

**Pastoral Prayer of the Day**  
**01-10-2021 – Malone: Centenary UMC**

Creator God, when everything first began,  
water became a symbol of refreshing, of washing away, of renewing.

Through the waters of creation, you brought forth abundant life.  
We have gathered this day to remember Jesus' baptism,  
    how when he came up out of the water, your Spirit proclaimed  
    that He was your beloved Son in whom you were very well pleased.  
Our spirits resound with that proclamation.

In His baptism, Jesus' ministry was initiated.  
He dedicated his life to you completely and without reservation.  
Help us to dedicate our lives to you, to offer our best for you,  
    to be of service to you by serving in your world.

As we have lifted before you the names of people near and dear to us  
    who need your healing touch and your tender mercies,  
    we have also lifted ourselves up as people in need of your grace.  
Our world is in the midst of strife; wars, oppression, famine, hunger, alienation,  
    situations in which we have abused the world and each other.

Heal us and this world, Lord.  
Renew us with your life-giving waters and re-affirm our baptisms as your children.

Let us go forth to be people of peace and mercy.

And now, be with us as we pray as your children the prayer that Jesus taught us --

**Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those  
who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil  
for thine is the kingdom,  
and the power and the glory forever. Amen**