

Confirmation: Affirmation of Baptism 2020 (via zoom!)

Invitation: Invite up Elizabeth Duncan, Maddie Mowrer, Vandon Roosa and Paul Cleaveland.

Friends in Christ, we are all received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. Elizabeth, Vandon and Maddie have found nurture and support here in this family of Christ. Through prayer and study, they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

Sentences of Scripture

Hear these words from Scripture:

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

²He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his names sake.

⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

⁵Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Questions to the Candidates

Vandon, Maddie, and Elizabeth: do you desire to affirm your baptism in the faith and family of Jesus Christ? (If so, please say, "I do!") **I do.**

Do you desire the freedom of new life in Christ? **I do.**

Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? **I do.**

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able? **I do.**

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world? **I do.**

Affirmation of Faith

Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the Triune God.

We believe God is an almighty, loving God.

God created the earth.

God created humans in God's own image.

We believe in Jesus, the one who saves us from our sin.

We believe Jesus is fully human and fully divine,

that he lived his life preaching the Word of God, spending time with the highs and lows of society, healing the sick, and dying on a Roman cross so that we all may be saved.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Bringer of Life.

We believe in one world-wide Church,

called to spread God's message and love, proclaim hope, and spread peace.

We believe in two sacraments: baptism and communion.

In baptism, we are claimed by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In communion, we hear the words, "Here is my body, broken for you. Here is the cup, poured out."

We believe in the forgiveness of sins and the life everlasting,

through Jesus Christ, who saves us.

Praise to you, O God, the Creator of heaven and earth!

Prayer of the Candidates [spoken by the confirmands]

O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to you as your own, to love and serve you faithfully all the days of my life, through the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Prayer of the Congregation

Let us pray in silence. (silence).

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world, through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen!

Act of Confirmation

Elizabeth, Vandon and Maddie: the God of mercies multiply grace and peace in you, enable you truly and faithfully to keep your vows, defend you in every time of danger, preserve you to the end, and finally bring you to rest with all the saints in glory everlasting. Amen!

[MB invites up folks to put hands up to the screen, etc]

Prayer of Confirmation/Laying on of Hands

Let us pray. We rejoice, O merciful God, with Vandon, Elizabeth and Maddie in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in the Spirit's power to awaken us to new truth and to inspire us to venture into fullness of life.

We give you thanks that they have been moved to affirm their baptism. Help them to live not for themselves, but for Christ and those whom Christ loves.

Keep them steady and abounding in hope, never giving up, pressing toward the goal of life with you in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Address

Vandon, Maddie and Elizabeth: by your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We celebrate your presence in this household of faith. (You're got one more question, now that you'll soon be officially a part of us!)

Question about Participation

Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of St. Paul's as we serve this community and world? (If so, say, "I do"!) **I do.**

Welcome/ Gifts by Wes/ Blessing in the Comments

Let us, the members of St Paul's UCC, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: **We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love, and be witnesses of our Risen Savior.**

[You are invited to send some blessing or word to Vandon, Elizabeth and Maddie in the comments.]

Closing Prayer

Let us pray. O God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us in to the church, the body of Christ, We thank you for your people gathered in this church, St. Paul's, and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith.

May your Holy Spirit always be with Elizabeth, Vandon and Maddie. Lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you and neighbor in every corner of the world.

Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of the one who served us first, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Song "Lord, When I Came into This Life"

Blessing

Numbers 6:24-26

All: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.