

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of MASON CITY, IOWA

January 10, 2021

Baptism of the Lord

WELCOME

A PRAYER FOR THE HEALING OF OUR NATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

At the baptism of Jesus, God said:

“You are my beloved child; with you I am well pleased.”

When we hear God’s call to prayer, God is summoning us:

“You are my beloved child; with you I am well pleased.”

When we hear God’s call to service, God is inviting us:

“You are my beloved child; with you I am well pleased.”

When we hear God’s call to repentance, God is welcoming us:

“You are my beloved child; with you I am well pleased.”

Let us worship the God of our baptism, the God who blesses us still.

HYMN “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Come, thou fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it, mount of God’s unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I’m come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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 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.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news!
God’s mercy is poured out like a mighty river;
grace flows like a never-ending stream.
In the waters of baptism we are set free
to let go of what is old and broken,
to live a new life in the resurrection.
Thanks be to God!

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

MOMENT WITH CHILDREN

PSALTER Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory that is due the holy name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.
The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"
The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as Sovereign forevermore.
The Lord shall give strength to the chosen people;
the Lord shall give the people the blessing of peace.

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 1: 4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 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. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 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. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 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. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

SERMON "Everyday Baptism"

HYMN "Come Now to the Water"

Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
and all whose souls are parched and weary, come and drink.
Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
and from your heart will flow a never-failing spring!
Why forsake the Lord, the fount of living water,
choosing broken cups that cannot be filled?
For the Lamb will be our shepherd and will guide us
to the well-springs of the water of life.
All who come may take this gift of living water.
They will thirst no more, for they will be filled.

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

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

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

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

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

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.

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.

PRAYERS

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.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Gracious God, you have shown your love for your children by using commonplace things for your uncommon purposes—water to mark us as your children, bread and wine to feed and nurture ordinary people to be disciples, a child in a manger to announce your grace. Receive the commonplace gifts we offer and the lives that stand behind them. Bless and use them to proclaim your gracious love. We offer them for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. Amen.

BLESSING

HYMN "Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace"

Lord, make us servants of your peace: where there is hate, may we sow love;
Where there is hurt, may we forgive; where there is strife, may we make one.
Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is gloom may we sow hope;
Where all is night, may we sow light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.
Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek to be consoled, but to console,
Nor look to understanding hearts, but look for hearts to understand.
May we not look for love's return, but seek to love unselfishly,
For in our giving we receive, and in forgiving are forgiven.
Dying, we live, and are reborn through death's dark to endless day:
Lord, make us servants of your peace to wake at last in heaven's light.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Camille Lee, piano; Dennis Lee, vocals

Adriana Attleson, reader

The Rev. Paul Collier, pastor

Nate Ruge, video recorder & editor

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Text: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.

Music: NETTLETON Wyeth’s Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813

“Come Now to the Water”

Text and Music: JACOB’S WELL Alexander M. Peters ©1997 Alexander M. Peters

“Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace”

Text: Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi; para. James Quinn, SJ

Music: DICKINSON COLLEGE Lee Hastings Bristol ©1962 Theodore Presser Co.

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