First United Methodist Church



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy church, 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.

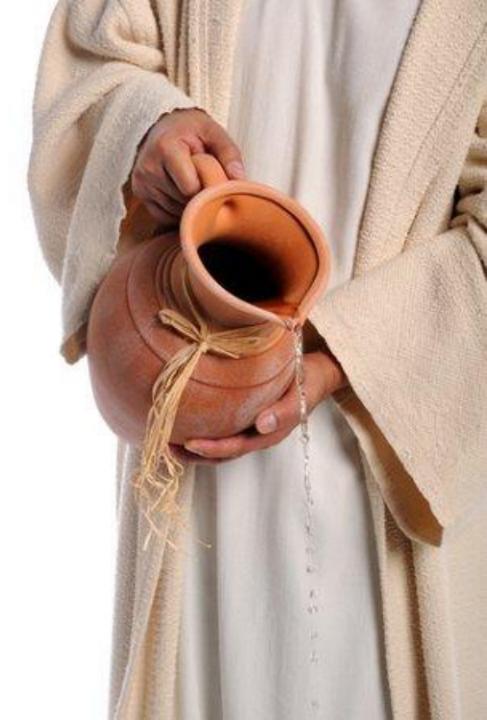


Through the reaffirmation of our faith we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy church.



On Behalf of the whole church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?



Do you accept the freedom and power God give you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever form they present themselves?



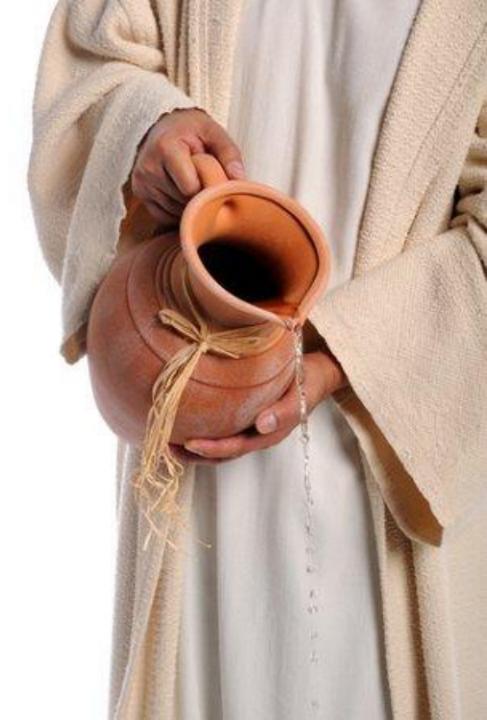
Do you confess Jesus Christ as you Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve Him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?



According to the grace given you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church, and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

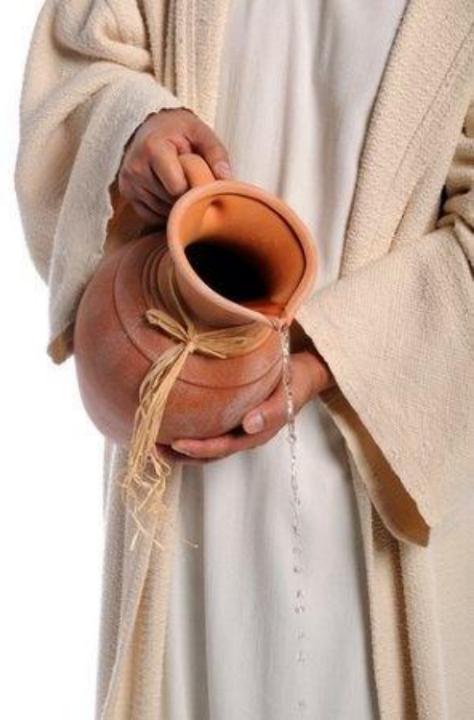


Will you nurture one another in the Christian Faith and Life and aspire to be all that Christ calls us to be in the world?



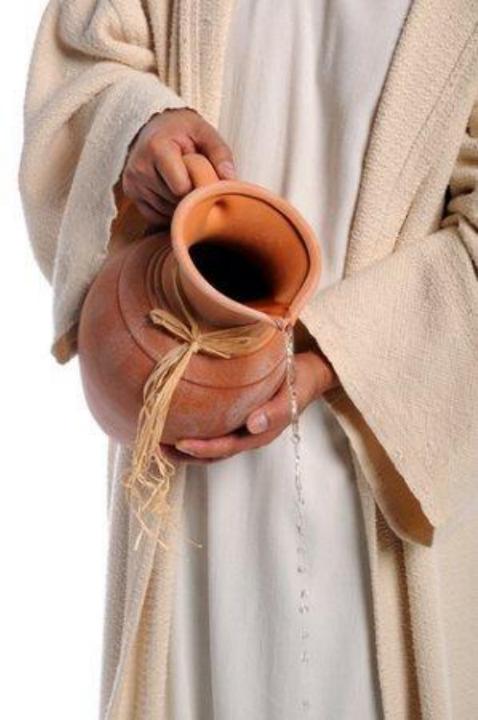
Congregational Response:

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround one another with a community of love and forgiveness, that together we may grow in our trust of God, and be found faithful in our service to others. We will pray for each other, that we may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to Life.



The Blessings

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and by this gift of water call to our remembrance the grace declared to us to our baptism. For you have washed away our sins, and you clothe us with righteousness throughout our lives, that dying and rising with Christ we may share in his final victory.



Congregational response:

All praise to you, Eternal Father,

Through your Son Jesus Christ,

Who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever.

Amen



Pastor:

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



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