

BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY
January 10, 2021

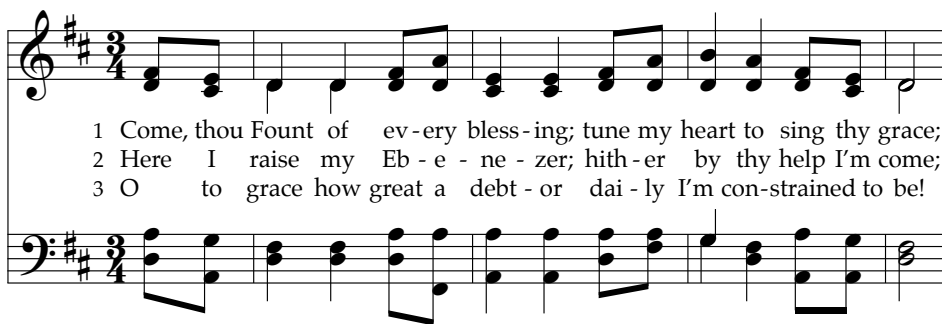


Water of Life by Lois Bryant

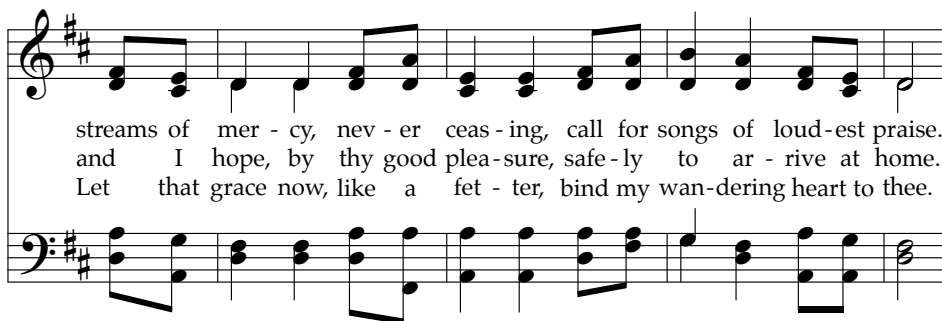


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

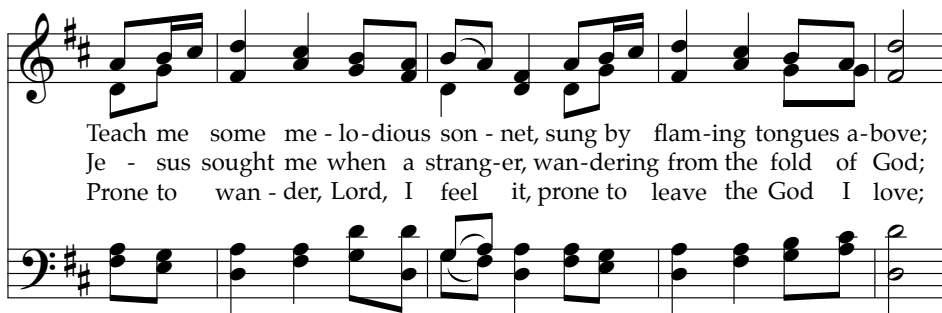
Making God's Love Visible



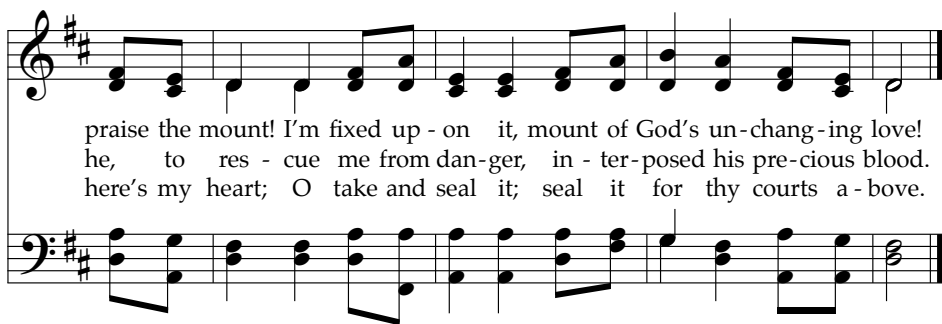
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a-bove.

Please know that, in recording all the parts of this liturgy — spoken, sung and played — we have carefully observed responsible norms of social distancing.

Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

Today we celebrate Baptism of the Lord Sunday. Jesus’ ministry to bring in the Reign of God was inaugurated in his baptism. As he came out of the water, the Spirit rested on Jesus, and God said, “You are my son, the Beloved. With you I am well pleased.” On this day, we celebrate not only Jesus’ baptism but our own as well, for our baptism is rooted in Christ, joining us to him and his church. With all of the beloved of God we are called to share in Christ’s ministry.

The organ voluntaries today are settings of the Lutheran chorale *Christ, unser Herr, zum Jordan kam*. In Bach’s setting the chorale melody is in the pedal, with sixteenth notes in the left hand depicting the rolling Jordan. The two parts in the right hand have been interpreted as representing Jesus and John the Baptist.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Christ, Our Lord, Came to the Jordan Michael Praetorius

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 29)

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
**Ascribe to the Lord the glory of God’s name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor.**
The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
**The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;**
and in God’s temple all say, ‘Glory!’
May the Lord give strength to the people!
May the Lord bless the people with peace!
Amen!

HYMN 475 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* NETTLETON


PRAYER OF CONFESSION

There are days, we confess, when we cannot see beyond ourselves ... beyond our fear ... beyond our failures ... beyond our frustrations, days when we move in a soup of nothingness ... a bottomless emptiness ... an inky blackness. We do not recognize the Spirit hovering over us like a bird above the watery abyss. We do not trust that the Light is more than an illusion. Forgive us, we pray. Open our eyes to see what you have called good. Open our eyes to see beyond ourselves ... beyond our fear ... beyond our failures ... beyond our frustrations, to the Light of Love that conceived and gave birth to creation in all its splendor, as self-revelation for the creature even today.


SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

KYRIE LAND OF REST



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy up - on us.



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy up - on us.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
2 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.



and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.



and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.



As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

This is Hymn 582: *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* (GLORY TO GOD).

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:1–11
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

A CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Acts 19:1–7
The grass withers, the flower fades;
the word of the Lord endures forever.

SERMON *Remember Your Baptism*

At First Pres, we strive to use inclusive language for God.
The use of only masculine nouns and pronouns for God and of masculine generic terms for humankind has hidden the rich feminine imagery for God and God's people in scripture. The rediscovery of the complementarity of female and male metaphors in the Bible and the literature of the early church forbids Christians to settle for literary poverty in the midst of literary riches.

RESPONDING

HYMN 490

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

BEACH SPRING



1 Wash, O God, your sons and daugh-ters, new - born crea - tures
2 Ev - ery day we need your nur - ture; by your milk may
3 O how deep your ho - ly wis - dom! Un - i - mag - ined,



of your womb. Num-ber them a - mong your peo - ple, raised like
we be fed. Let us join your feast, par - tak - ing cup of
all your ways! To your name be glo - ry, hon - or! With our



Christ from death and tomb. Weave them gar - ments bright and
bless - ing, liv - ing bread. God, re - new us; guide our
lives we wor - ship, praise! We your peo - ple stand be -



spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light. Fill, a - noint them;
foot - steps, free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in
fore you, wa - ter-washed and Spir - it - born. By your grace, our



send your Spir - it, ho - ly dove and heart's de - light.
liv - ing, dy - ing, by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs.
lives we of - fer. Re - cre - ate us; God, trans - form!

Use these offertory moments to savor your gratitude for the abundance of God's love — and to consider your own response in loving service. As you

consider making your offering, remember that the church's regular expenses continue in these difficult times. And the community around us needs your financial support: your faithful giving is like the breath of life to mission programs we love, neighbors in need, members who are hurting. Thank you for your faithful generosity!

Ways to give: online on the First Pres homepage ... via "Text-to-Give" (855-904-1523) ... use our Give+ app ... put a check in the mail ... or scan the QR code below. (Call Finance Manager Anna Miller if you need assistance.)



OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

At the River

Aaron Copland

Shall we gather by the river,
Where bright angel's feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God.
Yes, we'll gather by the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river
That flows by the throne of God.

Soon we'll reach the shining river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease,
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.
Yes, we'll gather by the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river
That flows by the throne of God.

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

Please sign our virtual Friendship Pad.

