

BAPTISM OF THE LORD
SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021 – 10:00 AM

Congregational responses are in **bold** type.

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude

Announcements

Joys and Concerns

PRAISE

Call to Worship (responsive, from Isaiah 40:3-5, 8b)

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,

And every mountain and hill be made low;

The uneven ground shall become level,

And the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

And all people shall see it together,

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

The word of our God will stand forever.

Prayer of Confession

Creator God, we confess our sins to You. We confess that we have failed to live into Your commandments. We have failed to follow Your teachings and ordinances in Scripture. We have failed to love our neighbor as ourselves. As we come together today to remember our baptism and renew our baptismal vows, we renew our commitment to You. We repent of our sins. We ask for Your forgiveness. We pray that we might do better in this new year to live into Your commandments, to follow the teachings of Christ, and to listen to the Holy Spirit’s guidance. We pray all things in You, God our Creator, Christ our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit who sustains us now and forever. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (from Jeremiah 31:33-34)

“But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the

Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more." God continually offers us forgiveness. Your sins are remembered no more. Remember instead your baptism, how God called your name, and still calls you beloved, and that God is well pleased with you. Go and share the Good News. Amen.

Hymn: *I Was There to Hear Your Burning Cry* #351, all

I was there to hear your burning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."

"When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk 'till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in,
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your burning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Gospel Lesson: Mark 1.4-11

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Baptism of Jesus

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Message

"There's Something in the Water"

Pastor Don Francois

Silent Prayer

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

LEADER: Dear friends, today as we gather before this font of living water, let us recall the meaning of baptism. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

PEOPLE: For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— Jews or Greeks, slaves or free— and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

LEADER: Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

BLESSING OF THE WATER

LEADER: Let us pray. We thank you, God, for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. In the time of Noah you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning. In the time of Moses your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land. In the fullness of time, you

sent Jesus Christ who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb. Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all the nations by water and the Holy Spirit.

(Water is poured)

ALL: Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water that by it we may be reminded of our baptism into Jesus Christ and that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may be kept faithful until you receive us at last in your eternal home. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

LEADER: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

PEOPLE: I do.

LEADER: Do you believe in God?

PEOPLE: I believe in God, the creator of heaven and earth.

LEADER: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

PEOPLE: I believe in Jesus Christ, the only one begotten of God before all worlds.

LEADER: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

PEOPLE: I believe in God, the Holy Spirit.

LEADER: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and community, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer?

PEOPLE: I will, with God's help.

LEADER: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being?

PEOPLE: I will, with God's help.

BLESSING WITH THE WATER OF BAPTISM

LEADER: Let us pray. Eternal God, you have come to us in Jesus Christ, given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins. Bless us now with the grace we need to fulfill what we have promised.

PEOPLE: Keep us faithful to our Savior Jesus Christ, for ever and ever. Amen.

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 heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

WE PREPARE TO GO TO THE WORLD

Closing Hymn: “*Let Love Be Our Voice*”

1 In these times of pain and trouble,
Seems the world has lost its way.
Facing news of daily struggle,
If we don't know what to say:

Refrain

Let love be our choice. Let love be our voice.
Let love be our choice. Let love be our voice.

2 Fanning flames of angry passion;
Hatred's eager to accuse;
Here's our chance to speak compassion:
Carefully our words we choose: (refrain)

3 When our children question violence,
Needing to be reassured,
We are called to break our silence,
Sharing hope in every word. (refrain)

4 When we turn to ask our Savior
“How can we this hate repel?”
“Love your neighbor as yourself,
And love your enemy as well.” (refrain)

Benediction

Postlude