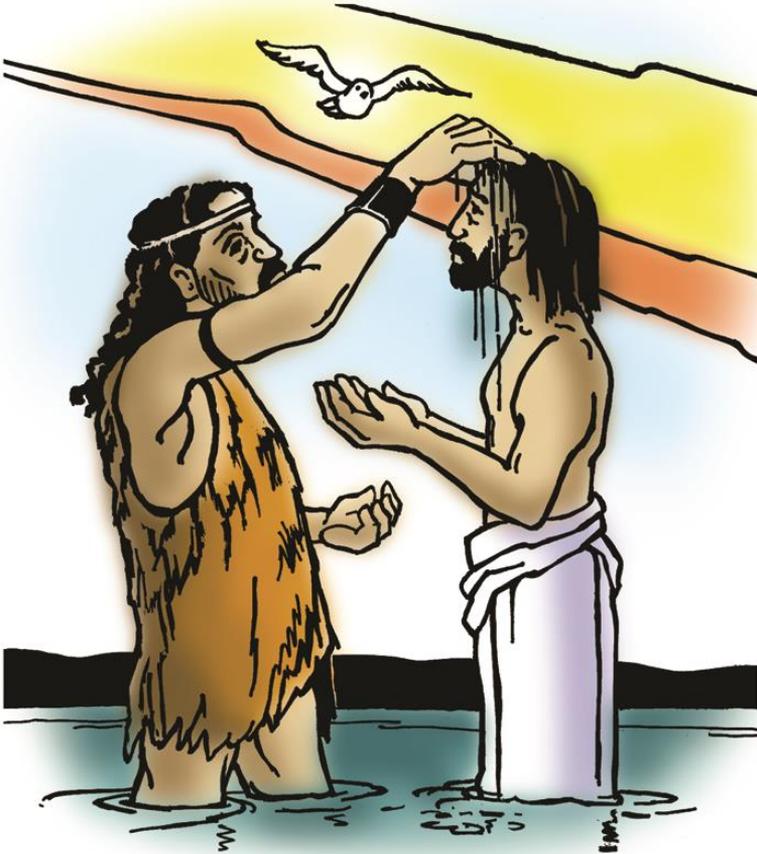


Welcome to Worship at
Joyful Harvest Church
Growing Together for Christ
Rev. Dr. Douglas Liston, Pastor – 847-497-4JOY (4569)
5050 N. Johnsburg Rd, Johnsburg, IL 60051
www.joyfulharvest.org



January 8, 2023

Baptism of Our Lord

This week we will be worshipping in-person and on-line through Zoom and Facebook. There will be a link on our website to watch on Zoom, or you can watch the live-stream on Facebook! Stay safe and God bless!

Gathering

Welcome/Greeting/Announcements

Call to Worship

Baptized to begin lives of faith,

we would witness to all you do in our communities, in our midst, in our world.

Baptized to serve,

we would speak up for the voiceless, we would bring justice to those who have none.

Baptized to speak,

we would heal, and not hurt; we would bless, and not curse.

Baptized to do what is right,

we would not play favorites, but treat each as your Beloved.

Gathering Songs

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9 (NRSV)

¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 29 (NRSV)

¹Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

²Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.

³The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

⁵The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

⁸The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

¹⁰The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

¹¹May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43 (NRSV)

³⁴Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17 (NRSV)

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan...

This is the gospel of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

Message

Prayers of Intercession

Meal

Offering/Offering Song

Friends, while our programs and in-person worship are temporarily modified, our responsibilities for our regular bills (mortgage, utilities, payroll, etc.) continue. Please send your gifts to the church office: 5050 N. Johnsburg Rd., Johnsburg, IL 60051 or you may give online at www.joyfulharvest.org.

Call to Reconciliation

Can you imagine a God who would rather forgive us than punish us, who calls us 'my delight,' rather than chiding us for being so foolish and wayward? This is why Jesus came, so we might know of God's tender mercy toward us. Let us confess our lives to the One who fills us with hope, as we pray together, saying, **We try to stop Jesus from coming into our lives, Patient God, for we know how disruptive he can be. He wants us to preach the gospel with our lives, but we prefer to complain how hard that is to do. He wants us to do what is right, yet wrong-doing comes so easily for us. He would like us not to give up until justice is done, but we just don't seem to have the time.**

We confess because we know we need to be forgiven by you, Glory and Grace. Bathe us in the life-giving waters of your mercy so we can come up from the water, ready to do good for others, to give you all the praise, to learn justice, grace, and hope from your Servant, Jesus Christ.

Silence is kept...

