



Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church

January 12, 2025 10:30 a.m.
Baptism of Jesus

Order of Worship

**i indicates to stand as you are able.

Prelude

Sweet Hour of Prayer

arr. V. Labenske

1 Thessalonians 5: 17: Pray without ceasing.

"Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care;
and bids me at my Father's throne, make all my wants and wishes known. In seasons
of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief; and oft escaped the tempter's snare
by thy return, sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, the joys I feel,
the bliss I share, of those whose anxious spirits burn with strong desires for thy return! With such
I hasten to the place where God my Savior shows his face; and gladly take my station there, and wait
for thee, sweet hour of prayer!"

(words: W. Walford, 1845; music: (Sweet Hour) W. Bradbury, 1861; public domain)

(this piano solo: Alfred Music, 2012)

Welcome and Announcements

GATHERING

Passing of the Peace (L: Leader; **P: People**)

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

Call to Worship

Kathy Koch

In the beginning, darkness covered the deep,
and God said: "Let there be light".

The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Through the words of the prophet, the Lord said,
"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you."

The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

"Do not be afraid," says the Lord: "I am with you.
I have called you by name, you are mine."

**The voice of the Lord is over the waters,
And those gathered as God's people say, "Glory!"**

Hymn- 475

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing, v. 1, 3

Call to Confession, with moments of Silence for Reflection and Personal Prayer

Responsive Prayer of Confession

You pour out your love, O God, and invite us to change our hearts and lives,
not simply resting on the faith and traditions of the ones who've gone before us.
You call us to take care of one another here and now,
to ensure that everyone has enough and no one goes without.
We have more than we need, and we are not interested in giving it away for free.

In your mercy, Forgive us.

We have plenty of explanations for why we don't need to follow your path when it comes to our belongings.

In your mercy, Forgive us.

We find it hard to leave the ways of the world behind to turn to your kingdom way.

In your mercy, Forgive us.

Draw us into the wilderness, O God,
where we can learn your way free from habits and surroundings that exert control.

Guide us to live as good ancestors,

**looking forward and not just back at what we've known before,
giving of ourselves in response to your giving yourself,
choosing to share so that all may live with dignity and enough.**

Reorient us to your voice over us and your love for us,

and strengthen us by your Spirit so that our lives reflect that love.

We ask in Jesus' name, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

L: Friends, this is the Good News of the Gospel...

(Congregation pause to hear the Good News of the Gospel)

P: ...in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

****Response in song - 443**

There Is a Redeemer, v. 1

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit
till the work on earth is done.

WORD

Moment with Children

Lindsey Kim

**Please note that any children who come forward for the moment with children will likely be seen on the worship livestream on Facebook*

Children ages preschool—third grade dismissed to Sunday Experience

Please see announcements for instructions.

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading Luke 3:1-22 CEB

In the fifteenth year of the rule of the emperor Tiberius—when Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea and Herod was ruler¹ over Galilee, his brother Philip was ruler² over Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was ruler³ over Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas—God’s word came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. ⁴This is just as it was written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

A voice crying out in the wilderness:

*“Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight.*

⁵*Every valley will be filled,
and every mountain and hill will be leveled.*

*The crooked will be made straight
and the rough places made smooth.*

⁶*All humanity will see God’s salvation.”*

⁷Then John said to the crowds who came to be baptized by him, “You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? ⁸Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don’t even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham’s children from these stones. ⁹The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire.”

¹⁰The crowds asked him, “What then should we do?”

¹¹He answered, “Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same.”

¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized. They said to him, “Teacher, what should we do?”

¹³He replied, “Collect no more than you are authorized to collect.”

¹⁴Soldiers asked, “What about us? What should we do?”

He answered, “Don’t cheat or harass anyone, and be satisfied with your pay.”

¹⁵The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ.

¹⁶John replied to them all, “I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I’m not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can’t be put out.” ¹⁸With many other words John appealed to them, proclaiming good news to the people.

¹⁹But Herod the ruler had been criticized harshly by John because of Herodias, Herod’s brother’s wife, and because of all the evil he had done. ²⁰He added this to the list of his evil deeds: he locked John up in prison.

