

January 14th, 2024

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 Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Setting by Lowell Mason

Candle Lighting

***Call to Worship**

Leader: All who thirst, come to the water and drink deeply of these living streams.

People: Come, all who are weary; Come, all who yearn for forgiveness.

Leader: Our gracious God beckons and blesses us.

People: Let us give praise for new life in Christ.

***Hymn** 188

Jesus Loves Me!

Call to Confession

Leader: As we celebrate the Lord's baptism today, we recognize that in order to follow him, we too have to reorient our lives toward God in a new way. In our prayer of confession, we choose to reorient ourselves away from sin and toward the example of Christ. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Timeless God, you cast Light into sin's dark places and call us your Beloved.

Forgive us:

**People: when we still linger in the shadows;
when we treat others in hurtful ways;
when we speak ill of your friends.**

Leader: As he knelt in the waters of Jordan, you proclaimed Jesus as your Child, pointing to him as the way to you.

Forgive us:

**People: when we put ourselves ahead of him;
when we think he is no longer needed;
when we fail to see him in the broken of our world.**

Leader: Baptized and blessed in your living waters, you would have us be your servants in our time.

Forgive us:

**People: when we fail to welcome the stranger;
when we refuse to forgive as we should;
when we believe we are too good to kneel down
and tie the shoes of the lost, the least, the last, the little.**

Moment for Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon (based on Romans 8:15-17)

Leader: You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.

People: Praise God that in the power of the Spirit we are joint heirs with Christ! The love he receives we receive also. The new life he lives, we share also. Praise God!

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson: Acts 19:1-7

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

Children's Message

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 488 I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

Second Scripture Lesson: Mark 1:4-11

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

Sermon: "Crisis and Opportunity"

Reaffirmation of Baptism

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: In baptism, we accept God's invitation to be washed clean from sin, and to take on a new identity as "God's beloved child". We consent to being possessed by the Holy Spirit, so that we can be guided from within by God. We join the family of the faithful, who are united by our common call to follow the way of Jesus.

Leader: This morning, we are grateful for the opportunity to remember, reconnect, and reaffirm the claim of God upon our lives, signified in baptism. We are also grateful for the call God may make upon those not yet baptized, as we all come to know the meaning of this form of God's grace better. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Leader: God of heaven and earth, you call us to come in humility before you, bringing the offering of our very selves. As you revealed Jesus to be your Son in his baptism at the hand of John, so you claimed our lives in baptism, that we might die to sin and be raised with him to new life.

By your Spirit, confirm in our hearts the witness that Christ is Savior of the world and our Lord.

People: Accept all we have and are, O God, in the service of Jesus Christ, and strengthen us with your Spirit's power, now and forever. 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
Doxology**

Andantino

César Frank



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

Prayer of Dedication

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

Benediction

Postlude Baptized in Water

Charles Callahan

*The flowers today are in loving memory of Dr Joseph Davies III
from his wife Joyce.*

Worship Leaders

Pastor:	Rev. Katja Gruening
Director of Music Ministries:	Marcello Velame
Liturgist:	Kirsten Schanck
Ushers:	Brian Sergeant
	Andy Wolf
Zoom Hosts:	John Palframan
	Jim Wright
Social Hour:	Fellowship

1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.
2 Je - sus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long a - go,

Lit - tle ones to him be - long. They are weak, but he is strong.
tak - ing chil - dren on his knee, say - ing, "Let them come to me."

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

488 I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry



1 "I was there to hear your born - ing cry; I'll be there when
 2 "When you heard the won - der of the Word, I was there to
 3 "In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no



you are old. I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to
 cheer you on. You were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord to
 lon - ger young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, com -



see your life un - fold. I was there when you were but a
 whom you now be - long. If you find some - one to share your
 plete what I've be - gun. When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es



child with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of
 time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to
 in and you shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as



light you wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell."
 make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
 I have al - ways been with just one more sur - prise."

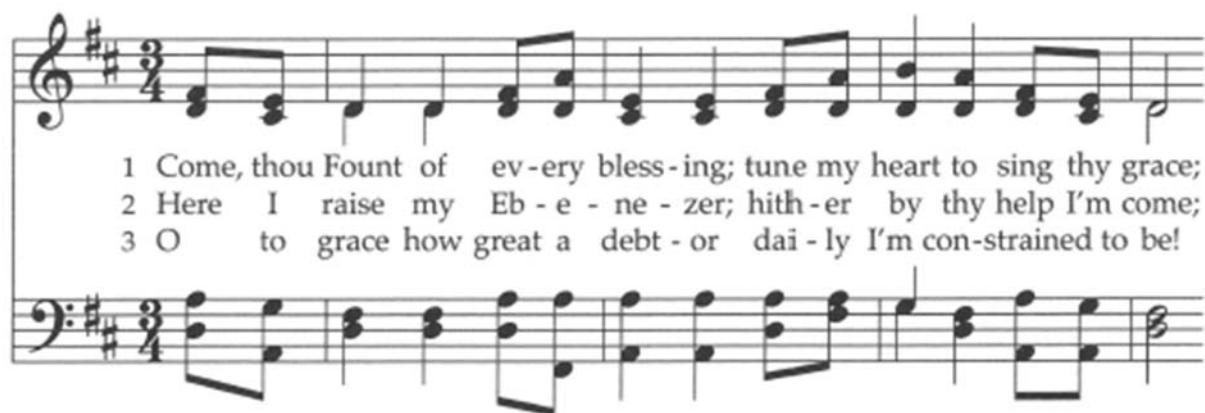


4 "I was there to hear your born - ing cry; I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold."

