

WELCOME ALL TO SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE



JANUARY 8, 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | 2408 N. NAVARRO ST. | VICTORIA, TEXAS 77901

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
January 8, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
Baptism of the Lord

Prelude: Reminiscence

- Percy Wicker MacDonald, 1905-1963

Welcome and Announcements

*Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you!

Call to Worship

One: In the beginning, at creation, the Spirit hovered
over the waters of the deep.
All: **In the waters of the flood, God cleansed the earth
and humankind.**
One: God caused the waters to part so that Israel could
cross from slavery to liberation.
All: **God formed Jesus in the waters of Mary's womb.**
One: Jesus taught us how to live by washing his disciples' feet in water.
All: **Drinking water from a well, Jesus met a Samaritan woman.**
One: Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, the Christ.
All: **God meant for Jesus to be the firstborn in a large family.
Praise be to God!**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

God of life and new life,
you are splendid and strong!
Your voice thunders above the sound of loud waters.
You sit enthroned above the floods of life.
As Jesus heard you speak to him in his baptism,
may we also hear you calling us your beloved,
through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** "Sing Praise to God, who Reigns Above"

No. 483

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Litany for the Baptism of the Lord

One: In the beginning, darkness covered the deep,
and God said: Let there be light.

All: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

One: Through the words of the prophet, the Lord said:
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

All: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

One: Do not fear, says the Lord; I am with you.
I have called you by name; you are mine.

All: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

One: When Jesus was baptized by John,
suddenly the heavens were opened.

All: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

One: And as Jesus had come out of the water and was praying,
the Spirit of God rested on him like a dove.

All: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

One: And a voice said: You are my Son, the Beloved;
with you I am well pleased.

All: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

***Invitation to Confession** (*unison*)

Let us be bold and confess our sins,
for God is gracious and always ready to forgive.

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

Merciful God,
in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,
making us part of the body of Christ.
We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves,
separated from one another.
We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,
and show reluctance to welcome one another.
We allow the past to hold us captive.
In your loving-kindness, have mercy on us,
and free us from sin.
Fulfill the promises of our baptism
so that we may rise to new life,
and live together in grace. Amen

***Kyrie Eleison** (*unison*)

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

***Assurance of Pardon**

God forgives all our sins
and promises to bring us to everlasting life.
Thanks be to God!
Believe in God, Friends!
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***Gloria Patri** (*unison*)

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.

Prayer of Illumination

Still-speaking God,
as these words from Scripture are read,
may it be to us as if the heavens are opening,
and we see your Spirit descending on us like a dove,
revealing your love for us as your daughters and sons. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

P.P. 670-671 in the Old Testament

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.

Organ Anthem: Gracious God, Reveal Thy Will Unto Me - *Jean Baptist Lully, 1632-1687*

Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 3:13-17 P. 3 in the New Testament

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 fulfill 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.”

Sermon: Remembering Our Baptism Rev. Jim DeMent

Matthew 3:13: Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

Silence and meditation

Congregational Hymn “Lord, When You Came to Jordan” No. 71
Sung to the tune “Lancashire”

Service of Ordination and Installation

A LITANY OF GIFTS

One: There are varieties of gifts,
but it is the same Spirit who gives them.
**All: There are different ways of serving God,
but it is the same Lord who is served.**
One: God works through each person in a unique way,
but it is God’s purpose that is accomplished.
**All: To each is given a gift of the Spirit
to be used for the common good.**
One: Together we are the body of Christ,
and individually members of it.

STATEMENT ON ORDINATION

THE ELDERS TO BE ORDAINED AND INSTALLED COME FORWARD

Class of 2025
Donald Anderson
Leila Galvan
Camille Miller

***AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL VOWS**

***PROFESSION OF FAITH BY THE CHURCH**

Do you believe in God the Father?
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
**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.**

Do you believe in God 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.**

*** THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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.
Gracious and eternal God,
with joy we give you thanks and praise.
We praise you for leading your people Israel
through the waters of the sea,
out of bondage and into freedom
in the land of your promise.
We praise you for sending Jesus your Son,
who for us was baptized in the waters of the Jordan,
and was anointed as the Christ by your Holy Spirit.
Through the baptism of his death and resurrection
you set us free from the bondage of sin and death,
and give us cleansing and rebirth.
We praise you for pouring out your Holy Spirit,
who teaches us and leads us into all truth,
filling us with a variety of gifts,
that we might proclaim the gospel to all nations
and serve you as a royal priesthood.

We rejoice that you have claimed us in our baptism
and anointed us for service in Christ’s name,
and that by your grace we are born anew.

By your Holy Spirit renew us,
that we may be empowered to do your will
and continue forever in the risen life of Christ,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all glory and honor, now and forever. **Amen.**

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS FOR RULING ELDERS

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS FOR CONGREGATION

*** PRAYER OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION**

*For the Laying on of the Hands,
all Ruling Elders come forward and stand behind the
candidates who are to be ordained.*

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.

