

to stranger as well as friend,

**People: but we often choose to close
our doors and hearts to those unlike us.**

Leader: You call us to seek you, to call on you, to find you near us,

**People: but we often choose to ignore your cries
for justice and your plea for boundaryless love.**

Leader: Your thoughts are higher than ours, O God,
and your ways are higher than our ways.

**All: Forgive us, invite us again to your feast,
fill us with your word and your Spirit,
that we might go out in joy and come back in peace. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Rev. Wines

Leader: God's grace and mercy abounds.
God is with us in the change.
God's everlasting arms embrace us.
Each of us is beloved, affirmed, and set free.

People: Amen.

Anthem

Prayer for Peace

Michael Helman

Chancel Ringers

Anthem Reflection: At the end of September 2001, Michael Helman visited Ground Zero in New York City. He had watched the 9/11 events unfold on TV and had played organ at the funeral for a young man killed at the Pentagon. What he saw deeply moved him to ask "What could I do to help? What could I do for all those families who lost loved ones?"

We here at Clarendon UMC often ask that question - What can I do to help? We organize races to raise money for the unhoused, we grow veggies for those suffering food insecurity, we put up signs to discourage ICE from entering our building, we join Reconciling Ministries Network to make public that we welcome and affirm LGBTQ+ folks.

Michael Helman took pen to paper and wrote "Prayer for Peace." He dedicated it to those who lost their lives in the terrorist attack. And it is his hope that this composition be a prayer for an end to terrorism and for peace throughout the world. In this time of strife and chaos in our country and the world, we ask that, as you hear this anthem, you will pray for peace, that hearts may be changed and that the world will one day be God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Children's Message

Scripture

Isaiah 55:1-9

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

My Soul Clings

Rev. Wines

Sacrament of Baptism

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

The pastor makes the following statement to the congregation:

Siblings in Christ:

Through the Sacrament of Baptism

we are initiated into Christ's holy Church.

We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation

and given new birth through water and the Spirit.

All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

The pastor addresses the parents:

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,

reject the evil powers of the world,

and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you

to resist evil, injustice, and oppression

in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,

put your whole trust in his grace,

and promise to serve him as your Lord,

in union with the Church which Christ has opened

to people of all ages, nations and races?

I do.

Will you nurture Anna in Christ's holy Church,

that by your teaching and example she may be guided

to accept God's grace for herself,

to profess her faith openly,

and to lead a Christian life?

We will.

The pastor addresses the congregation:

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church,

reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Anna now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news
and live according to the example of Christ.**

We will surround Anna

**with a community of love and forgiveness,
that she may grow in her trust of God,
and be found faithful in her service to others.**

We will pray for her,

**that she may be a true disciple
who walks in the way that leads to life.**

The pastor addresses all:

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith
as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe 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, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal Father: when nothing existed but chaos,
you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light.
In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water.
After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.
When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt,
you led them to freedom through the sea.

Their children you brought through the Jordan
to the land which you promised.

**Sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Tell of God's mercy each day.**

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb.
He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit.
He called his disciples
to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection
and to make disciples of all nations.

**Declare his works to the nations,
his glory among all the people.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit,
to bless this gift of water and she who receives it,
to wash away her sin
and clothe her in righteousness throughout her life,
that, dying and being raised with Christ,
she may share in his final victory.

**All praise to you, Eternal Father,
through your Son Jesus Christ,
who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns forever. Amen.**

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

Anna Millie, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Holy Spirit work within you,
that being born through water and the Spirit,
you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Now it is our joy to welcome our new sister in Christ.

**Through baptism
you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit
into God's new creation
and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood.
We are all one in Christ Jesus.
With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you**

as a member of the family of Christ.

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE

God Claims You

TFWS 2249

Anna, Anna, God claims you.
God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.
We this day do all agree,
a child of God you'll always be.
Anna, Anna, God claims you.
God helps you, protects you, and loves you too.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Members of the household of God,
I commend Anna to your love and care.
Do all in your power to increase her faith,
confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.

The congregation responds:

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you
and we welcome you in Christian love.
As members together with you in the body of Christ
and in this congregation
of The United Methodist Church,
we renew our covenant
faithfully to participate
in the ministries of the church
by our prayers, our presence,
our gifts, our service, and our witness,
that in everything God may be glorified
through Jesus Christ.**

The pastor addresses Anna:

The God of all grace,
who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,
establish you and strengthen you
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
that you may live in grace and peace.

Prayer of the People

Offering

*You are invited to make your offering to support the ministry and mission of Clarendon UMC.
You may text to give at 84321 or go to the Online Worship page of our website
and click "Make your online offering."*

Communion Hymn

Psalm 63 (In the Morning I Will Sing)

Sending Forth

Hymn

When We Are Called to Sing Your Praise

Benediction

Rev. Wines

Postlude

Elegy

Bowden

Greeting: Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2024.

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance: Adapted from prayers written by Rev. Mia M.

McClain <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/lent-3c-march-20-2022/> and Rev. Teri Peterson

<https://www.liturgylink.net/2011/05/31/confession-isaiah-55/>

Prayer of the People: adapted from a prayer curated by David Chafin and posted at

<https://lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com/2022/03/14/lent-3c-3/>