

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ISELIN

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

Minister: Rev. Chris Houtz

Liturgist: Elder Joan Katen

We request that you silence all electronic devices **before** service begins.

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

Sunday, January 9, 2022

10:30 A.M.



The Baptism of Our Lord

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE PROMISE

PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Joan Katen, Liturgist

CHORAL INTROIT #482

Baptized in Water

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)**

Elder Joan Katen, Liturgist

The voice of God resounds upon the water.

The Spirit of the Lord hovers over the stream.

The Son of God is named, "Beloved."

And all who worship should out, "Glory!"

Ascribe to the Lord majesty and strength.

Let us worship God in holy splendor.

***LITANY FOR BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

Rev. Chris Houtz

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

The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

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

The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

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

The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

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

The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

And a voice said: You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit, and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep us, your children born of water and the Spirit, faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*** HYMN #619**

Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

Hear these words from holy scripture:

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—

Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—

and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Beloved people of God, our baptism is the sign and seal of our cleansing from sin, and of our being grafted into Christ. Through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ, the power of sin was broken and God's kingdom entered our world. Through our baptism we were

made citizens of God's kingdom, and freed from the bondage of sin. Let us celebrate that freedom and redemption through the renewal of the promises made at our baptism.

I ask you, therefore, once again to reject sin, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, and to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we were baptized.

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

I do.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

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

I will, with God's help.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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 again 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.

Remember your baptism and be thankful. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

At this time, you may come forward by pew, touch the water, and take a pebble, as a symbol of your baptism. We will invite you up by row. If you would like to come forward, we ask that you please wear your mask.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Elder Joan Katen, Liturgist

The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord! Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Elder Joan Katen, Liturgist

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.

Merciful God, hear now our own personal confessions that we lift up to you in silence.

PERSONAL CONFESSION

Rev. Chris Houtz

In the strong name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Chris Houtz

As a voice from heaven said to Jesus, so in Christ, God speaks to us: You are my child, my beloved; with you I am well pleased. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

*** THE RESPONSE #408 There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit (vs. 1 & refrain)**

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Please pass the peace with friends and loved-ones)

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Chris Houtz

ANTHEM

When Jesus Was Baptized (*Lawler, arr. Peterson*)

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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Psalm Reading: Psalm 29 (responsive)

¹ Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

² **Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

³ The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over mighty waters.

⁴ **The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶ **He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

⁷ The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

⁸ **The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹ The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

¹⁰ **The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.**

¹¹ May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

43 But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

THE MESSAGE

God's Eternal Claim on Us

Rev. Chris Houtz

*HYMN #688

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

SERVICE FOR WHOLENESS AND HEALING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

OFFERING OF OUR LIVES

I appeal to you therefore, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

INTERCESSION FOR HEALING

God, our creator, your will for us and for all your people is wholeness and salvation: **have mercy on us.**

Jesus Christ, Son of God, you came that we might have life and have it in abundance: **have mercy on us.**

Holy Spirit, dwelling within us, you make us temples of your presence: **have mercy on us.**

To the triune God, the source of all love and all life, let us offer our prayers.

For all who are in need of healing. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who are disabled by injury or illness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who are troubled by confusion or burned by pain. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all whose increasing years bring weariness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all about to undergo surgery. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who cannot sleep. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who practice the healing arts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all those we pray for today. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING WITH OIL

Gracious God, source of all healing, in Jesus Christ you heal the sick and mend the broken. We bless you for this oil pressed from the fruits of the earth, given to us as a sign of healing and forgiveness, and of the fullness of life you give. By your Spirit, come upon all who receive this ministry of compassion, that they may know your healing touch and be made whole, to the glory of Jesus Christ our redeemer. **Amen.**

At this time, those with personal prayers are invited to come forward for a moment of prayer and anointing. Please wear your mask when you come forward.

PRAYER

Mighty God, you rise with healing in your wings, to scatter all enemies that assault us. As we wait in hope for the coming of that day when crying and pain shall be no more, help us by your Holy Spirit to receive your power into our lives and to trust in your eternal love, through Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray together, saying...

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.

THE OFFERING

With grateful hearts, let us bring our tithes and offerings to the God from whom they came.

***THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE #712 As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought (vs. 1)**

***THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)**

O God, at his baptism, you acknowledged Jesus as your beloved Son, and through him you opened to us a way to become your children by grace. May these gifts we return to you be a sign of our dedication to live as your faithful daughters and sons, born in the waters of baptism by the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

*HYMN #10

Sing Glory to the Name of God

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION #765

May the God of Hope Go With Us

THE POSTLUDE

Friendly Reminders!

The Board of Deacons' Ministry of Compassion is asking for donations of whole chickens or turkeys to include in our holiday food baskets. Also needed is canned sweet potatoes, boxed stuffing mixes, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, pasta and canned broth. Please leave all donations in the church kitchen labeled for food pantry. Thank you everyone for your generous donations. Your Ministry of Compassion

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is Monday, January 17th. The office will be closed and normal activities will resume on Tuesday, January 18th.

Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, January 23, 2022.

Regular Activities

Church Office open Monday-Friday, 9am to 1 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Tuesdays at 12 noon

Wednesday Morning Bible Study at 11 am

Rev. Chris' Congregational Call - Every Thursday at 11 am

Men's Breakfast - 1st Saturday of the month at 8 am.

CLEF Ladies' Breakfast - 1st Saturday of the month at 9 am

Sunday Bible Study - 9:00 am

Session meeting every 3rd Sunday of the month

Choir practice: 1st and last Sunday of the Month at 9:30 am

Divine Worship: In sanctuary and on Facebook Livestream
Sundays at 10:30 am

Per Capita Apportionment for 2022 is \$40.00.

Our Mission Statement

We are a friendly, multi-cultural congregation that welcomes all to worship with us as we glorify our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; sing praises to God, the Father; and let the Holy Spirit guide our footsteps. As faithful witnesses to our Christian beliefs, we dedicate ourselves to worship, stewardship and discipleship. We will always endeavor to nurture the youth in our congregation to grow in their commitment to God and the Church and to become active participants in the life and work of the Church.

We commit ourselves to evangelism and mission to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to all people in a variety of ways in our community and beyond.

We will continue to be open to God's presence, leading us into new pathways of ministry and service for the betterment of the community and to the glory of Jesus Christ our Savior.

-ratified by congregational vote, January 27, 2008

Dear Members and Guests, if you'd like to know more information about the latest news,



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