

January 8th, 2023

Baptism of the Lord

*Our PCAS Vision: "To be a Light by Living, Loving, Learning,
and Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ."*

Order of Worship
(*Please rise in body and/or spirit)

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Prelude on Beach Spring arr. David Lasky

***Call to Worship** *(Based on Psalm 29, Isaiah 42, Amos 5, John 1)*

Leader: We know that the voice of the Lord is powerful.

People: We know that the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

Leader: We believe that the servant of the Lord will not break a bruised reed.

People: We believe that the servant of the Lord will not quench a dim flame.

Leader: Both these things are true:

People: Our God's righteousness is a mighty stream,

Leader: And our Savior is like a lamb.

People: Through the Holy Spirit, we hold space for all aspects of God.

ALL: Today we worship an unknowable God, who loves us and calls us by name, who came to meet us in the person of Jesus Christ.

***Hymn #286** Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Breathe on me, Breath of God;
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
for thine eternity.

Call to Confession *(Based on Isaiah 42:1-9)*

Leader: Those who know God and love God are called to righteousness. We are called, through God, to open the eyes of the blind and establish justice on earth. Yet, we turn time and time again away from this calling. Let us confess our sins to God, our loving and merciful redeemer.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Creator God, in our baptisms, you marked us with your love, inviting us into covenant with you. As we grow older, you reveal more and more of yourself to us. We see and experience the brokenness of the world; we know that we are called to embody your love. But the task sometimes feels too big. It's easier to ignore the pain of others. It's easier to choose blindness. Forgive us for forgetting our baptism, for forgetting that our lives are meant for something bigger.

Moment for Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon *(Based on Isaiah 63:7-9)*

Leader: Even when we fail, even when we are not perfect, God still claims us. God still calls us by name. God still places God's Spirit upon us.

People: We are known and loved and forgiven. Amen

Prayer of Illumination

First Scripture Lesson Matthew 3:13-17

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God!**

Children's Message

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the Church & The Lord's Prayer

***Passing of the Peace**

***Hymn #490** Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

Wash, O God, your sons and daughters,
newborn creatures of your womb.
Number them among your people,
raised like Christ from death and tomb.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling;
compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit,
holy dove and heart's delight.

Every day we need your nurture;
by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking
cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us; guide our footsteps,
free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying,
by your Spirit, children, heirs.

O how deep your holy wisdom!
Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor!
With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you,
water-washed and Spirit-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer.
Recreate us; God, transform!

Second Scripture Lesson John 10:11-15

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God**

Sermon **"The Grace of Being Remembered"**

Reaffirmation of Baptism

Leader: Beloveds in Christ, through the waters of baptism, we are brought into the family of God. The body of Christ is rich in Divine creativity, a community of people of many genders, races, body types and sizes, abilities and hungers, each a glimpse of God from a different angle.

People: God claims each of us with delight.

And we claim one another as companions in faith.

Leader: In our baptismal vows, we pledge ourselves to Jesus Christ as Lord, and promise to support each other, obeying Christ's Word by showing his love. We promise to trust in God's gracious mercy, working together to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in all its forms – within us and around us.

People: We need each other in this shared work of enfleshing the dreams of God.

Leader: Today, we remember that the love we encounter through these waters cannot be undermined by bigotry or hate, by exclusion or injustice.

People: We are children of the Holy One, Siblings in the life of God.

Leader: These family ties cannot be broken. No one and nothing has the power to turn us away from our Creator. We cannot be kicked out, or accepted only in part.

People: The full embrace of God always extends to us.

Leader: And so today, as we remember our baptism, we also remember that through this new life in Christ we are set free:

To love wildly.

To live with pride in who we are and what God has seen us through.

And to claim the power God has given us to turn from everything that destroys.

People: Through God's grace, we leave shame behind and rejoice in the Good News that sets the captives free.

Leader: Let us pray together:

ALL: God of Life and God of Love, through this gift of water, you do miraculous things. The dust of past shame and guilt are washed away. The bonds of love are restored. The possibilities of new life emerge. May it be so for us today as we remember our baptisms. May your Spirit be upon this water and all who gather, as we celebrate this sacred family to which you have called us. Strengthen us in love for one another as we renew our commitment to the pursuit of the Kingdom of God, where all your creatures and creations are beloved and free. Amen.

