

Listen for God's Word

For devotional reading which is both sparse and surprising, I have been inspired by nested meditations found in *Divinity in Disguise: Nested Meditation to Delight the Mind and Awaken the Soul* by Kevin Anderson. A nested meditation is read cumulatively, adding a new line with each reading. Words may not be changed, but their meaning may shift depending on what text comes afterward. The intent is to reveal more with each added line.

The following original nested meditation is based on the surprising turn of events when Jesus went to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism is a word picture of the intimate relationship between Father and Son, heaven and earth. What unexpected message do you hear?

God's beloved Son comes.
God's beloved Son comes up from the waters of baptism.

God's beloved Son comes up from the waters of baptism,
and tears the heavens.

God's beloved Son comes up from the waters of baptism,
and tears the heavens have not yet shed will fall on the earth.

—Rosanna Eller McFadden
Goshen, Indiana

Text for today: "Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he consented. And 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. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased' " (Matt. 3:13-17, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17 (16).

01-12-20, Baptism of the Lord. Printed in the USA
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The heavens were opened

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship January 12, 2020 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

*As the earth brings forth its plants,
and a garden makes its growth spring up,
So will the Lord God make justice and praise
spring up before all the nations. – Isaiah 61: 11*

GATHERING

PRELUDE (11:00) “O God, You Righteous God” *J. S. Bach*

WELCOME AND SHARING THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

Please sign and pass the *Friendship Register* pad located at the inside aisle of the pew. Signing helps us learn the names of those worshipping near us. After all have signed, the pad can be passed back to the inside aisle.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP The Garden Song *Brent Holl*

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 2: 4b-10, 15

PRAYER

***HYMN INSERT** Designer, Creator, Most Provident God *Joanna*

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN’S TIME (11:00)

Children of ALL ages are invited to the front of the sanctuary for a time of building upon and connecting to faith through stories and interactions.

SINGING TOGETHER The Garden Song *Insert*

THE GARDEN STORY *Tim Kreps*

RESPONDING

TIME OF PRAYER

**Community Concerns and Joys
Prayer of the People**

ANTHEM All Things Work Together for Good *John Carter*

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 42: 5-9

REFLECTIONS (8:30) Music for contemplation, followed by conversation.

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

(8:30) We bring our tithes and offerings to the worship center.

(11:00) Ushers receive our tithes and offerings.

Prelude to the Introit of the Epiphany *Maurice Duruflé*

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
In heav’n above and earth below;
one God three persons we adore.
To God be praise forever more. Amen.

*RESPONSIVE LITANY adapted World Council of Churches

One: The divine presence of the Spirit in creation

All: binds us as human beings together with all created life.

One: We are connected and accountable before God in and to the community of life,

All: an accountability which has been imaged in various ways:

Organ Side: as servants,

Piano Side: stewards and trustees,

Organ Side: as tillers and keepers,

Piano Side: as nurturers,

Organ Side: as co-creators.

All: Which requires attitudes of compassion and humility, respect and reverence.

***HYMN # 391** *God, whose farm is all creation* STUTTGART

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (11:00)

“How brightly beams the morning star!” *Philipp Nicolai*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

January 12-18, 2020 (All events are p.m. unless noted)

This is a church events calendar and does not include all building events use.
Please be sure to schedule ALL EVENTS through the church office.

Sun.	9 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
	Noon	Youth & Families Organizational Mtg	Youth Room
	3:00	Youth Sunday Night Live @ Bridgewater College	
Mon.	Noon	Retired Ministers & Spouses	Maple Terrace
	7:00	Executive Committee	Lounge
Tues.	7:00	Mission & Service Commission	Lounge
Wed.	11 a.m.	Memorial Service for Margaret Garner	Sanctuary
	2:00	Pastor's Book Study	Lounge
	5:30	Cherub Choir Rehearsal	Agape
	6:00	Carol Choir Rehearsal	Agape
	6:45	Yorff Choir Rehearsal	Room # 35
	7:00	Board of Administration	Seekers Room
Thurs.	1:30	Staff Meeting	Lounge
	7:00	Puppets Rehearsal	Agape Room
	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Fri.	6:00	Brethren Student Movement – Youth Room, Social Hall	
Sat.	2:00	Memorial Service for Nelson Seese	Sanctuary

NEXT SUNDAY– January 19, 2020

Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. – Sanctuary

Paul Munday, 2020 Annual Conference Moderator, preaching

Children's Worship during Worship at 11 in Agape Room

Bell Choir Rehearsal – 9 a.m. – Choir Room

Sunday School – 9:45 a.m. – Classrooms (All Adults are invited to a session with Moderator Paul Munday in Social Hall)

Blood Pressure Clinic – 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. – Lounge

Deacon Lunch and Meeting – Following Worship

2019 YEAR-END GIVING STATEMENTS are available for pick-up this morning and will be available next Sunday, as well. Any that you can deliver to a neighbor to help save postage would be appreciated.

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

*An inclusive family of faith seeking to follow Jesus
and live the love of God.*

Our Mission...

