

Baptism of our Lord

January 8, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship



Baptism of Christ by davezelenka. Used by permission of Creative Commons.

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:17

First Presbyterian Church

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MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT: REV. DR. SANDRA R. TICE

MINISTRY OF PASTORAL SUPPORT: REV. DR. STEPHEN SMITH

COMMISSIONED LOCAL PASTOR: DR. WENDY L. LAMB

PASTOR EMERITUS: REV. JAMES C. HUFFSTUTLER

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: CURTISS ALLEN, JR., DIRECTOR OF MUSIC;

WILLIAM ZEITLER, ORGANIST; AMY GANO, BELLS

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church

This service is being livestreamed and can be viewed on our YouTube channel in real time or as a recording. **Large-print copies of this order of service**, as well as **audio enhancement devices** are available **from the ushers**.

We gather on Sunday for 3 reasons:

- **To seek God**- whom we find in sacred text and sacrament, in music and in song, in prayer, in the beauty of this space, in the stillness where we can hear our hearts. We offer God our thanks and praise, our lament and longing, and our resources. We let go of burdens and receive grace and forgiveness. We see the One our hearts love.
- **To practice Community** – rejoice w/those who rejoice, weep w/those who weep. To break bread with those whom we love and those whom we need to love more fully. We practice things our culture does not emphasize: resting, forgiving, sharing. Jesus asked us to love one another as he loved us, and we cannot do so without practice.
- **To listen for our Call**- often an invitation to go out and be or do or remember. God is speaking all the time: through conscience, nature, friends, and certainly scripture. We gather to listen for that Call and to recommit ourselves to discipleship.

Information on our common life can be found on our website www.fpcsb.net, along with sermons and newsletters. You can participate in our work by supporting us financially with a one-time or sustaining donation.

Children are **welcome** in worship. Younger children may go to the Nursery at any time.

OUR NEXT COMMUNION will be Sunday, February 5th.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Amy Smith, Clerk of Session

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

Will you seek to serve the people of God
With Energy, Intelligence, Imagination,
And love?

-- *Book of Order, PC (USA)*

A brief congregational meeting to elect officers will precede worship, and then the livestream will begin.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Dance of the Logos

W. Zeitler

Allow the music to usher you into sacred space and time.

*CALL to WORSHIP

Exciting God, Glorious God

✘ **Baptize us with wonder**

Wise God, Righteous God

✘ **Baptize us with justice**

Holy God, Covenant God

✘ **Baptize us with love**

*HYMN 401

Gather Us In

Marty Haugen

verses 1, 2, 4

PRAYER of CONFESSION¹

✘ **Loving God, we confess that**

sometimes we think we can do things all by ourselves

other times we worry about things we cannot change.

We forget that you call us to live as your beloved,

And you promise to give us all we need.

**Please forgive us for not trusting you, for forgetting who we are,
for missing your Call. We listen together for your voice...**

(Moment for silent reflection and confession)

Lord, help us to live as your own: free, courageous, and joyful.

† The symbols you will see in this order of worship mean:

* **Stand if you are able** ✘ **The congregation will read.**

¹ Rev. Adam Hood, Church of Scotland

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel

✘ In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and are being made whole. Amen.

(We stand and sing Alleluia)

*ALLELUIA

William Zeitler

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1. Al - le - lu - ia! 2. Al - le - lu - ia!

**Retiring Minister of Word and Sacrament:
The Reverend Doctor Thomas G. Rennard**

PRAYER FOR A RETIRING PASTOR SPOKEN BLESSING

ANTHEM

Here I Am, Lord²

arr. Craig Courtney

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry, All who dwell in deepest sin My hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send? *Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.* I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone, I will speak My word to them, Whom shall I send? *Here I am, Lord, . . .* I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame, I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send? *Here I am, Lord, . . .* I will hold Your people in my heart. Here I am, Lord, here I am.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3:13-17

New Testament, page 3

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

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SERMON

Rev. Dr. Sandy Tice

***HYMN 488** *I Was There to Hear Your Borneing Cry* WATERLIFE

THE OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

(We offer our gifts as a response to God's Word, to be part of God's purposes in the world. Just as officers offer leadership & love, we are all invited to do our part. You may place gifts in the basket during the offertory, or on your way out – or by mail or online.)

***OFFERTORY**

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

✘ Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost, Amen.

TIME with the CHILDREN

*Children are encouraged to remain with us,
but those 4 and under may go to the Nursery as necessary.*

GIVING THANKS for FAITHFUL SERVICE

Retiring Deacons:

Mark Adelson, Carmen Avila, Janet McKinster

Retiring Elders: Margaret Doane, Carol Cooper, Stephanie Fletcher

Their Gifts Have Built Up the Body of Christ

ORDAINING and INSTALLING NEW LEADERS

to the Office of Elder: *Lily Bolaños, *Phyllis Hough, Margaret Doane,
*Jonathan Horstmann

to the Office of Deacon: *Dave Thomas, Brad Smith, Dan Direen, Joyce
Lyons, Joanna Nord

OPENING STATEMENT

QUESTIONS Of those to be ordained and/or installed

Of the congregation

Do we, the members of the church, accept *Lily, Margaret, Phyllis and Jon as ruling elders, and accept Dave, Brad, Dan, Joyce, and Joanna* as deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the church?

LAYING on of HANDS

PRAYERS of ORDINATION and INSTALLATION

By the Pastor.

By those to be ordained or installed.

Gracious God: you have chosen me. Now give me strength, wisdom, and love to preach the gospel in word and deed. Amen.

