



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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ORDER FOR WORSHIP BAPTISM OF THE LORD JANUARY 10, 2021

(BOLD indicates Read Together)

GATHERING

PRELUDES

Mixolydian Song – Uehlein

GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Psalm – Gawthrop

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

The heavens opened, the Spirit descended,
and a voice sounded: This is my Beloved Son.

HYMN – “Lord, When You Came to Jordan”

**Lord, when You came to Jordan And asked to be baptized,
What was Your vow and vision Of love and sacrifice?
Was there a sudden splendor Of prophets, priests, and kings,
A wind that stirred the waters, A blur of mighty wings?**

**Was this God’s crowning moment Of all You had become,
The Spirit’s power and blessing: “Go now, You are My Son”?
Did scripture join with scripture in words of sharp surprise:
“The Lord’s Messiah shall conquer, Rejected and despised.”**

**Faith rests content with questions Of when and why and how,
But craves the gift of seeing What God is doing now.
Lord, bring us to our Jordan Of newly opened eyes,
Through love, immersed in living, As You were once baptized.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God whose spirit moved over the waters,
you have washed us in your mercy,
claimed us as your own,
bound us in community,
and called us to lives of baptismal grace.
Forgive us, O God, for we have not lived
as if we were your baptized people.
We stumble over opportunities for forgiveness.
We prioritize our own selfish interests.**

**We are slow to recognize our neighbors' suffering.
Forgive us, O God, and by your forgiveness,
lead us back to your waters of transformation. AMEN**
(*silent confession*)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE TO PARDON – “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.**

PROCLAIMING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Saving God, source of our calling,
your Word is full of power and glory.
Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
so that we may receive your grace
and live as your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN**

FIRST LESSON – Genesis 1:1-5

¹ In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ² 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. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

(The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God!**)

SECOND LESSON – Mark 1:4-11

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

(The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God!**)

SERMON – Rev. Anthony Lorenz

HYMN – “Wild and Lone the Prophet’s Voice”

**Wild and lone the prophet’s voice Echoes through the desert still,
Calling us to make a choice, Bidding us to do God’s will:
“Turn from sin and be baptized; Cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Quitting all the sins you prized, Yield your life to God’s control.”**

**“Bear the fruit repentance sows: Lives of justice, truth, and love.
Trust no other claim than those; Set your heart on things above.
Soon the Lord will come in power, Burning clean the threshing floor:
Then will flames the chaff devour; Wheat alone shall fill God’s store.”**

**With such preaching stark and bold John proclaimed salvation near,
And his timeless warnings hold Words of hope to all who hear.
So we dare to journey on, Led by faith through ways untrod,
Till we come at last like John To behold the lamb of God.**

THE APOSTLES’ CREED (traditional)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. AMEN**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

GIVING THANKS

OFFERING OURSELVES

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**God of wonder, we offer you our humble gifts,
signs of your goodness and mercy.
Receive them with our gratitude,
that through us all people may know
the riches of your love in the Word-made-flesh. AMEN**

SENDING

HYMN – “I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry”

**I was there to hear your borning cry; I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.
(Refrain)
I was there to hear your borning cry; I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.**

**When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.**

(Refrain)

**I was there to hear your borning cry; I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.**

**In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.**

(Refrain)

**I was there to hear your borning cry; I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.**

BENEDICTION

CLOSING RESPONSE – “God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

**“God be with you till we meet again;
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a Shepherd’s care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.”**

POSTLUDE – *Paeon* – Young



SERVING TODAY:

Minister of the Word: The Rev. Anthony Lorenz

Organist: Arthur Thompson

Reader: Barb Allen

Vocalist: Kari Kornish

Camera: Joe Shane

Recorder: Ray Thomas

THIS WEEK, IN OUR PRAYERS:

* **the church at work:** *Presbyteries of:* Foothills (SC); Greater Atlanta; New Harmony (SC); NE Georgia; Peace River (FL)

* **the church in Carlisle Presbytery:** Christ (Camp Hill); Rev. Ellen Crawford True

* **the church in the community:** First United Church of Christ (N. Pitt St.)

* **the congregation (at random):** Bruce & Anita Ashbaugh; Bruce & Trudy Bailey; Sue Hammann

NEXT SUNDAY 2nd Sunday after Epiphany. . . . January 17, 2021

10:45 AM: Worship

NOTE: While in-person worship is suspended currently, Sunday morning worship continues to be recorded and posted on the church website, church Facebook page, and YouTube (“Sunday on the Square”) for your use.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available inside the alley side door of the church. If you have a key, pick yours up anytime; if not, office hours are Monday & Wednesday, 9 AM–2 PM (or other times, by chance). Just ring the buzzer; you will not have to interact with anyone as the envelopes are within an arm’s reach inside the door. In these “unusual” times, we ask anyone who is able to take envelopes to anyone they know who will not be able to pick them up. If all else fails, you can, of course, send in offering (by week or by month) to the office at 2A N. Hanover St., and it will be credited to your envelope number.

2021 “PER CAPITA” AMOUNT REMAINS \$27.20: A blue envelope is in your offering box for your use during 2021.