

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

January 7, 2024

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Father, as I reflect on the things you've done in the past, may my reflection lead to praise and worship. May my reflection point to you. I pray you give me eyes to see your goodness in my life. I pray that I can live out of a place of gratitude, as I keep my focused faith in 2024. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

“Shall We Gather at the River” with “Prelude in C Major” arr. Anna Laura Page

Welcome and Announcements

Introit “Christ, Be Our Light”

Bernadette Farrell, 1993

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts,

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Call to Worship

Leader: The voice of the Lord is over the waters;

People: the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

Leader: The voice of the Lord is powerful;

People: the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

Leader: The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;

People: the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

Leader: The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare;

People: and in his temple all say, “Glory!”

ALL: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever. May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

***Hymn** “Sing Glory to the Name of God” #10

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** (*in unison*)

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart and soul and mind and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

(Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn** “Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (v. 1) #610

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children’s Sermon

First Scripture Reading

Acts 19:1-7

Choir Anthem “The Baptism of Jesus”

Austin Lovelace, 1980

When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John,
He did not come for pardon, but as God’s Holy One.
He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins,
To speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.
He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss,
For us and our salvation to die upon the cross.
So when the Dove descended on him, the Holy One,
The hidden years had ended, the age of grace begun.
Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make;
This very day invade us, and every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction, the gift we covet most:
To share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 1:4-11

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “This is the Way We’ve Always Done It”

Pastor Steve Watters

Ordination and Installation

Sentences of Scripture

Pastor: There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

People: There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

Pastor: God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God’s purpose that is accomplished.

People: To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Pastor: Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

Statement on Ordination

***Profession of Faith**

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

People: I do.

Pastor: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

People: I do.

Pastor: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

People: I will, with God's help.

Pastor: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: 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 to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: 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.

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Gracious and eternal God ... all glory and honor, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Constitutional Questions

Congregational Questions

Clerk of Session: Do we, the members ... us in the way of Jesus Christ?

People: We do.

Clerk of Session: Do we agree ... who alone is Head of the Church?

People: We do.

***Prayer of Ordination and Installation**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Declaration of Ordination and Installation

Welcome

The Response to the Word

***Invitation to Offering**

***Response**

“Doxology”

#606

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

(We will be receiving communion by coming forward to one of the two stations on each side of the communion table. Please exit the pews to the center aisle and return to the pews from the outside aisles. An elder or deacon will be available to serve communion to those who wish to remain seated. Gluten-free bread can be found on the communion table.)

***Invitation to the Lord’s Table**

***Hymn of Invitation “Come to the Table of Grace”**

#507

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: We praise God's creating ... Great is the mystery of faith:

**People: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Leader: We call upon the Holy Spirit ... almighty God, now and forever.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Leader: Bread of Christ, broken for you!

People: Peace!

Leader: The Blood of Christ, Shed for you!

People: Peace!

Prayer after Communion

New every morning is your love, great God of Light, and all day long you are working for the good in the world. Stir up in us a desire to serve you, to live peacefully with our neighbors, and devoted to our Savior Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

The Sending of God's People

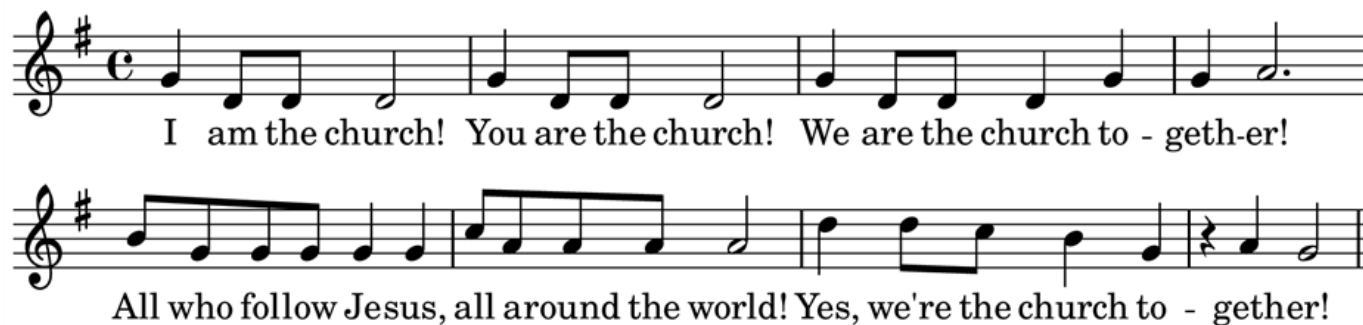
***Closing Hymn**

“We are One in Christ Jesus”

#322

***Charge and Blessing**

*Congregational Response “We Are the Church”



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The first staff contains the melody for the lyrics: "I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!". The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: "All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!".

Words and Music: Richard K. Avery and Donald S. Marsh

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*Postlude “All Glory Be to God on High” arr. Michael Burkhardt

Pastors: Steven A. Watters
Dr. Mark A. Johnson
Rev. Désirée Youngblood

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Liturgist: Cherie Watters

Cherie was born and raised Hamilton, Ohio. She and her husband, Steve, are transplants to central Ohio, having moved to London in 1987. They have a blended family of 5 children, and 8 grandchildren ... the oldest is 19, and the youngest is 9 months. Cherie has a deep love for animals, and has had multiple dogs and cats over the years, along with a ferret at one time. Today, she has resigned herself to one cat, Annie, and one dog, Finn, a long haired German Shepherd who many of you have met.

Cherie is an avid reader, and loves her flower gardens. The vegetable garden she leaves to Steve's care. She loves all things Irish/Celtic, hiking, and being in the woods. Hocking Hills is a favorite getaway. Cherie & Steve love to spend time with their grandchildren, plan family get-togethers when time allows, and just being together.