

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Jr.

Rev. William M. Haynes,

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Prayer Concerns.

PRELUDE:
Ringers

The Beverly

CALL TO WORSHIP:
Nolan

Rev. Thomas Patrick

Pastor: Today is a day that is held in tension.

People: We are surrounded by the past, yet looking toward the future.

Pastor: A past that reminds us of the blessings and presence of God with us in joys as well as in sorrow.

People: And a future filled with promises.

Pastor: A future when death and mourning and crying and pain will be no more.

People: And God proclaims, "See, I am making all things new."

Pastor: Today we worship the one who was, is and is to come.

People: Let us worship in word, song and service.

***OPENING HYMN,**
77

"How Great Thou Art"

No.

1. O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder consider all the [worlds] thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the [rolling] thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!
2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander, and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze; Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!
3. And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in; that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and

died to take away my sin; Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior
God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home,
what joy shall fill my heart. Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and
there proclaim, my God, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my
Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my
soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

***INVOCATION AND PASSING OF THE PEACE:** **Rev. Suzanne
Ellis**

Call: “The peace of Christ be with you.”

Response: “And also with you.”

MOMENTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE:

Rev. Dwayne and Ginnie Lowther

Mr. Ed Tucker, Chair, Beverly Hills PPRC

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

***Doxology**

Prayer: Rev. Dr. I Mark Connor, D.S.

ANTHEM: “Battle Hymn of the Republic” **The Centennial
Choir**

Julia Ward Howe

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: “What’s a ‘Petra’?” **Rev.
Haynes**

EPISTLE LESSON: 1st Peter 2:6-9 **Rev.
Connor**

⁶For it stands in scripture:

‘See, I am laying in Zion a stone,

a cornerstone chosen and precious;

and whoever believes in him^{*} will not be put to shame.’

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,
‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner’,

⁸and

‘A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.’

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people,* in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

THE APOSTLES CREED: No. 881

Rev.

Ellis

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, died, and was buried;*

the third day he rose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and sitteth at the right hand of the Father Almighty.

from thence he shall come again 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.

***HYMN:**
368

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

No.

GOSPEL READINGS: Matthew 3:13-17 and Matthew 16:18-19
Haynes

Rev.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented.

¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

SERMON:

“The Rock”

Rev. J. Montgomery Brown

I am so pleased and gratified to be invited to share with this Church in this wonderful celebration. My wife, Jane grew up in this church. Her aunt Barbara still attends here. Jane’s sister Cathy was married in this church, back in _____, by the Rev’d Wayne Ransom. (My paths crossed later with him, when his daughter was a member of my last congregation – in Barboursville. And after Rev’d Ransom went home with Jesus, his daughter gave me his preaching robe, which I still have.)

I asked myself why I was invited to preach on this very special Sunday. I thought it might be because of the relationship I share with your pastor, Bill Haynes. Bill took me under his wing, during my first appointment after seminary, in Wood County. In fact, he even suffered through reading all my materials for ordination, to critique and improve them.

Someone said that it is perhaps because I was selected by our Conference to be the candidate for Bishop in the upcoming elections at Jurisdictional Conference. But, no, you invited me before our Annual Conference's nomination, just 3 weeks ago.

My wife, however, stumbled upon what I believe is the correct answer. She said that she grew up in this church, and the folks who knew her in her childhood and teenage years simply wanted to see if she married "up" or "down." Now THAT puts some serious pressure on me!

Whatever the reason, I've got to tell you that I am most honored. This is a special day in the life of this Church that VERY FEW churches ever get to celebrate.

When Jesus was baptized, He established how CHRISTIAN BAPTISM is no longer the same. No longer was it just about repentance - as had been the Baptism that John the Baptist was offering in the Jordan River. Jesus had nothing for which to repent. No, He was the new prototype - showing us that Baptism is about Identity. What was spoken at Jesus' Baptism is what God says at **each of our baptisms** - you ARE my beloved child with whom I am well. Can we grasp what a difference that makes?

Janet Wolf, one of our very gifted United Methodist storytellers says:

In a world that pronounces so many of us "not good enough," what might it mean to believe that we really are chosen, precious, and beloved? In a new members' class, we talked about baptism: this holy moment when we are named by God's grace with such power it won't come undone.

Fayette was there - a woman living on the streets, struggling with mental illness and lupus. She loved the part about baptism and would ask over and over, "And when I'm baptized, I am ...?" We soon learned

to respond, "Beloved child of God, precious and beautiful to behold."
"Oh, yes!" she'd say, and then we could go back to our discussion.

The big day came. Fayette went under, came up spluttering, and cried, "And now I am ...?" And we all sang, "Beloved child of God, precious and beautiful to behold." "Oh, yes!" she shouted as she danced all around the fellowship hall.

Two months later I got a call. Fayette had been beaten and raped and was at the county hospital. So I went. I could see her from a distance, pacing back and forth. When I got to the door, I heard, "I am beloved ...". She turned, saw me, and said, "I am beloved, precious child of God, and ...". Catching sight of herself in the mirror - hair sticking up, blood and tears streaking her face, dress torn, dirty and rebuttoned askew, she started again, "I am beloved child of God, precious and ...". She looked in the mirror again and declared "... and God is still working on me. If you come back tomorrow, I'll be so beautiful I'll take your breath away!"

Our Baptism - the Jesus kind - is when we, too, receive that blessing - when the Voice from Heaven names us and claims us: This is My Beloved Child in Whom I am well pleased.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER: UM Book of Worship, p. 584
Nolan

Rev.

Pastor: Eternal and loving God, today we give thanks to you for your goodness through all the years of worship and witness in this place. For your grace in calling us to be your people, for your love revealed to us in Christ your Son, for your gift of the Spirit and the joy of salvation:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Pastor: For those who established this congregation, for their faith and vision, for their gifts and abilities:

would be labeled a “supervillain”). Batman, Spiderman, The Hulk, Ironman, all faced such foes. And so did Jesus. Which is why he is with us every single time we are faced with our own life challenges. We need only to believe.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Study Opportunity -Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m., our current study, “I Bought A House on Gratitude Street” shares life lessons of friendship, prayer, sin and success from J. Ellsworth Kalas. Come join us and be blessed!

Children’s Church has returned!!! Children ages 3-7, join us for Children’s Church each Sunday during worship service (following Children’s moments) Hope to see you there!!!

VBS is Coming!!!! Join us July 16th – 19th from 6:15pm-8:45pm for Operation Overboard!!!

The Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry will continue to need your help.. Items continually needed include Pnut Butter & Jelly, Spaghetti & Sauce, Mac & Cheese, Crackers, Soups, Dried Beans, Corn Bread mix, Canned Veggies. We also need paper towels, soap, spray cleaners, toilet paper and dish soap. Monetary donations also welcome.

Our next distribution date is Monday, July 16th. Please stop by and help!!!