

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come to be blessed and surrounded by the goodness of God.
Come, not in your wisdom, but in humility;
come, not to boast, but to learn.

**All: We come to be still before God, and wait patiently;
to delight in God, who fulfills the desires of our heart.
We come without power or pretension;
we bring our weaknesses more than strength.**

One: So consider God's call, and commit your way to God;
and trust in God to grant you light and new life.

**All: And may God's blessing pour out upon us
in ways expected, and ways not.**

***OPENING HYMN "Baptized in Water" GtG 482**

1. **Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
heirs of salvation,
trusting the promise,
faithfully now God's praises we sing.**
2. **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.**
3. **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.**

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we confess that we give lip service on Sunday to your claim on our lives, but struggle the other six days with the call of the world. We do not understand your ways, yet often we have not sought to understand. We do not believe that love works; that patience, meekness, and humility mark the way to fullness of life. So we idolize success and seek our own way of power and wisdom, wrath and warfare, impatience and evil devices. Forgive us by the power of your mercy, and strengthen our resolve, that we might stand in the goodness of Christ and walk in the light of his love. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Even when we fail, even when we are not perfect, God still claims us.
All: **God still calls us by name. God still places God's Spirit upon us.**
One: So rejoice and be glad, for God's mercy is great!
All: **And we are known; we are loved; and we are forgiven.**
Thanks be to God!

THE PEACE

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

(From your seat, a brief sign of peace may be shared: a wave of the hand, a nod of the head, etc.)

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 5:1-12

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** "Blest Are They" GtG 172

**1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow;
they shall be consoled.**

Refrain:

Rejoice and be glad!

**Blessed are you; holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!**

**2. Blest are they, the lowly ones;
they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger
and thirst;
they shall have their fill.**

Refrain:

**Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you; holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!**

**3. Blest are they who show mercy;
mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart;
they shall see God.**

Refrain:

**Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you; holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!**

**4. Blest are they who seek peace;
they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith;
the glory of God is theirs.**

Refrain:

**Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you; holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!**

**5. Blest are you who suffer hate,
all because of me.
Rejoice, be glad;
yours is the kingdom;
shine for all to see.**

Refrain:

**Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you; holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!**

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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

(from A Brief Statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Lord, in your mercy...
All: ...hear our prayer.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

Thank you, God, for hungers satisfied and dreams fulfilled. Thank you for the inheritance of faith, which blesses our life on earth. We trust you to accomplish good among us through the sharing of these gifts and the recommitment of our lives. Help us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(The prayer continues...)

The Lord's Prayer (Contemporary)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

(Please hold the bread so that we might partake of it together, to remind us of our participation in this sacrament as a community. Please drink the cup as you are served, reminding us of our individual participation in this sacrament and our personal commitment to our Lord.)

Prayer

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** "When the Poor Ones" GtG 762

**1. When the poor ones who have
nothing share with strangers,
when the thirsty water give
unto us all,**

**when the crippled in their
weakness strengthen others,
Then we know that God still goes
that road with us,
then we know that God still goes
that road with us.**

**2. When at last all those who suffer
find their comfort,
when they hope though even hope
seems hopelessness,
when we love though hate at times
seems all around us,
Then we know that God still goes
that road with us,
then we know that God still goes
that road with us.**

**3. When our joy fills up our cup to
overflowing,
when our lips can speak no words
other than true,
when we know that love for simple
things is better,
Then we know that God still goes
that road with us,
then we know that God still goes
that road with us.**

**4. When our homes are filled with
goodness in abundance,
when we learn how to make peace
instead of war,
when each stranger that we meet
is called a neighbor,
Then we know that God still goes
that road with us,
then we know that God still goes
that road with us.**

When the Poor Ones...

...Text and Tune by José Antonio Olivar and Miguel Manzano.

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: ...And let the gathered people of God say...

All: ...**Amen.**

POSTLUDE

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