

Our Service of Worship for January 10, 2021
The Baptism of the Lord
Westwood First Presbyterian Church

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts”—arr. Emma Lou Diemer

During the Prelude, you are invited to take a moment to prepare for worship.

Call to Worship/Opening Prayer

Hymn: “*Baptized in Water*” *

A Time of Confession

Prayer for Illumination/Scripture Readings: Genesis 1:1-5; Matthew 3:4-17 *

Sermon: “*Down to the River*”

Solo: “My Son, the Beloved”—David Blackwell

LeeAnne Galioto, mezzo soprano

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper—Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

[ALL are invited to Christ’s table, not as a right of the worthy, but a privilege, enabled by the very act of which the sacrament reminds us.]

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Elements

[The signs of God’s presence—the bread and cup—and our virtual presence signify both the goodness of the embodied world and the reality of the spiritual one.]

The Pastoral Prayer After Communion/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.

Hymn: “*Spirit*” *

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: “‘Allegro’ from Concerto in G”—Vivaldi

* The words to the hymns and the Scripture reading are included with the order of worship.

Rev. Dr. Jeff Colarossi

Pastor

Heather MacPhail

Organist/Director of Music Ministries



Baptized in Water

1. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our king;
Heirs of salvation, trusting His promise, faithfully now God's praise we sing..
2. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our king;
One with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praise we sing.
3. Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our king;
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children, joyfully now God's praise we sing.

Spirit

Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

1. You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
Then you coaxed up the mountains, from the valley of sleep,
And over the eons you called to each thing,
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.”

Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

2. You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,
And you gifted your people with a law and a land,
And when they were blinded with their idols and lies,
Then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.

Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

3. You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
Then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still,
And down in the city you called once again,
When you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

4. You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
From the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams;
Our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise.

Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.



First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5—The First Day of Creation

¹ In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:4-17—John the Baptist and the Baptism of Jesus

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”



Moment for Meditation: Jesus' Baptism

The baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark and Luke. Clearly, it was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. Mark and Luke report the story from Jesus' perspective; the voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus. Compare this to Matthew's Gospel in which the voice from heaven speaks to everyone. In Luke, however, the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus during his time of prayer after his baptism. The baptism of Jesus is considered a manifestation of God in Jesus, another “epiphany.” In Luke's Gospel, all three members of the Trinity are manifested here: God the Father in the voice, the Holy Spirit descending, and Jesus the Son.