You are God's Beloved. You delight God's heart. Believe this good news, my friends!

The Spirit of God rests upon us, anointing us with mercy and peace. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Lord's Supper

All are welcome to come to communion; if you believe that Christ is truly present here today, we invite you to join us at the Lord's Table. We commune by intinction - we will give you the bread and ask that you dip the bread into the chalice. Wine is in the blue chalice, grape juice in the white chalice. Gluten-free elements are available. Please indicate if you prefer gluten-free when you are served.

Words of Institution and 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 and ever. Amen

Sending

Sending Song

Sending and Benediction

Baptized, let us go to live in faith.

We will bring healing to the broken and offer God's joy to those who grieve.

Baptized, let us go to serve.

At the side of Jesus, we will serve the hungry, we will give shelter to the homeless.

Baptized, let us go to be a voice.

We will echo the Spirit of calling for peace, we will never stop speaking against injustice.

Baptized, let us go to do what is right.

Finding you, God in Community, Holy in One, waiting for us to join you beside all your Beloved children.

Commissioning

At Joyful Harvest Church, **our mission is growing together for Christ.**

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we value: **Family Worship, Relying on Prayer, Unity in Christ, Instruction in the Word, Telling Others, and Service to God's Community.** Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

Order of service may change to accommodate the Holy Spirit...

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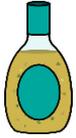
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Announcements

St. Jude Children's Ranch: We are collecting greeting cards! Please bring in the whole card Juanita will separate the front from the back. Save your used holiday and all-occasion cards, bring them to the church, and we'll ship them off to St. Jude's!



Food Gathering: *We're collecting salad dressing! (They get lots of lettuce!)* for the Northern Illinois Helping Hands food pantry! Help us feed those in our community who are in need. **Please leave your items in the bin in the narthex!**

Cross Keys Village Stampers: Cut used postage stamps from the mail you receive at home, bring it to the church and we'll make sure the Cross Keys folks receive them!

Live-Streaming and In-Person Monday Evening Bible Study! Monday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Until Christmas, we are doing a Bible Study on the movie, *It's a Wonderful Life!* What a great opportunity for discussions and learning more about the faith! **Held in-person at Joyful Harvest Church and Via Zoom!**

Men's Group: We are currently meeting **in-person and online Saturday mornings @ 7 a.m.** to learn more about God's call on our lives. All men are invited to attend.



Donate to help the ministries of Joyful Harvest! Scan the QR code on the left with your mobile device or visit the giving kiosk in the narthex. You'll go straight to our online giving page to set up a one-time or recurring gift through your debit/credit card processed through PayPal. Your generous gift will support our many outreach ministries. ***Thank you for making so much possible!***

Joyful Readers Book Club: Do you like to read and are looking for a way to connect with other women? Consider joining the ladies of Joyful Harvest as they embark on a new fellowship opportunity. **Next meeting date will be January 21 at 9:00 a.m.!** They'll be choosing their next book then! Contact Kim DuBois for more information!



Donate for Tijuana Mission Project! - Toys and school supplies! When our volunteers go to Tijuana this year, they would like to take some items that the kids can use. *If you should see a backpack on sale for the kids, we can fill it with school supplies. Soccer balls or footballs can be deflated and taken. Jump ropes, small toys, t-shirts for kids would be good, too.* There is a box in the narthex for donations. *Thanks so much for your generosity.* **See Ray Pratscher or Theresa Ancona for info.**

Remember – For your online shopping, visit Joyfulharvest.org and click on Saving with Susan! It helps support our ministries at Joyful Harvest!

Next Feed My Starving Children Outing: Saturday, January 14, 11:30 a.m. Meet at church at 10:30 to carpool! Mark your calendars, sign up TODAY!

Upcoming Dates – Mark Your Calendars!

January 14, 9:00 am. Unhanging of the Greens!

Weekly Calendar

Sun.	Jan	08	Sunday Worship <u>In-Person & Live-Streaming</u>	9:00 a.m.
Mon.	Jan	09	Discipleship Bible Study	6:00 p.m.
Tue.	Jan	10	Breakfast Club – Granny’s Diner, Johnsburg	8:00 a.m.
Tue.	Jan	10	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	4:00-6:30 p.m.
Thur.	Jan	12	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	4:00-6:30 p.m.
Sat.	Jan	14	Men’s Group <u>In-Person & Live Streaming</u>	7:00 a.m.
Sat.	Jan	14	Unhanging of the Greens!	9:00 a.m.
Sat.	Jan	14	Feed My Starving Children Mission Outing	11:30 a.m.
Sun.	Jan	15	Sunday Worship <u>In-Person & Live-Streaming</u>	9:00 a.m.

