

John 3:1-17 - JESUS TEACHES NICODEMUS

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

2017

LIVING OUR BAPTISMAL CALLING

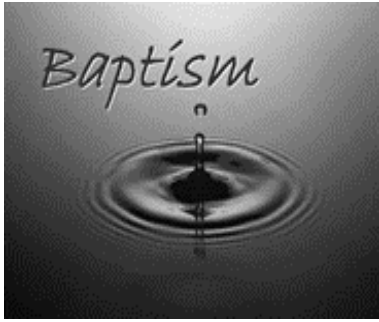


CHELTENHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Second Sunday in Lent
Accept!

March 12, 2017

Rev. Denise Millett, Pastor
410-271-8696
Cheltenhamumc.com



*“Do you **accept** the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?”*

**PRELUDE and
CANDLE LIGHTING**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Christ of the comfortable, you call us from our security and sameness, down that unknown path which leads to God's heart:

PEOPLE: we place our hands in yours, and follow.

Leader: Companion of our sleepless nights, you beckon us out of the shadows of our fears, calling us to bring our doubts and questioning hearts along:

PEOPLE: we listen to those answers we do not expect, or even understand.

Leader: You fill us with life where we see only emptiness, you keep promises when all ours lie littered on the ground:

PEOPLE: we let your grace transform us into faithful disciples.

Leader: Keeper of every moment, walk with us, we pray.

PEOPLE: Watcher in the night stay with us, we pray.

Leader: Spirit of new life we pray together saying,

ALL: We are all too human, Faithful God, and wonder if we have anything to learn from Nicodemus. We look for answers online, convinced that we can trust whatever we find. We close our hearts so the Spirit cannot get in to transform our lives. Yet you continue to come to us, to lead us into your kingdom. You will always be our help, whether we recognize it or accept it, for you are our God and our Lord. Amen

***HYMN:** “*Spirit of the Living God*” #77 UMH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS, CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

SUNG RESPONSE: “*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*” #2193

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY-** “*Alleluia*” #186 UMH

ANTHEM

***SCRIPTURE READING-** John 3:1-17

***HYMN –** “*Be Thou My Vision*” #451 UMH

SERMON – “Accept”

***HYMN –** “*Blessed Assurance*” #369 UMH

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE– “*To God Be the Glory*” #98 vs1 UMH

PASSING THE PEACE

Hymns can be found in the *TFWS – The Faith We Sing* and *UMH- United Methodist Hymnal*
***Please stand as you are able.**

*If you are visiting our church service today, we want you to know that we are glad you are here!
We invite **everyone** to join us down stairs after worship for a time of fellowship.*