By the congregation:

✘ **God of grace, you call us ALL to follow you. Help us to put your call at the center of our lives. Give us courage and discipline to follow where your servants lead us; so that our life together will speak of the love of Jesus. Amen.**

DECLARATION, WORDS of JESUS

CHARGE and WELCOME

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Amen.

Welcome to this ministry!

[As the congregation sings the response, those laying hands shall welcome the newly ordained and installed elders and deacons into their fellowship in ministry.]

SUNG RESPONSE ³

John Bell

✘ **Take, O Take me as I am, Summon out what I shall be, set your seal upon my heart, and live in me...**

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and OUR 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.**

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***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE** *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* ⁴ *Peter C. Lutkin*

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord lift his countenance upon you; and give you peace, and give you peace, the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you, be gracious, the Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Concerto in A Minor

A. Vivaldi

(For health reasons we are not greeting at the door)

In honor of Tom's retirement, the Rennard/Tice Family have provided cookies for our coffee hour. Please join us!

GREETERS: Lynda Savage, Claudia Oakes

USHERS: Chris Thomas, *Lead Usher*

Dave Thomas, Marilyn Kraft, *Security Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

VIDEO ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATOR: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

⁴ Text & Music: Peter C. Lutkin. ©1991 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission of One License #A706254.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Ann Aguilera, Ruth Alford, Marianna Fowles

Elders: **Pat Morris, Martha Pinckney, John-Paul Fletcher**

Deacons: **Sharon Landers, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord**

This Weeks' Celebrations

Jan 10 Dwight Murray

Jan 11 Dawn Morris

Jean-Luc Nicks

Jan 13 Zane Preciado

Stephani Congdon

Jan 14 Patrick Morris

Offering Envelopes are available this morning in Fellowship Hall for those who desire them.

Congregation members are invited to an
Open House
Sunday, January 15th at 11:30 a.m.
to visit



Oak Tree D Street
opening here on

Tuesday, January 17th!

Come see the facilities and celebrate this new thing that is being done!

News and announcements are available in your Friday *Keeping in Touch* emails. If you are not receiving these, and you would like to, contact Mimi in the church office.

Music Box

Since we're beginning a new year, I thought we might consider the Mother of All Beginnings — namely "In The Beginning...". The Gospel of John famously begins "In the beginning was the Word..." Now, the Greek word for 'Word' here is LOGOS. 'Word' is actually a terrible translation for LOGOS — but there isn't really a better alternative because we don't have a word in modern English that embraces anything like similar meaning. So I thought we might explore a little what's behind 'LOGOS'.

First of all, LOGOS was a common word in the first century Greek speaking world, much like the word 'word' is common enough in English. In general usage it referred to the concept aspect of a word, the explanation for something. It was also used for bookkeeping — keeping a 'LOGOS' of your business finances. 'LOGOS' is used frequently in the New Testament in this commonplace sense.

Now, in English there are certain words that have commonplace meanings, but within Christianity they are invested with a whole new dimension of significance — like 'Grace', and 'Spirit'. Likewise, in the context of Greek philosophy, LOGOS meant something far beyond the commonplace usage. Going back to the Greek philosopher Heraclitus (c. 500 BCE), LOGOS referred to that which makes the Cosmos an organized place to live — something like the Laws of Physics, but much more.

It has been said that a human being is nothing but a pile of chemicals. Of course we aren't! What makes a living human different from a pile of chemicals is that those chemicals are organized in a mind-boggling and exquisitely complex Dance — a Dance of Logos. All the intricate processes, the cooperation of something like 30 trillion cells that make up one human being — an orchestra of 30 trillion cells/players all playing the Symphony of Life for each and every one of us — that magnificent symphony is the Dance of the Logos.

It has been said that our thoughts and emotions are nothing but chemical reactions in the brain. Of course they aren't! They're a mind-boggling and exquisitely complex Dance of neurons firing and all the complex processes that make up a thinking and feeling human being.

Or let's consider our vision: our eyes only have receptors for Red Green and Blue. All the other colors we see are fabricated by our brains to give us a useful visual representation of the world around us. The way the brain organizes raw red/green/blue dots of light from our retinas into our immersive field of vision — that's Logos at work.

Or consider Money. It's much more than 'some numbers in some computer somewhere': money has value because we all agree it has value (a massive community act of Faith), and we all agree to go along with the enormous body of banking regulations and government laws and so forth that prescribe the complex Dance of numbers that comprise our monetary system. (And the concept of 'number' itself is a profound example of Logos at work.)

Or, human language: language isn't just a bunch of grunting noises or squiggles on paper, it's its own vast Dance of Logos of syntax and semantics (which we absorbed when we were children) that makes communication possible.

When you really think about it, we are swimming in Logos — we're like fish swimming in an ocean of Logos, and like fish we're generally unaware of the Logos/water in which we live and move and have our being. (Are you aware of the ocean of air surrounding you this very moment?)

And, furthermore, Logos is not something that can be directly seen, heard, touched, tasted or smelled — it's the 'logic' (the "Logos-ic") that makes seeing, hearing, touching, tasting and smelling possible in the first place.

Confronted with the Logos that governs the inconceivable vastness of interstellar space, and all the infinitesimally small quantum entities whose Dance constitutes all the mass and energy in our Cosmos, and whose dance within dance within dance makes it possible for us to have Life, on a planet that makes Life possible, in a solar system that makes Life possible — before all of that, how can we not bow our heads in dumbfounded, speechless Awe?

In all of this, as the ancient Greek philosophers understood it, LOGOS is impersonal. It's something like the Laws of Physics on steroids upon steroids. So when the Gospel of John says "the LOGOS became flesh and dwelt among us" — we can begin to see what a whack to the side of the head that statement would have been to the ancients.

-- William Zeitler