As an inclusive community of faith, we commit ourselves to embody the love of God and to share our diverse lives and gifts with each other and the world. Through faith formation, worship, mission, and fellowship we boldly proclaim the peace and love of Christ. Together we work for justice, extend grace, and partner with God to offer abundant life, healing, and hope to our community and the world.

Our Values...

*Sharing life together and including all persons in our common life.
Growing in faith, compassion, and understanding.
Serving one another and our neighbor's good.
Sharing the love of God and the God that is love.*

PASTORAL MINISTRY STAFF

Christy Dowdy – Interim Senior Pastor

Chris Zepp – Associate Pastor

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FACILITIES MINISTRY STAFF

Fortunato Correa – Custodian

Phil Flory – Treasurer

Karissa Hunt – Financial Secretary

Shannon Puffenbarger – Administrative Assistant

Leon Rhodes – Head Teller

PROGRAM & MUSIC MINISTRY STAFF

Kathleen Arndt – Child Care Center Administrator

John Barr – Organist

Jim Benedict – Bell Choir Director

Kasey Carns – Youth Ministry Intern

Josh Eye – Interim Christian Education Director

Mary Beth Flory – Pianist

Marianne Houff – Children's Choir Director

Ellsworth Neff – Sound, Light, Video Coordinator

Curtis Nolley – Sanctus Choir Director & Music Coordinator

CONTACT INFORMATION

420 College View Drive, Bridgewater, VA 22812

www.bwcob.org / (540) 828-3711

Normal office hours are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. - Noon, and 1-5 p.m.

SUNDAY MORNING INFORMATION & TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

HOSPITALITY CENTER in the Greeting Hall

Nametags; large-print Bibles, hymnals, & bulletins; listening receivers; and information are available here.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45 a.m.

PARKING ASSISTANCE: 10:30-10:55 a.m. every Sunday.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!

Children are always welcome among us and in our corporate worship gatherings. Activity bags are available in the greeting hall for their use and enjoyment. Additionally, childcare for children ages birth to kindergarten is available as well as a "cry room" for those who wish to listen and see the worship service in a separate room from the sanctuary. Ushers are more than willing to help you locate these resources.

Decorators – Lori Lineweaver & Dwynn Stovall

Head Usher – Palmer Lee Berry

Pianist (8:30) – Ann Daggett

Fellowship Hosts – Teshome & Sofia Molalelнге

Van Drivers David Lineweaver & Rick Fawley

Worship Leader – Christy Dowdy

TODAY'S ANTHEM TEXT: *Romans 8:28*

All things work together for good to those who love the Lord.

To those who are called according to his purpose,

All things work for good to those who love the Lord.

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CELEBRATING THE DREAM, CONTINUING THE JOURNEY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Bridgewater College invites you to multiple events celebrating the life and dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Starting at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 20, 2020, at Oakdale Park in Bridgewater, the celebration begins with remarks from guest speakers, followed by a community march to the BC campus, where a reception will follow in the Kline Campus Center lobby. *New Yorker* columnist Jelani Cobb will present an endowed lecture that evening. The documentary *It Is Well* will be shown on Wednesday, Jan. 22. The events are free and open to the public, and community members are welcome to attend any and all. A schedule and more information is available at bridgewater.edu/MLK

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 12/22/19

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 15 11:00 – 222 Sunday School: 97

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$13,393.00
Loose Offering	1,953.00
<i>Messenger</i> Subscriptions	30.00
Charles Koogler Fund	200.00
Rent – Refugee House	800.00
Staton Love Offering	150.00
Christmas Offering	1,600.00
Tree Lights of Love	130.00
Heifer International	300.00
New Community Project	50.00
Mission Partners	200.00

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Worship Attendance: 319

Christmas Eve Offering	\$927.00
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ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 12/29/19

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 17 11:00 – 185 Sunday School: 80

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$7,028.00
Loose Offering	245.00
Food Pantry	100.00
<i>Messenger</i> Subscriptions	60.00
Rent – Refugee House	800.00
Women's Fellowship	500.00
Memorial Gifts	50.00

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 01/05/20

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 17 11:00 – 232 Childrens' – 17

Sunday School: 116

Pledges & Envelope Giving	\$14,553.00
Loose Offering	900.00
Huffman Loan Fund	100.00
Heifer International	170.00
Charles Koogler Fund	200.00

The Garden Song

David Mallett

Designer, Creator, Most Provident God

By Jane Parker Huber

Designer, Creator, most provident God,
We praise you for forest and mountains and sod.
For life-giving water in river and lake,
For life more abundant for all the world's sake.

We pray that your people will find in this place
Full measures, o'er-flowing, of love and of grace,
Of challenging thought and of nurturing care,
Of deepening friendship and strengthening prayer.

The music of silence caressing our ears
Renews us in spirit and eases our fears.
We listen, we ponder, we wait for your voice,
And hearing, in gratitude, now we rejoice.

You call us to justice, to freedom and peace,
To work building bridges that love may increase.
Stand with us to show us the excellent way
To welcome, unhindered, your long-promised day.



refrain: Inch by inch, row by row, — gon - na make this
Inch by inch, row by row, — some-one bless these



gar - den grow. All it takes is a rake and a hoe and a
seeds I sow. Some-one warm them from be - low 'til the



piece of fer - tile ground.
rain comes tumb - ling down.