If you are worshipping with us via YouTube, Facebook, or radio, either click below to let us know that you joined us for worship today or sign the pad on our website at <https://bit.ly/2Rlig2l>

SENDING

HYMN 485 *We Know That Christ Is Raised* ENGELBERG



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows

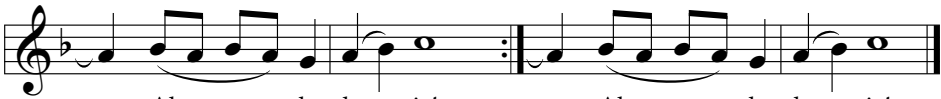


Em - braced by death he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re - born we share with him an Eas - ter life
The Spir - it's pow - er shakes the church of God.
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ.
Bap - tized we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse, re - stored and whole, will sing:

1-3 4



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE
Glory hallelujah. Glory hallelujah.
Glory hallelujah to be baptized.
This is Stanza 4 of Hymn 480, *Take Me to the Water*.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION
CLOSING VOLUNTARY
Christ, Our Lord, Came to the Jordan

Johann Sebastian Bach

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Leaders of Worship: Welcome – Khayla Johnson; Liturgists – Evans McGowan and Melissa Anne Rogers; Scripture Reader – Anne Kloack; Children’s Message – Jay Sanderford and Andrew Frazier; Preacher – Amy Ruhf; Virtual Chancel Choir; Soloists – Lorna Hildebrandt, Imani Mchunu, Heidi Hess-Willis, David Magumba, Joseph Sevig, Benton DeGroot, and Brent Ivey; Organist – Paul Haebig; Conductor – Dave VanderMeer; Videographer – Bill Hall; Sound technician – Rol Kibler

Join Rev. Rogers for a virtual Coffee Hour Sunday immediately following the Closing Voluntary. If you have questions or need help, please contact Rev. Rogers. **Today’s conversation prompt:** What do you know of your own baptism? What special memories do you have that remember the baptism of others? Enter Coffee Hour by clicking <https://firstpresbyterian.org/event/virtual-coffee-hour>

Chancel Flowers are given in loving memory of Cam Smith by his parents Collyer and Annie Smith.

Thank you to Lois Bryant, Angie Nagle Miller, Carole Pawloski, Sue Dempsey, and Greg Czarnecki for providing paintings and photographs of water images for Baptism of the Lord Sunday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ordination and Installation of Officers is next Sunday, January 17, at 5:00 p.m., on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85978892483>). It’s always a joyful day when we ordain and install officers to serve Christ by serving this congregation. Join us as we welcome and pray for those whom God has called to lead First Pres. Elders to be ordained and installed are Jennifer Day, Kate Kraft, Steve McKenny, Keith Molin, Renee Mulcrone, Len Rezmierski, Jean Song, and Deanne Woodruff. Deacons to be ordained and installed are Betty Anderson, Anne Andrus, Kim Byers-Granito, Sharon Dort, Carol Downton, Jennifer Edwards, Pam Ehrhart, Kathy Hillig, Nicole Jolliet, Catherine Kendall, Linda Koos, Chris Lin, Betsy McCallister, Angie Miller, Nelly Petrock, Brad Taylor, Nancy Tena, and Felicity Williams. Pandemic safety precludes our being able to gather in person for a service that traditionally includes the ancient Christian symbol of the laying-on of hands. On the other hand, Zoom offers us an opportunity to be present together in real time to offer our prayerful support to the full cohort of elected leaders.

Resident Minister Rev. Amy Ruhf has been called to active duty as a U.S. Navy Chaplain and will end her time as one of our pastors in Ann Arbor on January 31. Amy is a 2019 graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, and has used her time at First Pres to refine her call to mainline Protestant military chaplaincy. From Ann Arbor, Amy will travel to Newport, Rhode Island, for more training and then will move to the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida. There she will serve as a Navy Chaplain to those women and men stationed there. Our Coffee Hour on Sunday, January 24, will be a time to celebrate Rev. Ruhf and to thank her for her faithful contributions to First Pres and commission her for further service to the U.S. Navy. Contributions toward a special gift for her may be sent to the attention of Finance Manager Anna Miller or may be dropped off at the church Monday through Thursday, 9:00 to 3:00. Checks should be made payable to First Pres with the purpose noted on the memo line.

Administrative Assistant Cindy King will be leaving her position with us to explore a new opportunity effective January 15. She and her family will continue to be involved as active members of First Pres. Coffee Hour on Sunday, February 7, will be a time to celebrate Cindy and to thank her for her faithful service to First Pres in various roles over more than eight years. Contributions toward a special gift for Cindy may be sent to the attention of Finance Manager Anna Miller or may be dropped off at the church Monday through Thursday, 9:00 to 3:00. Checks should be made payable to First Pres with the purpose noted on the memo line.

We are the Church TOGETHER, in Faith, Love, and the Spirit Stewardship Update: As of January 4, 433 pledges totaling \$1,467,683 have been received. This represents 86.3% of our \$1,700,000 goal. If you have not turned in your pledge yet, First Pres still needs your help as we plan the 2021 budget. Thank you for all you do to share your Faith, Love and the Spirit through the ministries of First Pres!

