

# September 10, 2023

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 Most Holy

Setting by David Lasky

### **Candle Lighting**

### **\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Come and worship,  
proclaim God's ways of faithfulness and steadfast love.

**People: We will tell of God's love, which unfolds in our lives.**

Leader: Come and worship, for we are God's people, rejoicing in his  
graciousness.

**People: God is always with us, there is nothing which can keep us  
apart.**

Leader: Come to the One who tells stories; worship our God who keeps  
promises.

**People: We rejoice with God who is with us always.**

**\*Hymn #482**                      Baptized in Water

*music page 5*

### **Call to Confession**

Leader: Remembering that God's purpose is to nurture us into  
abundant life, we confess our sin, offering ourselves up to the  
transformative power of divine mercy. Let us pray:

### **Prayer of Confession (unison)**

**We often turn to you, Almighty God, to clean up our messes, to  
help us out of graves of our own digging, to be the first responder  
when our ways have ended in disaster. We are grateful that you  
always show up, never tiring of our need. But we recognize too,  
how often things might have been different had we sought the**

**faithful way first, if we had prayed for your guidance and discerned your will. Gracious Lord, forgive us for barreling ahead with our plans. Assure us that there is time to pause, before the day begins, before we make decisions, before we commit to actions, time to ask you if we are on the right path. May we learn the blessing of allowing you to make the way for us. Amen.**

## **Moment for Silent Reflection**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: We have some beautiful language for describing the compassionate mercy of God. But sometimes, we just need to hear it straight in order to hear clearly. Yes, we have all sinned. But united in faith with Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven.

**People: This is a new season, a fresh start. From now on, we walk in the newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

## **Sacrament of Baptism**

Presentation of Candidates for Baptism:

*Evangeline Jo Truxal and Wyatt Truxal, children of Vanessa and Steve Truxal.*

### **Questions for the Congregation:**

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Evie and Wyatt by word and deed, with love and prayer? **We do.**

Will you encourage them to know and follow Christ and be faithful members of his church? **We will.**

### **Profession of Faith**

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**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 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.**

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving over the Water**

### **The Baptism**

#### **Welcome**

Leader: Evie and Wyatt, with joy and thanksgiving, we celebrate Christ's love for you, the sealing of God's promises unto you, the touch of God's grace upon your life, and the gift of God's Holy Spirit, which unites you to the family of God forever.

**People: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into the fellowship of the baptized in Christ. Alleluia! Amen!**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

**First Scripture Lesson:** Deuteronomy 26:1-11

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**  
**Passing the Peace**

**\*Hymn #846**      Fight the Good Fight      *music page 6*

**Second Scripture Lesson**    Ephesians 6:10-20  
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God!**

**Sermon**                      **"Always Be Prepared"**

**Offering**  
**Offertory**              Adagio in G Minor                      Tomaso Albinoni  
**\*Doxology**  
**Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Hymn #269**              Lead On, O King Eternal                      *music page 7*

**Benediction**

**Postlude**              Come Christians, Join to Sing  
Setting by Mary McDonald

**Worship Leaders**

<b>Pastor:</b>	<b>Rev. Katja Gruening</b>
<b>Director of Music Ministries:</b>	<b>Marcello Velame</b>
<b>Liturgist:</b>	<b>Nancy Vodhanel</b>
<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>Brian Sergeant</b>
	<b>Andy Wolf</b>
<b>Zoom Hosts:</b>	<b>John Palframan</b>
	<b>Jim Wright</b>
<b>Social Hour:</b>	<b>Presbyterian Women Officer Board</b>

## 482

## 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.

# Fight the Good Fight

846

1 Fight the good fight with all thy might.  
 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace;  
 3 Cast care a - side; lean on thy guide.  
 4 Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.

Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.  
 lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.  
 God's bound - less mer - cy will pro - vide.  
 God chang - eth not, and thou art dear.

Lay hold on life, and it shall be  
 Life with its way be - fore us lies;  
 Trust, and thy trust - ing soul shall prove  
 On - ly be - lieve, and thou shalt see

thy joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.  
 Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.  
 Christ is its life, and Christ its love.  
 that Christ is all in all to thee.

# 269 Lead On, O King Eternal!

1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;  
 2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
 3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,

hence-  
 forth in fields of con - quest your tents shall be our home.  
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;  
 for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears;

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong,  
 for not with swords' loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums;  
 your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light.

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.  
 with deeds of love and mer - cy the heaven-ly king-dom comes.  
 The crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

## **Announcements**

### **Fellowship Small Group Information Session and Sign up**

During Coffee Hour today, there will be the opportunity to learn about our fall small group offerings, and sign-up to participate.

These are fellowship groups that are a great way to get to know people with shared interests better in the congregation.

### **Sunday School Rally Day!**

Sunday School begins today!

We are excited for the fall season to begin, and to welcome back the children of the church for worship, learning, and fellowship.

After church, the kids will be going to Keansburg Waterpark for a fun afternoon. Our Christian Education committee has made those plans. We pray for a beautiful day for them!



## Meeting Schedule Week of September 10th

10	SEP, SUN	● 8:45 – 9:30am	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
		● 10 – 11am	Sunday School
		● 10 – 11am	Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
		● 11am – 12pm	Coffee Hour (SR)
		● 11am – 12pm	Fellowship Small Group Information/Sign Up (SR)
		● 11:30am – 3pm	Sunday School Water Park (offsite)
		● 3:30 – 4:30pm	AA (TR)
		● 5 – 6pm	AA (TR)
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11	SEP, MON	● 4:30 – 5:30pm	Wisdom Tree Yoga - Gentle Floor Yoga(FH)
		● 7 – 9pm	Boy Scouts (FH)
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12	SEP, TUE	● 9 – 10:30am	Zoom Bible Study
		● 9:30 – 10:30am	Wisdom Tree Yoga - Chair Yoga Fitness(FH)
		● 11am – 12pm	Overeaters Anonymous (TR)
		● 5 – 7pm	Mental Health Association of Monmouth County (FH)
		● 7 – 8:30pm	Dorcas (FH and Kitchen)
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13	SEP, WED	● 7:30 – 9:30pm	P&A Meeting (ZOOM)
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14	SEP, THU	● 10 – 11am	Wisdom Tree Yoga (FH)
		● 12:30 – 1pm	Homesteaders Chair Yoga (FH)
		● 1 – 4pm	Homesteaders (FH)
		● 4:45 – 5:45pm	Yoga Small Group - (FH)
		● 5 – 8pm	Cub Scout kickoff meeting (FH and outside)
		● 6 – 7pm	Bells
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16	SEP, SAT	● 7:30 – 9pm	AA (TR and FH)
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17	SEP, SUN	● 8:45 – 9:30am	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
		● 10 – 11am	Sunday School
		● 10 – 11am	Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
		● 11am – 12pm	Coffee Hour (FH)
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