

Service of Baptism at Parkwood UMC on December 29, 2024

† *Please stand as you are able*

*Prelude*

Desiree Davis-Omburo

*Welcome and Announcements*

*Chiming the Trinity*

*Call to Worship (Selections from Isaiah 43)*

But now, says the LORD—

the one who created you, Jacob,

the one who formed you, Israel:

**Don't fear, for I have redeemed you;**

**I have called you by name; you are mine.**

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

when through the rivers, they won't sweep over you.

**When you walk through the fire, you won't be scorched  
and flame won't burn you.**

<sup>3</sup> I am the LORD your God,

the holy one of Israel, your savior.

**<sup>12</sup> I announced, I saved, I proclaimed,  
not some stranger among you.**

You are my witnesses, says the LORD,

and I am God.

**<sup>13</sup> From the dawn of time, I am the one.**

**No one can escape my power.**

**I act, and who can undo it?**

<sup>18</sup> Don't remember the prior things;

don't ponder ancient history.

**<sup>19</sup> Look! I'm doing a new thing;**

**now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?**

I'm making a way in the desert,

paths<sup>in</sup> in the wilderness...

**<sup>21</sup> this people whom I formed for myself,**

**who will recount my praise.**

† *Opening Hymn*

Go Tell It on the Mountain

UMH 251

† *Hymn*

The First Noel

UMH 245

*Prayer for Illumination (In Unison)*

Holy God, we know that you are standing at the door and are inviting us in— into your Word, into relationship, into peace, and deeper into joy. So, as we approach your Word, we pray: do not let us pass you by. Do not allow distraction or doubt to get the best of us. May we be open to your wisdom and let it sink in, amen.

*Epistle Reading*

Romans 6:1-14

Rosemary Marlowe

*Prayer of Confession*

God who calls us back home, how often have we heard 'the voice of the one crying in the wilderness' calling us to come back home to you, but we have ignored it? How often have we chosen our own comfort while neglecting to comfort others? For the times when you were calling us to repent and come back home but ignored it, forgive us, Lord. Meet us right where we are and turn us in the direction you are calling us to go. Amen.

*Words of Forgiveness*

Family of faith, no matter how long and far we've wondered in the wilderness away from home and from God, God is already making a way towards us to provide a way back. The choice is ours whether to take it or not. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**People (to leader): In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**ALL: Glory to God! Amen.**

† *Passing of the Peace*

*Gospel Reading*

Mark 1:1-11

Rosemary Marlowe

*Sermon*

Wash and Wait

Pastor Adam

*Baptism*

Presenting Christian Clark Key

UMH 39-44

† *Song*

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

TFWS 2026

† *Closing Song*

Joy to the World

UMH 246

† *Benediction*

† *Chiming the Trinity*

† *Postlude*

Desiree Davis-Omburo