Welcome College Students! We hope you will find a home away from home here at First Pres. Each Sunday at 12:15 p.m. there are in-person, socially-distant college lunches. Each Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. there are small group opportunities, both in-person and virtually. Contact Rev. Evans McGowan (campus@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information. He would love to meet you, virtually or otherwise!

Donate Chancel flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one. There are many available dates in upcoming weeks. Cost is \$75. Contact the Church Office (662-4466) for more information.

Women: Stay Connected! PW Moderator Ginny Bell sends out timely information in email blasts. Contact her (virginiabell2013@gmail.com) to be added to the email list.

A new Virtual Art Exhibit “For the Beauty of the Earth” is now available by visiting www.fboe.weebly.com. The photography is by Judy Kisla of Atlanta, Georgia.

Ministry of Music: If you would like to participate in the Chancel Choir’s virtual anthems, please contact Dave VanderMeer for further information: dvandermeer@firstpresbyterian.org. All are welcome to participate!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Please contact Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children’s Education & Family Ministry, for information about opportunities to connect and resources for children and families. Beca can be reached at btorresdavenport@firstpresbyterian.org.

Children’s Choir News. The Children’s Choir meets virtually on Sundays, 10:30–10:55 a.m. Contact Director Kellie McInchak (kmcinchak@firstpresbyterian.org) or Rev. Mark Mares (mmares@firstpresbyterian.org) for Zoom information. All children ages 5 through sixth grade are encouraged to participate. Choir includes singing, chanting, playing drums, and moving with scarves.

All children’s faith formation classes meet this Sunday at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom. The Story Bible and curriculum materials are available from the church.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Please contact Rev. Mark Mares, Minister of Youth & Families, for information about the numerous ways youth are connecting at this time. Mark can be reached at mmares@firstpresbyterian.org.

All youth faith formation classes meet this Sunday at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom. When you log on, please make sure Zoom names are updated to reflect each youth present and what class you will be participating in (Middle/High/Confirmation).

Our Confirmation Class meets on Zoom the second and third Sunday of each month, and in person for the fourth Sunday. If you are interested in joining, it isn’t too late – just let Rev. Mark know.

Our High School students will meet with Rev. Evans McGowan and other leaders throughout the semester to talk about faith and current events. We’re really looking forward to thinking, talking, and imagining how our faith leads us in our everyday lives.

Middle School and High School Youth Group gatherings alternate between in-person (first and third Sundays) and virtual (second and fourth Sundays) of each month. We gather together for games and fellowship as a large group and break out into Middle School/High School groups for conversations. Contact Pastor Mark for more information. All are welcome!

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

First Friends meets at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom to discuss Chapter 5 of *God and the Pandemic* by N. T. Wright.

Exploring the Faith meets via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89707880133>) at 12:15 p.m. for “Dream through the Written Word,” a presentation by church members Callie Feyen, Scott Ellsworth and Judy Wenzel.

Bible Study @ 5:00 meets via Zoom at 5:00 p.m. Rev. Ed Koster facilitates a study of the Gospel of Mark. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86545144620>

CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Journeys Bible Study meets via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/295007173>) on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 11:30 a.m. Contact Rev. Frazier(afrazier@firstpresbyterian.org) for more information.

The next Taizé Prayer Service is Tuesday, February 2, at 7:00 p.m., via YouTube and Facebook.

Financial contributions and food donations throughout the month of January will be overseen by the Local Missions Team. Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor is the recipient of your generosity.

Mature Singles are enjoying dinners in restaurants on Friday evenings, but planning only one or two weeks at a time. Please call Marcy (995–2519) if you would like more information.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Robin Agnew, Administrative Assistant
Reverend Andrew Frazier, Resident Minister
Pat Gilbreath, Welcome Center Volunteer Coordinator
Dr. Paul Haebig, Interim Organist
Almer Harris, Maintenance Specialist
Reverend Khayla Johnson, Resident Minister
Cindy King, Administrative Assistant
Reverend Mark Mares, Minister of Youth & Families
Reverend Evans McGowan, Assistant Pastor of Faith Formation and Campus Ministries
Kellie McInchak, Children's Choir Director
Anna Miller, Finance Manager
Adrian Prundeanu, Facilities Manager
Linda Robinson, Office Manager
Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor
Reverend Amy Ruhf, Resident Minister
Reverend Jay Sanderford, Associate Pastor
Reverend Dr. Rick Spalding, Interim Pastor
Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator of Children's Education & Family Ministry
David VanderMeer, Minister of Music & Fine Arts
Alyssa Walker, Finance Assistant



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