grace and love out from this sanctuary into the world.)

***THE BENEDICTION**

***THE CHORAL RESPONSE**

"Spirit of God"

THE POSTLUDE

"Toccata "

Altar Choir

Steven Gamaas-Holmes

Johann Speth



**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
THE ORDER FOR WORSHIP**

January 7, 2006
9:25 a.m.

First Sunday after Epiphany
Liturgical Color: White

Faith is simply accepting the status that we have been claimed and chosen by God. We are God's children because God chooses us and anoints us at our baptisms. Baptism is primarily about God's faith in us, not our faith in God. On this Sunday, we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord and invite you to remember your baptism and be thankful.

(The asterisk (*) designates when the congregation will please stand.
Worshippers who find standing difficult are invited to remain seated.)

Worshippers are encouraged to turn off their cell phones while they are in the sanctuary.
Bold print is read or sung by the congregation.)

WE GATHER TOGETHER FOR WORSHIP

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(You are invited to sign and pass the Ritual of Friendship pads.)

When it reaches the end of the pew, please pass it back so that all may note those worshipping today.

Cards are available in the pew for those desiring to request prayer or praise for specific needs, concerns and joys. Please place the card in the offering plate during the offering.)

THE PRELUDE

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" Hymn 139

Marilynn Ham

WE PREPARE OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ!

All: **We have come to experience God's grace in our worship and in our lives!**

***THE CHIMES AND SERVICE OF LIGHT**

(The congregation stands with the first note of the chimes.)

The lighted candles on the altar symbolize the presence of God's Holy Spirit.

The Holy Bible is facing the congregation as a reminder that God's Word is open and available to all.)

Grace United Methodist Church

Ministers

The Congregation of Grace United Methodist Church

Pastors

Stephen A. Beutler, Sr. Pastor
Chris Roberts, Assoc. Pastor
Larry Newberg, Visitation Pastor

Our Missionaries

Oscar Ramos, Hispanic Ministry of North Indiana Conference
Jeff Newton, Kokomo Urban Outreach Ministries
Dr. Dennis Marke, Medical Missionary, Kissy, Sierra Leone

Specialized Ministries

Randy Manning, Director of Music
Barbara Hobbs, Pianist/Organist
Jacque Hunt, Chamber Ensemble Director
Cindy Lovegrove, Office Manager
Debbra Long, Volunteer Parish Nurse
Phill Montgomery, Counselor
Chuck Hefley, Church Administrator

Our Greeters today are Glenn & Dee Ann Colescott and Estella Lucas.

Our Ask Me Greeters are Joyce & Jerry Hodges.

Our nursery volunteers are Lee Ann Hughes, Katie Hedges and Ann Winger.

The Flowers are given to the glory of God by Paul, Karen & Leanna Zimmerman in honor of Melissa's 19th birthday and for Ned & Ellen Reyburn in honor of Bob & Joyce McConnell, Ben and Jean.

*THE HYMN OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP
“*The Church’s One Foundation*”

Hymn 545

WE OPEN OUR LIVES TO GOD

THE CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed Him to be your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Grant that all who are baptized into His name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess Him as Lord and Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, One God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Moments of Silent Prayer

(Those desiring to come to the altar for prayer are welcome to come to kneel or stand.)

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who 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. Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF A NEW APPOINTMENT

Pastor Steve: Dear friends, today we welcome Rev. Chris Roberts and his family who have been appointed to serve as our pastor. We believe that he is well qualified and has been prayerfully appointed by our Bishop. Chris, you have been sent to live among us as a bearer of the Word of God; a minister of the Sacraments; and a sustainer of the love, order, and discipleship of the people of God. You are to represent the ministry of servanthood and to equip all Christians to be in ministry and in service to the community.

Pastor Chris: Today, I affirm this commitment in the presence of this congregation. Brothers and sisters in Christ, as a people committed to participate in the ministries of the Church by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service, will you who celebrate this new beginning support and uphold Chris in these ministries?

All: **We affirm our commitment to support you with our prayers, presence, gifts to Christ, and service to His kingdom.**

Pastor Steve will lead us in prayer for Pastor Chris and his family as they prepare to share with us in ministry and service to our Lord.

As Pastor Chris kneels, the Lay leaders of the church and the Senior Pastor will lay hands on his head.

The congregation, by lifting their hands in affirmation of their blessing upon Chris’s ministry, will join in the blessing:

All: **The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.**

WE HEAR THE LIVING WORD

THE ANTHEM

“*We Are Not Alone*”

Altar Choir
Pepper Choplin

*THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 3:15-18, 21-22
(Pew Bible Page 726)

THE PROCLAMATION

Living Our Baptisms

Pastor Chris Roberts

WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD

RESPONDING TO GOD IN OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

(If you are visiting this morning, you are our guest. If Grace U.M. Church is your home, remember that the biblical expectation is that you will give your tithe to your church. May we all remember that giving to God in response to His great love is the most celebrative moment of corporate worship. Today’s loose coin offering is dedicated to MUFF.)

The Giving of our Tithes and Offering

The Offertory

**Jesus, Name Above All Names” and “O, How I Love Jesus”*

Mark Hayes

*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*THE HYMN

“*A Charge to Keep I Have*”

Hymn 413