

## Gathering

Welcome  
Call to Worship

District Superintendent  
Lay Leader

I am the church! You are the church!

**We are the church together!**

All who follow Jesus, all around the world!

**Yes, we're the church together!**

From the Tar River to the Pasquotank,

**the Lumber River to the Neuse,**

from Pamlico's waters to the banks of the Haw,

**from Meherrin to Pee Dee to Perquimans.**

We are connected to the rivers that run through us,  
**and the waters of baptism which run over us .**

We are washed and refreshed;

**We are claimed as God's own.**

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**Video**—"We Are One in Christ" and Bishop Fairley

**Epistle Lesson: Galatians 3:26-29**  
**Sermon**

**Lay Reader**  
**District Superintendent**

**Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant**

### Invitation

Sisters and brothers in Christ: through the sacrament of baptism God's Spirit has been poured out upon water, water poured over and immersing us, water that flows freely for all who will receive it, water from the streams of God's saving power and justice, water that brings hope to all who thirst for righteousness, water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth. Today we come to the waters, to renew our commitments in each other's presence to Christ who has raised us, the Spirit who has birthed us, and the Creator who is making all things new.

### Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

And so I ask you, will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

**We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin!**

Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?

**We accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves!**

Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ, his body on earth?

**We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, put our whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as our Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races!**

Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?

**We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.**

Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

**We affirm and teach the faith of the whole church as we put our trust in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, his only Son, and in the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.**

### Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Spirit of the Lord is with us!

**Even so, come Lord Jesus!**

Let us pray. Almighty God, the life you birthed in us by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die. Your justice never fails. Your mercy is everlasting.

**Your healing river flows. Your Spirit blows where you will. We cannot stop you, God!**

But sometimes we try. We try to block the flow, we redirect the winds of the Spirit, or we walk so far away from the life-giving Stream that we do not hear its sound, and we forget its power. We parch ourselves.

**We are dry and thirsty, O God. Come, refresh us!**

*The pastor offers gestures of calling upon the Holy Spirit to come upon the people and the water. The people are invited to offer the same gestures as they respond.*

Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

**Come upon us, Holy Spirit!**

Come upon these waters.

**Come upon these waters.**

*Cont'd on back*

Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.

**Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.**

Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.

**Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.**

Most Holy God, Abba, Father!

**Glory to you!**

Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord!

**Glory to you!**

Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness!

**Glory to you!**

Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!

**All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!**

### Thanksgiving

**Lay Leader**

How have you experienced the Holy Spirit at work in your church? How has your church been challenged or found opportunity to live out your baptismal vows?

### Response

**Charge / Senior Pastor**

Your healing river flows. Your Spirit blows where you will. We cannot stop you, God!

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Charge Conference Business**

Elections of Officers

Approval of appointed Pastor's salary (salaries)

Other Business

### **Sending Forth**

#### **Closing Prayer**

**Charge / Senior Pastor**

Grant, O Lord, that what has been said with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and that what we believe in our hearts we may practice in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Dismissal With Blessing**

**District Superintendent**

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**North Carolina Conference**

The United Methodist Church

## Charge Conference 2021

### Galatians 3:26-29

For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

### **THE FIVE EMPHASES OF THE NC CONFERENCE**

Effective Leaders

Healthy Congregations

Congregations for Children

Anti-Racism

Unity