

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 10, 2021

Baptism of the Lord

We Gather in God's Name . . .

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

(for silent prayer during the prelude)

Eternal God, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Grant that all who are baptized into his name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.¹ Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

*LITANY FOR BAPTISM OF THE LORDⁱⁱ

One: O Christ, by your epiphany your light shines upon us, giving us the fullness of salvation. Help us show your light to all we meet today.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: O Christ of glory, you humbled yourself to be baptized, showing us the way of humility. Strengthen us to serve you in humility all the days of our life.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: O Christ, by your baptism you cleansed us from our sin, making us children of your Father. Give the grace of being a child of God to all who seek you.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: O Christ, by your baptism you sanctified creation and opened the door of repentance to all who are baptized. Make us servants of your gospel in the world.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: O Christ, by your baptism you revealed to us the glorious Trinity when the voice from heaven proclaimed,

“This is my beloved Son,” and the Holy Spirit descended upon you like a dove. Renew a heart of worship within all the baptized.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit, and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep us, your children born of water and the Spirit, faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: “Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun” #456

Awake, my soul, and with the sun your daily stage of duty run;
Shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise To pay your morning sacrifice.

Lord, I my vows to You renew. Disperse my sins as morning dew;
Guard my first springs of thought and will, And with Yourself my spirit fill.

Direct, control, suggest, this day, All I design or do or say; That all my powers, with all their might, In Your sole glory may unite.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

John the Baptist ministered in the wilderness dressed in camel’s hair and a leather belt. His message was one calling for people to change their ways and to seek forgiveness. Let us now confess our sins, turn from sinful ways, and seek God’s forgiveness.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSIONⁱⁱⁱ

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from sisters and brothers in Christ. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another; we allow the past to hold us hostage. In your loving kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin. Remind us of the promises you make in baptism so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

John’s ministry also pointed to Jesus, who came that we might be forgiven and enjoy God’s promise of eternal life. Repent, believe, trust in God, and know that you are forgiven. Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

. . . *to Proclaim God’s Word*

FIRST READING Genesis 1:1-5 p. 1

EPISTLE READING Acts 19:1-7 p. 139

*GOSPEL READING Mark 1:4-11 p. 34

SERMON “Serving THE King” Rev. Andy Smothers

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*CONFESSION OF FAITH *Heidelberg Catechism* (Question 72-74)

One: Does this outward washing with water itself wash away sins?

Many: No, only Jesus Christ’s blood and the Holy Spirit cleanse us from all sins.

One: Why then does the Holy Spirit call baptism the water of rebirth and the washing away of sins?

Many: God has good reason for these words. To begin with, God wants to teach us that the blood and Spirit of Christ take away our sins just as water removes dirt from the body. But more important, God wants to assure us, by this divine pledge and sign, that we are as truly washed of our sins spiritually as our bodies are washed with water physically.

One: Should infants also be baptized?

Many: Yes. Infants as well as adults are included in God’s covenant and people, and they, no less than adults, are

promised deliverance from sin through Christ's blood and the Holy Spirit who produces faith. Therefore, by baptism, the sign of the covenant, they too should be incorporated into the Christian church and distinguished from the children of unbelievers. This was done in the Old Testament by circumcision, which was replaced in the New Testament by baptism.

... to Give Thanks to God ...

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (IN UNISON)

One God of three persons, you sent messengers ahead of Jesus to teach your ways, but, eventually, you sent your son, Jesus — both God and Divine. He came that we might know you, might change our ways, might be forgiven, and might have eternal life. Shortly, though, after he ascended to be with you, God the Father, you sent your Holy Spirit to guide your believers. Thank you for shepherding us in all ages and continuing to endure with us. In thanksgiving, we return these gifts for the work of your church on earth. Amen.

... and to Be Sent in God's Name.

CLOSING HYMN: "Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing" #538

Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing; Fill our hearts with joy and peace; Let us each, Thy love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace. O refresh us, O refresh us, Traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration For Thy gospel's joyful sound; May the fruits of Thy salvation In our hearts and lives abound. Ever faithful, Ever faithful To the truth may we be found;

So that when Thy love shall call us, Savior, from the world away, Let no fear of death appall us, Glad Thy summons to obey, May we ever, May we ever Reign with Thee in endless day.

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tues. Jan. 12	PNC Meeting	1:00 PM
Wed. Jan. 13	Evening Prayer	6:30 PM
Thurs. Jan. 14	PW Meeting	10:30 AM

Welcome to worship this morning! As we continue to social distance, we will not be offering child care for a time. Feel free to keep your children in worship — even if they're a bit noisy. You're also welcome to take them into the coatroom.

Our thanks go to our lay reader Phyllis Hammermeister, and pianist Juanita Rodriguez.

Annual Reports are due in the office. We need the **annual reports** in the office right away!

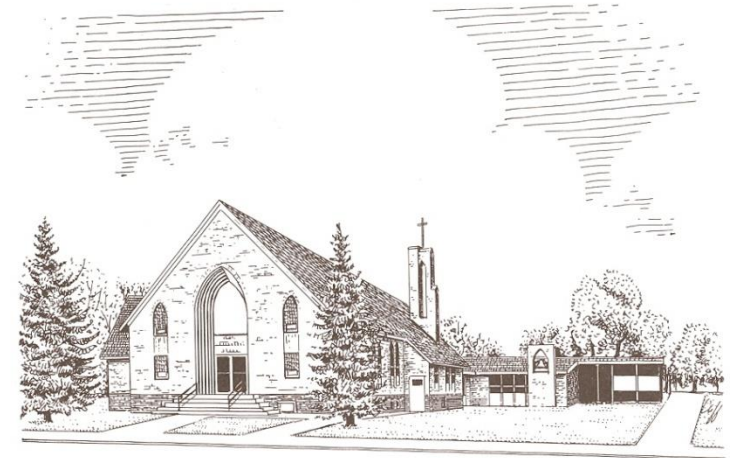
Consider joining us for worship through prayer, liturgy, scripture readings, and fellowship on **Wednesday evenings** at 6:30 PM. We've moved the time forward as the days are getting shorter. You can, also, join us remotely by calling 978-990-5110 and using access code 749966# when prompted. Make sure to include the "#" sign in the access code, and note that a long distance charge may apply depending on your carrier.

Ordination and Installation of elders and deacons will be held next Sunday, **January 17th**.

Deadline for the February newsletter articles is **January 21st**.

Last week, combined giving was **\$4,608.00**. In order to meet expenses, we need to average **\$2,588.00** per week.

First Presbyterian Church



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ⁱ Book of Common Worship, 198-199.

ⁱⁱ Book of Common Worship, 199-200.

ⁱⁱⁱ Book of Common Worship, 200.