

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Baptism of the Lord

January 10, 2021

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

VOLUNTARY

Beautiful Savior
Melody Davis

Arr. David Cherwin

OPENING SENTENCES AND REMEMBERING OUR OWN BAPTISMS

The sacrament of baptism proclaims the faith of the church, reminding us that we share in the death and resurrection of Christ, and that we are welcomed into Christ's holy church. By the sign of water God cleanses from sin, renews life, and through the power of the Holy Spirit reminds us of God's pledge of reconciliation in Jesus. The same Spirit binds us to each other and joins us to Christ's ministry of love, peace and justice.

Long ago, or perhaps not so long ago, God drew us to a congregation of loving and faithful people.

My parents or those who were as parents to me stood in the presence of God and a congregation of people. There they renounced sin and evil. They stood in God's energy of grace, love and mercy.

That congregation promised to share the Christian story trusting in its relevance for our fears, trials, joys and hopes.

My parents or those who were as parents to me affirmed their own faith in Jesus Christ. I believe their affirmation was broader and wider than it had been before as they became responsible for a portion on my faith journey.

Together a congregation around the event of my baptism pledged to strengthen the worship and mission of the church as it would continue its becoming.

Today, we are they. We are the member witnesses. We are the educating saints. We are the sacramentally baptized. God's love in Christ flows through us as we imagine and renew our baptism.

OPENING HYMN 634 *To God Be the Glory*

CALL TO CONFESSION

You and I are now the ones who step out of the safe waters of baptism, in the name of Christ, to bring hope. And while we confess our sin, we also rejoice that through the grace of our Lord we are redeemed and restored to new life in Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Timeless God, you cast light into sin's dark places and call us your beloved. As he knelt in the waters of the Jordan River, you proclaimed Jesus as your child, pointing to him as the way to you. Forgive us: when we put ourselves ahead of him; when we think he is no longer needed; when we fail to see him in the broken of our world. Baptized and blessed in your living waters, you would have us be your servants in our time. Forgive us: when we fail to welcome the stranger; when we refuse to forgive as we should; when we believe we are too good to kneel down and tie the shoes of the lost, the least, the last, the little. Amen

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

At the beginning, at the end, and in every time between, the good news speaks to us of God's tender mercy and love for us. God comes!

RESPONSE 581 *Glory Be to the Father*

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, create a new and ordered place within us. Sweep over the wild, chaotic waters of our hearts, and illumine our understanding, that we may hear your voice clearly. This we pray in the name of our Lord, our living water. Amen

EPISTLE READING (*Pew Bible, page 139*)

Acts 19: 1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— ⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

ANTHEM

Follow Me to Jordan
Sanctuary Choir

Jay Althouse

NEW TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible, page 34*)

Mark 1: 4-11

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

HYMN 630 *Fairest Lord Jesus*

SERMON

I Am Pleased with You

Sherry Holloman

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe and know that Jesus is the Holy One of God. We believe that he is the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world. We believe that he is in the Father and the Father is in him. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing we have life in his name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

God, your grace springs forth creation’s song: in the beginning, your spirit moved over the water’s surface; during the flood, water carried Noah’s family to safety and creation was reborn; on water, Moses floated down the river to bring your people home through water, the Israelites were led and the Egyptians were defeated; from water Jesus made wine at the wedding party over water Jesus walked and calmed the chaotic tempest. throughout scripture, water is bent to your will and used to prove your power over creation. We remember how your Son, our Savior, walked to the river to meet your prophet John, how he was baptized with all of them, and all of us, how the heavens opened up, and the Spirit descended, and your joy was showered upon all who were there. We give you thanks that your Son was baptized with us, that through him our baptisms seal our place within your fold.

Remind us that our baptisms seal us to go out and serve those who need your grace. Help us to remember that our baptisms are sufficient for our calling. Help us to remember that our baptisms are not merely a photo moment, a hallmark card memory of nostalgia and cuteness, but that each baptism is the beginning of faith’s

formation, a journey that both begins and ends with death and resurrection. Keep us strong, keep us faithful, lead us beside still waters, that we might abide with you and you in us. This we pray in the name of your Son, saying: **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.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

May God remind us again that we find great joy when we act in selflessness, when we give without expecting return.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Down Galilee's Slow Roadway
Bruce Turner

John D. Horman

RESPONSE 606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bathed in the waters of baptism, we are graced people. Graced people, we recognize the gifts which have been poured out upon us. Recognizing these gifts, we take them and give them back to you, God of the waters, so that others might be bathed in hope, graced with joy, gifted with your peace and love. Amen.

GOING INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN 757 *Today We Are Called to Be Disciples*