Invitation to the Font

You are invited to come to the font and take a shell from the water. Shells are an ancient symbol of baptism. You are welcome to come whether or not you have been baptized. We are all in different places in our journeys of discovering God's claim upon our lives. If in participating today, you find yourself interested in exploring baptism, the pastor will be happy to pray and speak with you.

"Remember your baptism. Remember who you are and whose you are."

Offering

Offertory

Meditation on How Great Thou Art

Arr. John Carter

Doxology

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn #694** Great God of Every Blessing

Great God of every blessing,
of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness,
the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you?
Our praise is but a start:
sincerely and completely
I offer you my heart.

Your Word is our salvation,
the source of endless grace,
in death and life extending
your covenant embrace.
In Christ we are one body;
each member has a part:
sincerely and completely
I offer you my heart.

Your Spirit is our teacher,
the light that guides our search,
transforming broken people
into the holy church.
For feeding us with mercy,
for wisdom you impart:
sincerely and completely
I offer you my heart.

***Benediction**

Postlude Trumpet Tune on Beach Spring Arr. David Lasky

Attributions: Baptism remembrance liturgy by Rev. M Jade Kaiser, enflashed: spiritual nourishment for collective liberation. Enflashed.com/liturgy

Call to Worship and Confession by Rose Schrott Taylor, for Presbyterian Outlook, "Worship Resources". Pres-outlook.org.

Presbyterian Women General Meeting following Worship in the Sanctuary

Worship Leaders

Pastor:	Rev. Katja Gruening
Liturgist:	Bob Suarez
Organist:	Kathleen Healy-Wedsworth
Ushers:	Diane Suarez and Jim Wright
Zoom Hosts:	John Palframan and Jim Wright
Coffee Hour:	Stewardship

Invitation to MLK Shabbat Service at Monmouth Reform Temple

On **January 13th at 7 pm** please join Monmouth Reform Temple in celebration of the ongoing work towards justice at the MLK Shabbat service led by Rabbi Priesand, Rev. Semaj Van Zandt, Cantor Clissold, Alice Berman, Dr. David Ford and Choirs.

We are honored to host Rev Jennifer Thompkins, who holds a BA in History and Africana Studies from Ursinus College (2009) and a Master of Theological Studies degree from Harvard University in 2011. Her civic involvements have included the Norristown NAACP Youth Chapter, the Philadelphia Freedom Valley YMCA, and youth leadership roles at Theist Temple Church of God in Christ (C.O.G.I.C.) and the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction C.O.G.I.C. Youth Department. She has recently taken on the role as the CEO The Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League (MWUL). Thompkins served as Director and then Senior Director of Programs at TriZen, a business consulting and leadership development company, since 2019. There, she was responsible for leading a 25-person team including volunteers and partners that worked with clients including the Urban League of Philadelphia, the National Urban League, Aramark Corporation, TD Bank, and the School District of Philadelphia. She was recognized as a National Urban League Emerging Leader in 2021.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, January 29th

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held following worship on Sunday, January 29th, for the purpose of receiving the annual reports, presenting the 2023 Budget, electing church officers, and approving the pastor's terms of call.

Members present on Zoom will be able to participate in the discussion and vote via Zoom.

Schedule Week of January 8th

8	JAN, SUN	● 10 – 11am	Sunday School
		● 10 – 11am	Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
		● 11am – 12pm	Coffee Hour (FH)
		● 11:30am – 12:30pm	PW Annual Meeting (Sanctuary)
		● 3:30 – 4:30pm	AA (TR)
		● 5 – 6pm	AA (TR)
9	JAN, MON	● 4:30 – 5:30pm	Wisdom Tree Yoga (studio)
10	JAN, TUE	● 9 – 10:30am	Zoom Bible Study
		● 9:30 – 10:30am	Wisdom Tree Yoga
		● 11am – 12pm	Overeaters Anonymous (TR)
		● 11:30am – 1pm	Church & Society Mtg (TR)
		● 7 – 8:30pm	Dorcas (FH and Kitchen)
11	JAN, WED	● 9:30am – 12pm	Mission Belles (TR)
		● 7 – 9pm	Boy Scouts (FH)
		● 7:30 – 9:30pm	P&A Meeting (ZOOM)
12	JAN, THU	● 9:30 – 10:30am	Wisdom Tree Yoga
		● 12:30 – 1pm	Homesteaders chair yoga (FH)
		● 1 – 4pm	Homesteaders (FH)
		● 4:45 – 5:45pm	Yoga Small Group (FH)
14	JAN, SAT	● 7:30 – 9pm	AA (TR and FH)