

Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Baptism of the Lord

January 11, 2026

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Holy God,
you sent your Son to be baptized among sinners,
to see and save the lost.
May we, who have been baptized in his name,
never turn away from the world,
but reach out in love to rescue the wayward;
by the mercy of Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRELUDE

Reflets dans l'eau

Claude Debussy

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to the waters, beloved—
where Spirit moved over at creation,
where Jesus was immersed in justice,
where God leaned close to us.

We splash in the river of God's joy.

Come to the waters, beloved—
where God's voice thunders,
where God whispers kindness.

**We watch as Jesus steps
Into them muddy mess of our lives.**

Come to the waters, beloved—
where the Spirit gifts us so
we can stand side by side
with the broken and forgotten.

**We come because we are indeed
God's beloved children.**

*SONG OF PRAISE

Baptized in Water

Hymnal, No. 482

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

**We know we prefer to stand on the shore, gentle God,
scared to run barefoot into the waters of faith.
We take small sips of the living water of grace you offer
but go on binges with the mixed drinks of anger and fear.
We have trouble seeing some neighbors,
much less strangers,
as your beloved and believe our privilege
means all are as comfortable as we are.**

**As we draw near to the waters of baptism, God of grace,
have mercy on us.
Whenever we forget who we are,
send us to serve the vulnerable.
Whenever we forget what we are,**

**challenge us to be more gracious and just.
Whenever we forget whose we are,
wash us again in that forgiveness
deeper than our shallow lives,
and fill us with new life in Christ. Amen.**
(Time of silent reflection)

This is our good news, friends.
The Spirit descends upon us,
the heavens open, and God speaks –
not with judgment, punishment, or condemnation,
but with joy, grace, hope, love.

**We are God's beloved children – forgiven, claimed, named,
baptized.
Thanks be to God. Amen!**

***THE PEACE**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

***SONG OF RESPONSE** **Glory To God** **Hymnal, No. 582**

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen*

*World without end, without end. Amen (x3)
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING **Charlotte Lovett**

SCRIPTURE READING
Isaiah 42:1-9 **Page No. 584**
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM **Come to the Water** **John Foley**

SCRIPTURE READING
Matthew 3:13-17 **Page No. 784**
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE **Water, Water Everywhere** **Tracy L. Evans**

***SONG OF FAITH** **Take Me to the Water** **Hymnal, No. 480**

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

To Ruling Elder: Julie Forthman and Charlotte Lovett

To Deacon: Jo Beth Bailey and Carl Forthman

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

I Cor. 12:4-7, 27

There are varieties of gifts,
but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**There are different ways of serving God,
but it is the same Lord who is served.**

God works through each person in a unique way,
but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

**To each is given a gift of the Spirit
to be used for the common good.**

Together we are the body of Christ,
and individually members of it.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

PRAYER OF INSTALLATION

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.

WELCOME AND CHARGE TO THE NEWLY INSTALLED

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, p. 35

*Please pray the Lord's Prayer
in the language and wording most familiar to you.*

THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymnal, No. 606

*DEDICATION PRAYER

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

Hymnal, No. 265

*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE

Sonata in G Major

Matthew Camidge

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

Lectionary Readings for January 18: Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42.

The Food & Shelter items of the month for January are easy open soup (pull tab) and cold weather accessories (hats, gloves, hot hands and socks). Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.