



Westminster Presbyterian Church

*“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new
creation—everything old has passed away;
see, everything has become new!”*

II Corinthians 5:17

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January 10, 2021
Baptism of the Lord

Prelude “Toccata in E minor” by Johann Pachelbel

Mrs. Kay Guiles

Prayer of Preparation

God of all wilderness wanderers, you sent John to prepare the way for Jesus Christ, your beloved son. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that, like John, we may proclaim the time to turn from sinfulness and the good news of your grace; through Christ, the water of life. Amen.

Chiming

Welcome

Tommy Suttle, Director of Discipleship

Call to Worship (responsive)

Over the waters of creation, God spoke:

Let there be light!

Over the waters of the Jordan, God spoke:

This is my beloved Son.

Let us worship God.

Hymn #292 – “As the Wind Song”

vs. 1 *As the wind song through the trees,
as the stirring of the breeze,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the heart made strangely warm,
as the voice within the storm,
so it is with the Spirit of God.
Never seen, ever known
where this wind has blown
bringing life, bringing power to the world,
as the dancing tongues of fire,
as the soul's most deep desire,
so it is with the Spirit of God.*

vs. 2 *As the rainbow after rain,
as the hope that's born again,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the green in the spring,
as a kite on a string,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
making worlds that are new,
making peace come true,
bringing gifts, bringing love to the world,
as the rising of the yeast,
as the wine at the feast,
so it is with the Spirit of God.*

Call to Confession

Nothing can be hidden from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth, whose wisdom is endless, whose mercy is great. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God our Creator, we confess that we are broken, sinful creatures. You made us in your own image, but we tarnish your good name. You call us your beloved children, but we take your favor for granted. Forgive us, God of grace. Pour out your mercy upon us so that we may live in a way that is pleasing to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(time for silent confession)

Declaration of Forgiveness

Those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength. They will rise up to fly like eagles, they will run and not be weary, they will walk and not grow faint. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

Gloria Patri

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

God of goodness and light, as you created the world by your Word and Spirit, breathe new life into us this day; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

First Reading – Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Second Reading – Mark 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Sermon “He Saw the Heavens Torn Apart”

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

Sentence of Scripture (responsive)

Hear these words from holy scripture: Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many are one body, so it is with Christ.

For in the One Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Profession of Faith (responsive)

Beloved people of God, our baptism is the sign and seal of our cleansing from sin and of our being grafted into Christ. Through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Christ, the power of sin was broken and God's kingdom entered our world. Through our baptism we were made citizens of God's kingdom, and freed from the bondage of sin. Let us celebrate that freedom and redemption through the renewal of the promises made at our baptism.

I ask you, therefore, once again to reject sin, to profess your faith in Jesus Christ, and to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we were baptized.

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

I do.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith using a response form of the Apostles' Creed.

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Baptism (responsive)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Glory to you, O God – your voice is over the waters... ...who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Remember your baptism and be thankful. In the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Anthem – “Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters”

Kelly Lott, soloist

vs. 1 *Wash, O God, your sons and daughters,
newborn creatures of your womb.
Number them among your people,
raised like Christ from death and tomb.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling;
compass them with love and light*

*Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit,
holy dove and heart's delight.*

vs. 2 *Every day we need your nurture;
by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking
cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps;
free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying,
by your Spirit, children, heirs*

vs. 3 *Oh, how deep your holy wisdom!
Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor!
With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you,
water washed and Spirit born.
By your grace, our lives we offer.
Recreate us; God, transform!*

Invitation to Offering

Let us dedicate the gifts of our lives to the one and only Lord our God, from whom all things come and for whom we live.

Offering

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

We praise and thank you, Lord God, for the majesty of your work, the wisdom of your word, and the generosity of your grace. Let the gifts of our lives bear witness to your goodness and mercy, your faithfulness and justice, and your steadfast love for all. Amen.

Blessing and Charge (responsive)

Beloved children of God, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the blessing of the Lord forever.

Alleluia!

As Jesus called the first disciples, so he calls to us this day: Follow me.

Amen.

Postlude — “Agincourt Hymn” by John Dunstable

Dismissal by Rows – follow instructions of ushers

*Offerings may be placed in the plates that are in the Narthex as you depart.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

Telina Birch, friend of Nancy Johnson – covets prayers for endurance and strength
Deena Crawford, B.J. Lambert's daughter – good results from future medical tests
Ruthie Davis
Sam Dossett – hospice care
Denis Evangelista's family, Living Water coordinator in El Salvador – COVID-19
Fluffy Fair
Jeanette Fulmer, friend of the Forsyths – diagnosed with cancer
Craig Garner – recovery from hand surgery, chemo
Wendy Graham, Jan Bozeman's sister – continued prayers
Mari Griffin, Brandon Hayes' mother – ovarian cancer
Mary Halliwell, friend of Mary Cromartie – pancreatic cancer
Yennefer Herrera, Alejandro Herrera's daughter
Patricia Holcomb, Glenn Nobles sister – UTI complications
Ben Jones, close friend and band mate of Wes Brooks – battling colon and lung cancer
Geraldine Jones – special prayers for her family
B.J. Lambert – prayers for endurance and strength
Stephanie Liddell, Geri Jones' daughter – health issues
Jim Lundy, Sinclair Lundy's brother – Alzheimer's and Parkinson's
JoAnn Johnson, JT Johnson's sister-in-law – intestinal infection
Roger Kuyrkendall, Carrie Creel's father – dementia
Harrison McClain, student at PCS – rehab at home, prayers for endurance and strength
Bill Mitchell – recovering from stroke
Sandy Nicholas – recovering at home
Becky Nobles, Glenn Nobles' sister-in-law – recurring cancer
Glenn Nobles – heart issues
Steve and Ellen Ramp
James Reid, Carolyn McLarnan's brother – frontotemporal dementia motor neuron disease and ALS
Julie Reid, Carolyn McLarnan's niece – starting more aggressive chemo
Sheema Reid, Carolyn McLarnan's sister-in-law – starting chemo
Bones Roane, JT Johnson's brother's partner – spine cancer
Deanna Robinson, Glenn Nobles' sister – COVID-19
Lori Nolen Rockett, cousin of Nancy Johnson – hormone treatment for breast cancer
Teressa Seals, friend of Nancy Johnson – stage 2 breast cancer
Lavon Smith
Allen Stanton, friend of Ben Yelverton – back home in Clinton, receiving treatment at UMMC
Spencer Taylor, Martha Davis' nephew – at home recovering from car accident
Pam Thomas, friend of Sinclair Lundy – starting chemo for chronic lymphocytic leukemia
Glenda Vaughn, Ruthie Davis' niece – health issues
Jack Watts, friend of Jan Bozeman – Alzheimer's
Shirley Wilbanks, Betty Mitchell's cousin – stage 4 ovarian cancer
Mike Zubajlo, Glenda Miller's son-in-law – undergoing chemotherapy, prayers for endurance and strength

PRAYERS OF COMFORT

For family and friends of Charlotte Hackes, Bonnie Gerald's mother
PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE WITH COVID-19 AND THE HEALTHCARE WORKERS

PRAYERS FOR OUR LEADERS

PRAYERS FOR OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ARMED FORCES