



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God
January 15, 2023

The Baptism of the Lord

**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

*Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.
-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

Prelude on *Forest Green* (Hymn 43)

Held

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

We were once people who dwelled in darkness, but God gave us Light to guide us: Jesus Christ.
God blessed us and adopted us as beloved children, through the sacrament of Baptism.

The water of baptism is a symbol of spiritual nourishment and cleansing.

This is the day of the remembrance of Jesus' baptism.

As we remember his baptism, let us be reminded of our own adoption by God.

Let us celebrate the joyous connection we have to our loving God.

*HYMN 411 (V. 1-4)

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

Arise, your light is come!

The Spirit's call obey;

Show forth the glory of your God,

Which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come!

Fling wide the prison door;

Proclaim the captives' liberty,

Good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come!

All you in sorrow born,

Bind up the broken-hearted ones

And comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we humans are incredibly stubborn. We have just celebrated the season in which we say Your Light has been given to the world, and yet we have forgotten already the spirit of giving, togetherness, and joy. Already it is so easy to be petty, divisive, and complacent. Help us to think beyond our own bubbles of self-interest. Help us to yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Again, let us receive the blessings offered in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in all the goodness of this creation.

Silent Prayer

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The love of God is always offered to us, freely, joyfully, forever and always. Rejoice, dear friends, this is the Good News of our Lord. Amen.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 42:1-9

Matthew 3:13-17

SERMON

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

ANTHEM

Prayer for Peace

by Benjamin Harlan
based on The Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument
Lord, make me an instrument
Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.

For where there is hatred let me show love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is doubt, let there be faith.
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is darkness, light.
Where there is sadness, joy.

Oh, divine master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console.
To be understood, as to understand.
To be loved, as to love.

It is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Beloved children of God, too often we see the world through a lens of scarcity. We look at all the things we do not have or wish for something bigger and better. And yet, our stories of faith tell us that the smallest things often become enormous when placed in God's hands. And so, you are invited to bring your "little" and watch how God can do great things to bless the entire community.

Please leave your offering in the box at the front of the sanctuary or make your gifts online or via mail.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy and righteous God, we offer our gifts with humble hearts, knowing the need in our world is great and our gifts alone will not be enough. But we offer our gifts in hope that you will bless them, multiply them, and use them to help fulfill your purpose revealed in Jesus Christ, Savior of us all. Amen.

*RESPONSE

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

THE 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.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 563 (V.1-3)

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on, till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might let us into the light;
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee;
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

God we know we have come over a way that with tears has been watered. We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered. Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our star is cast.

And we see you at work still creating a just world for all. We leave empowered by the fresh winds of change and the dream that is before us to be God's hands and feet and heart in this world today, tomorrow, and forever.

Go in peace, knowing you are loved. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Forest Green

Callahan

The flowers on the communion table are given by Jason and Andrew Lesonick.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel
Gloria Snyder, Organist
Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director
The Chancel Choir
Jim Middendorf, Liturgist

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed, Luke McGloughlin

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Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the Lord, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'