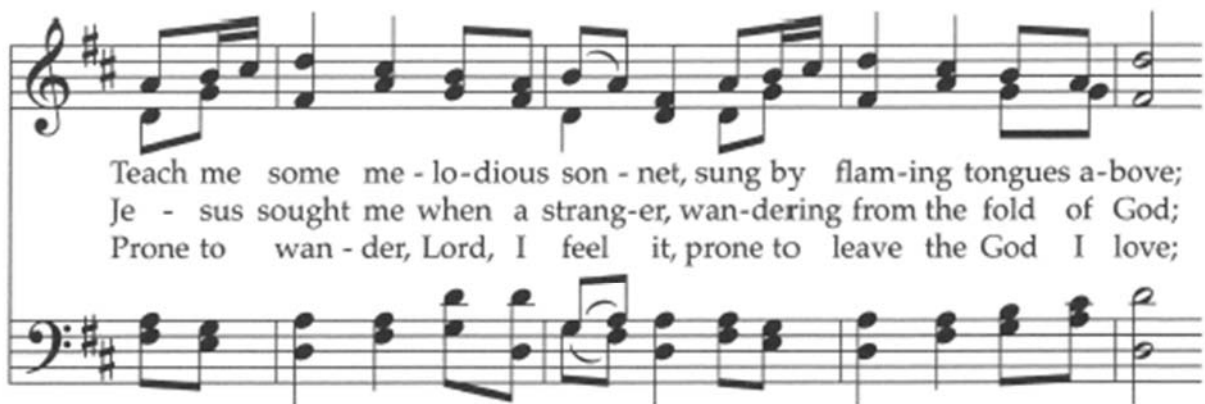
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475



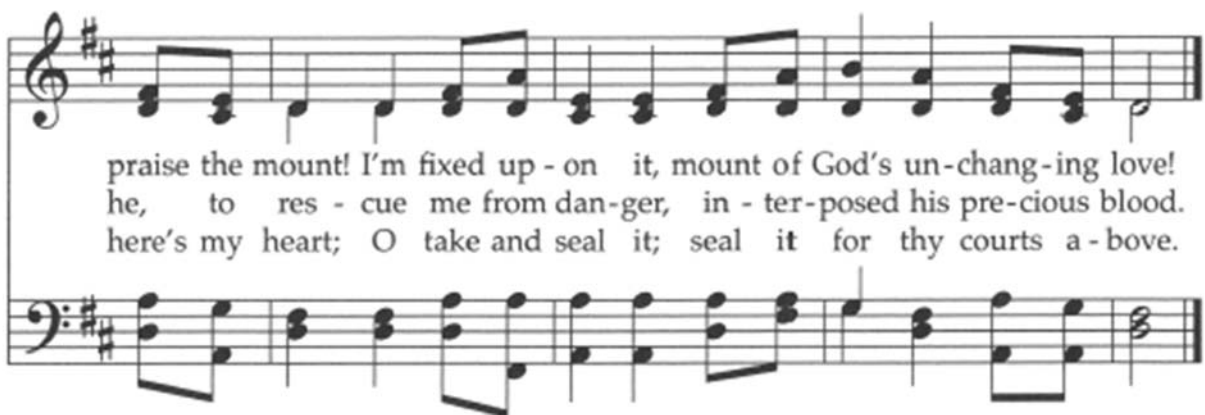
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith - er by thy help I'm come;
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!



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 stran - ger, 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.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED!

Sunday coffee hour after our church service is a well loved and important fellowship opportunity for all of us.

Historically, each week has been assigned to the various Session committees, Deacons, Presbyterian Women, and other organizations of our church.

Starting in 2024 we will be doing this slightly differently. Most weeks will be assigned as they have been in the past. However, the third Sunday of every month we will be looking for volunteers to host. So please consider pairing up with someone and hosting! If you are unsure how to host a coffee hour, please reach out to the church office and we can assist in finding you a coffee hour “veteran” to show you the ropes.

Another change, is that in addition to the coffee, tea and paper products being in the kitchen. There will also always be available in the fridge: milk, half & half, juice and cheese; and crackers and packaged cookies in a labeled bin on the counter.



We have volunteers to host for January; but are **looking for volunteers for the third Sunday: February through June.** Please call 732.747.3557 or email the church office pcas@verizon.net...Thank you!

Meeting Schedule Week of January 15th

15	JAN, MON	● 7 – 9pm	Boy Scouts (FH)
16	JAN, TUE	● 9 – 10:30am	Zoom Bible Study
		● 11am – 12pm	Overeaters Anonymous (TR)
		● 12 – 1pm	Church & Society (TR)
		● 5 – 7pm	Mental Health Association of Monmouth County (FH)
		● 7:30 – 9pm	Session Meeting (TR)
17	JAN, WED	● 8 – 9pm	Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani Bible Study (TR)
18	JAN, THU	● 4:45 – 5:45pm	Yoga Small Group - (FH)
		● 6 – 7pm	Bells (SR)
		● 7 – 9pm	Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani choir practice (FH)
20	JAN, SAT	● 7:30 – 9pm	AA (TR and FH)
21	JAN, SUN	● 8:45 – 9:30am	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
		● 10 – 11am	Sunday School
		● 10 – 11am	Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
		● 11am – 12pm	Coffee Hour (FH)
		● 3:30 – 4:30pm	AA (TR)
		● 5 – 6pm	AA (TR)
		● 6 – 9pm	Igreja Presbiteriana Gethsemani Worship (FH)