DECLARATION OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

WELCOME

CHARGE TO THE NEWLY ORDAINED AND INSTALLED

CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: “Come Holy Spirit, Dove Divine”

- H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898

***Doxology** *(unison)*

***Prayer of Dedication** *(unison)*

Great, saving God,
you have gathered us into one baptism,
regardless of our backgrounds and conditions.
Therefore we praise you with our tithes and offerings.
May they join with others to become a mighty river,
bringing your peace and healing to the world. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

***Closing Hymn:** “Baptized in Water”

No. 492

***Charge**

Benediction

***Congregational Response** *(unison)*

Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880/William G Tomer, 1880

God be with you until we meet again;
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With his sheep securely fold you;
God be with you ‘till we meet again

‘Till we meet, ‘till we meet
‘Till we meet at Jesus’ feet;
‘Till we meet, till we meet
God be with you ‘till we meet again.

Postlude: “Out of Deep, Unordered Water”

- C. Hubert H. Parry, 1897



We have reproduced below the lyrics of the hymns selected for this morning’s worship service. All the hymns below are either in the public domain or have been reproduced, under license, from *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (Westminster/John Knox Press, Louisville: 1990) or from Christian Copywrite Licensing International (*ccli.com*). If you are worshiping with us from home, we encourage you to sing along. Follow the verses in this order:

Verse 1
Verse 2

Verse 3
Verse 4

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Sing praise to God, who reigns above,
The God of all creation,
The God of power, the God of love,
The God of our salvation;
With healing balm my soul is filled,
And every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory!

What God’s almighty power hath made,
God’s gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning glow or evening shade
God’s watchful eye ne’er sleepeth;
Within the kingdom of God’s might,
Lo! all is just and all is right:
To God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away,
But through all grief distressing,
An ever present help and stay,
Our peace, and joy, and blessing;
As with a mother’s tender hand,
God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!

Thus all my gladsome way along,
I sing aloud Thy praises
That all may hear the grateful song
My voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,
Both soul and body take your part:
To God all praise and glory!

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.

Baptized in Water

Baptized in water,
Sealed by the Spirit,
Cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
Heirs of salvation,
Trusting his promise,
Faithfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in water,
Sealed by the Spirit,
Dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;
One with His rising,
Freed and forgiven,
Thankfully now God's praises we sing.

Baptized in water,
Sealed by the Spirit,
Marked with the sign of Christ, our King;
Born of the Spirit,
We are God’s children,
Joyfully now God's praises we sing.



<u>Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests</u>			
Gloria Aouelle	Bette Austin	Nathan Galvan (Son of Leila Galvan)	Kathleen McCameron
Maria Pezeski (Mother of Leila Galvan)	Mikey Ruddock	Carol Wisdom (Daughter of Lea Lenz)	
For caregiving concerns—please contact: Lynn McAuley (979.248.6238)			
<u>FPC Opportunities for Worship & Service</u>		<u>FPC Victoria Servant Leadership</u> <u>Session Members</u>	
<u>Monday, January 9</u> 2:00 PM Mary & Martha Circle		Donald Anderson	
<u>Thursday, January 12</u> 9:30 AM Adele Carsner Young Circle		Jim DeMent, Moderator	
<u>Sunday, January 15</u> 10:30 AM Worship Service		Francis Byrne	
		Leila Galvan	
		John Horadam	
		Lynn McAuley	
		Camille Miller	
		Patrick Patterson	
		Becky Richter	
		Bonnie Wilkinson	
<u>Pastors Notes</u>			
<p>Our Bulletin cover bears a contemporary Greek Orthodox icon representing the Baptism of the Lord by John the Baptist. In the Reformed tradition, we commemorate the Baptism of the Lord on the first Sunday after Christmastide. Christmastide ends on January 5th, and the following day, January 6th, is celebrated in the Western church as the Epiphany of the Lord, a holy day primarily associated with the visit by the Magi to bring their gifts of worship and adoration to the infant Jesus.</p> <p>In the Eastern church, however, January 6th is the holy day associated with Jesus’ baptism, and it is generally called the Feast of Holy Theophany of the Lord rather than the Epiphany of the Lord. The Feast commemorates the Baptism of Christ and the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity. At the Baptism of Christ, all three Persons of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—were made manifest. Thus, the name of the commemoration, Theophany, means “manifestation of God.”</p> <p>Regardless of the date on which we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, the miracle all Christians celebrate is that God came to his creation in human form to love us, to redeem us, and to bring us the good news that, in following Christ, we can be transformed from light to darkness, from evil to good, from death to life. Thanks be to God!</p>			
<u>Clergy, Music, and Administration</u>		<u>Office Hours</u>	
Rev. Jim DeMent, Interim Pastor		Monday — Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	
Robert Wyatt, Organist/Choirmaster		361.575.2441	
Erica Colding, Office Administrator		info@fpcofvictoria.org	