God does not love you because you think and act the right way. God loves you, plain and simple. And God’s love is unconditional; it does not depend on you. You may have mistaken ideas, you may have made a complete mess of things, but the Lord continues to love you. How often do we think that God is good if we are good and punishes us if we are bad. Yet that is not how God is. In spite of all our sins, God continues to love us. And God’s love does not change. It is not fickle; it is faithful. It is patient. This is the gift we find at Christmas. We discover to our amazement that the Lord is freely gives us absolute tender love. God’s glory does not overwhelm us; nor does God’s presence terrify us. God is born in utter poverty in order to win our hearts by the wealth of God’s love.

JANUARY 8, 2023

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD



God announces who Jesus is.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 3:13-17	The baptism of Jesus
Monday	Isaiah 42:1-9	The Lord's servant
Tuesday	Acts 10:34-43	Gentiles hear the good news
Wednesday	Matthew 1:1-17	Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah
Thursday	Matthew 2:19-23	Holy family's return from Egypt
Friday	Acts 10:44-48	Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit
Saturday	Psalm 29	Voice of God in a storm
Sunday	John 1:29-42	Jesus, the Lamb of God

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." **Matthew 3:17 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who comes to fulfill your promise of life and salvation for all. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God bless this food. God bless this day. God keep us safe in every way. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you strength and bless you with peace. (Psalm 29:11)

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In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life. Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How do you describe yourself to others? How do others describe you? ☒ What does it mean to be “well pleased” with someone?
- What does it mean to you that God calls Jesus “My Son, the Beloved”?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 3:13-17. We can quickly move from Jesus’ baptism to wonder about our own. What can be missed is a focus on the importance of Jesus’ baptism as a statement of who Jesus is. We are not the savior of the world, Jesus is (Matthew 1:21-23). Jesus fulfills the righteous intent of God announced by the law and the prophets (Matthew 3:15-17), not us. Jesus’ presence announces God’s ruling activity among Israel and the nations (1:1-17; 2:1-12). Jesus’ life fulfills the word of the prophets (2:23). All of that leads to Jesus’ baptism and the divine voice from heaven that points to Jesus as the anointed one (Christ). Yes, it is good to reflect on our baptism and do so in a way that finds comfort and meaning in the identity of who Jesus is, whose own baptism stands alone to announce that God’s will is fulfilled in this one and this one alone. Think about Jesus’ baptism and what it means for you and others.

Pray: **Almighty and living God, we give thanks for Jesus’ baptism that announces that he is the one who comes as your Son and enters the world as our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

In Isaiah 42 we read about a servant described as being humble in service to God. A servant can be described as one who performs duties or works for others. As Christians, our call is to serve God. What does it mean to you to be called a servant of God? In what ways do you feel you can answer this call?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

When we describe someone as beloved, it means we love that person dearly. God named Jesus as beloved at his baptism. When we are baptized, we too, become a beloved member of God’s family. Take time to remember your baptism. Revisit pictures or think of the memories you have of your baptism or that of another. Fill a small bowl with water and after revisiting memories, dip your fingers in the water and as you mark the sign of the cross on your forehead or that of another say, **“You are a beloved child of God marked with the cross of Christ forever.”**



5050 N Johnsburg Road
Johnsburg, IL 60051
www.joyfulharvest.org
(847) 497-4569

Join us for worship: Sundays 9 am!

CHALKING THE DOOR

On the Epiphany of Our Lord, January 6, family and friends gather at the main entrances to homes or apartments (nursing homes, extended care facility, hospital rooms!), and ask God's blessing on their dwellings and on all who live or visit there.

Peace be to this house of worship and to all who enter here.

A reading from Proverbs: "By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures."

Let us pray: Gracious God, as a shining star once guided the magi to the birthplace of the infant Jesus, also help those who dwell here to be your light in the world; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

*Using chalk, people are invited to inscribe the lintel of the home (the horizontal frame above the door) with the inscription shown below. The letters C M B come from the traditional (9th century) names for the "three kings" -- Caspar, Melchior & Balthazar. Some also suggest "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" which means "May Christ bless this dwelling!" Each person is afforded a turn to make one or more of the marks:
20 + C + M + B + 23*

A reading from Isaiah: "The effect of righteousness is peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and quiet places." Let us pray: Sovereign God, we pray that you will bless this home and all who live here with your gracious presence, that your love may be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Lord, remember your children and teach us to pray:

**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 and ever. Amen.**

May the Lord watch + over our going out and our coming in, from this time forth and forevermore. Amen.