

January 12th, 2025

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 God, Renew Us By Your Spirit

Dale Wood

Lighting of the Candle

*Call to Worship

Leader: We have been claimed by the God who calls us children.

People: We, the redeemed, have been called by name.

Leader: As with the Israelites, God promises to pass with us through the water.

People: We will not fear, for God is with us!

Leader: The rivers shall not overwhelm us for God is our guide and our protector.

People: Through God's saving grace, the waters that tested us are now the waters that wash us and nourish us.

Leader: Great is the Fount of Every Blessing,
ever flowing, ever redeeming, ever claiming us as God's children.

People: Come, let us worship the God who washes us in grace.

***Hymn** #475 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Call to Confession

Leader: As we remember the Lord's baptism today, we recognize that we too are called to new life, rejecting the power of sin and living according to the Spirit that is Holy. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession (unison)

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 sisters and brothers in Christ. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another; we allow the past to hold us

hostage.

In your loving-kindness have mercy on us and free us from sin. Remind us of the promises you make in baptism so that we may rise to new life and live together in grace.

Moment for Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: God's words of comfort and restoration are more powerful than any foolishness, any mistakes, any sins we commit. This is good news: we are God's people!

People: Thanks be to God! By water and word, by the Spirit of God's redeeming grace, we are marked and sealed as God's beloved children. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson: Psalm 29:1-11 (OT page 504)
This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God!**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the Church 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.**

***Passing the Peace**

***Hymn** Down by the Jordan

Second Scripture Lesson Mathew 3:1-6, 13-17 (page 2 NT)

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon "Making a Splash"

Remembrance of Baptism

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Baptism

Leader: Almighty God, since the beginning of creation, you have used water as a means of putting your gracious will into action in our world. In the beginning, water flowed chaotically where it pleased until you spoke and organized it to support plant and animal life, giving boundaries to oceans and lakes, direction to streams, and cycle to rain.

People: In the time of Noah, you sent a flood, separating good from evil and giving humanity a fresh start.

Leader: At the Red Sea, you separated the waters to rescue your people from slavery and grant them freedom.

People: At the Jordan River, you again separated the waters to lead your wandering people to a homeland, where they could develop an identity and live the faith.

Leader: Again at the Jordan River, you commissioned Jesus for ministry, baptizing him, not that he needed repentance, but that he might begin his ministry of leading many to repentance, healing, reconciliation, and new life.

People: We thank and praise you for how radically transformative water is in your hands, Redeeming God. Our lives too have been touched by it. We pray that you would help us see how, and help us see what is still possible as we continue living in the covenant of baptism, which actively shapes our lives until it is completed in the resurrection to eternal life. 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 and be thankful,
and know that the Holy Spirit is at work within you.”*

Offering

Offertory There Is a Wideness in God's Mercy

Dale Wood

***Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise *him, all crea-tures
 here be - low; praise *him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn #482** Baptized In Water

***Benediction**

Postlude Trumpet Tune

Colin Curtis

The flowers today are in celebration of Sue Starke's birthday!

Worship Leaders

Pastor:

Rev. Katja Gruening

Director of Music Ministries:

Marcello Velame

Directory of Youth and Family Ministries:

Sherri Laberde

Liturgist:

Debi Carter

Ushers:

Sue Starke

Jim Wright

Zoom Hosts:

John Palframan

Rich Vodhanel

Social Hour:

Fellowship Committee

Zoom Bible Study

We are beginning a new study January 21st through February for 6 weeks: "Share the Dream: Shining a Light in a Divided World through Six Principles of Martin Luther King Jr.". The study uses the preaching and life of MLK to illuminate scripture's calls to Love, Conscience, Justice, Freedom, Perseverance, and Hope.

Each study guide comes with a video access code to watch short videos with each week's lesson content. If you're more of a reader, there are 3 short lessons for personal study each week, including excerpts from MLK's preaching, that also present the information.

This link will take you to the Amazon listing.

<https://tinyurl.com/sharedreamstudy>

There is print and ebook available for the study guide.

You may order your own, or the church office is happy to order for you. Let us know by January 15th. We can cover the cost for anyone for whom that would be helpful. Let Pastor Katja know.

Call for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, January 26th, following worship, for the purpose of receiving the annual report, receiving the 2025 budget, electing Elders and Deacons, and approving the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2025.

All active members are able to vote at the meeting. Members participating on Zoom will also be able to vote.

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475

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.

Down by the Jordan

1. Down by the Jor - dan, a pro - phet named John was bap - tiz -
 2. There by the riv - er, the crowd came with great ex - pec - ta -
 3. Je - sus, you went to be bap - tized a - long with the o -
 4. Here in the Church, we are bap - tized and filled with God's Spi -

ing, preach - ing a mes - sage the peo - ple found bold and sur -
 tion: "Are you God's Cho - sen One, sent here to res - cue our
 thers, tak - ing your place a - mong sin - ners, God's lost sons and
 rit. Freed and for - giv - en we're wel - comed with joy! Can you

pris - ing. "God will for - give! Show that you'll change how you
 na - tion?" "No!" John re - plied. He who is migh - tier than
 daugh - ters. Then with great love, God's Spi - rit came as a
 hear it? This is God's sign! This is how God says, "You're

live! Sure - ly God's new day is ris - ing!"
 I jud - ges and of - fers sal - va - tion."
 dove! Your work be - gan in those wa - ters.
 mine!" Let's take the good news and share it!

WORDS: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Matthew 3:1-17; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:1-22 and John 1:6-8, 14-34)
 MUSIC: *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, 1665; harm. by William Sterndale Bennett, 1864

LOBE DEN HERREN
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Baptized in Water



1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
 2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
 3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our King; heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing the
 tomb with Christ our King; one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
 sign of Christ our King; born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.