²¹When everyone was being baptized, Jesus also was baptized. While he was praying, heaven was opened ²²and the Holy Spirit came down on him in bodily form like a dove. And there was a voice from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Rev. Janna VanderWoude

Reaffirming our Faith and our Baptisms

Sentences of Scripture

L: ...Just as the body is one...so it is with Christ.

**P: For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—
Jews or Greeks, slaves or free— and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.**

L: Now you are the body of Christ....and what does the LORD require of you?

P: To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

Profession of Faith

L: Beloved people of God...I ask you.... to profess your faith...in which we were baptized.

- Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn away from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? **I renounce them.**
- Who is your Lord and Savior? **Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**
- Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?
I will, with God's help.

With the whole church, let us confess the faith of our Baptism, using the words of the Apostle's Creed. (p. 35 in the *Glory to God* hymnal)

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Baptism

Hymn

Come to the Water

by P. Choplin

(see insert)

Isaiah 55:1a: *Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters.*

(words and music by Pepper Choplin, 2001)

(this choral arrangement: Alfred Publishing, Inc., 2001)

*During this hymn, you are invited to come forward to the baptismal font, to touch the water to your forehead and to hear God's words of affirmation and encouragement to you. You may respond: **Thanks be to God.***

THANKSGIVING/EUCHARIST

Invitation to Offering

There are numerous ways to give to the work of CMPC. Offering plates will be passed through the pews during the offertory for checks or cash to be left today. Cards with a QR code that will direct you to our online giving page are located in the pew racks. Donations can always be mailed to the church at any time using the address on the back page of the bulletin. Thank you for your support!

Offertory

Baptized in Water

arr. M. Parks

Ephesians 4:4-6: *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

"Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our King; heirs of salvation, trusting the promise, faithfully now God's praises we sing. 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 praises we sing."

(words: M. Seward. 1981; music: traditional Gaelic tune, 1888)

(this piano solo: Lorenz Publishing Co., 2015)

****Doxology - 63**

The Lord Is God

1 The Lord is God, the Lord alone!
Give honor, thanks, and praise
to God, the maker of all things
and giver of our days.
2 With all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind and might,
O people, love the Lord your God,
the source of truth and light.

SENDING

Hymn -547

Go, My Children, with My Blessing, v. 1, 3

****Benediction**

Postlude

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters
Psalm 97:1a: *The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice!*

arr. R. Duck

"Wash, O God, your sons and daughters, newborn creatures of your womb. Number them among your people, raised like Christ from death and tomb. Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light. Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight."

(words (updated): R. Duck, 1987; music (updated) (Beach Spring) J. Wood, 1958)

(this piano solo: The United Methodist Publishing House, 1958)

Thank you to John Kim and Neil Danzig for providing audio support this week!

Thank you to Kevin Wilson for operating the sanctuary cameras this week!

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Announcements and Upcoming Events

Holy Cow Survey

Last Sunday we sent out close to 200 emails with links to the CAT--the Congregational Assessment Tool from Holy Cow Consulting. Surveys were sent to all members and regular participants at Christ Memorial who were identified as "able" and "involved." We are aware that some households share a single email address, either between partners or for age 16+ youth---and we are happy to send additional links if you furnish us another address: The survey link should not be forwarded. Please send any additional link requests to office@cmpcusa.org with an additional email address.

A limited number of paper copies are also available and can be turned in to the church office for manual entry.

Many thanks to those who've already completed the Holy Cow survey--we appreciate you helping to MOOOOve things along here at Christ Memorial!

Congregational Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church is scheduled for Sunday, January 26. Those responsible for submitting Committee reports for the Annual report should email them by Sunday, January 12 to office@cmpcusa.org.

Thank you!

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the Cold Weather Shelter, food preparers & servers! We know it was a challenge preparing food for such a large group, and navigating the additional restrictions for serving. Your help has been much appreciated!

Parking for worship

We are blessed with a HUGE parking lot in back as well as an elevator for those who prefer a "lift." Please be kind to those who could use the boost of a spot in front: Visitors, latecomers, those with difficulty walking long distances. If you are able to use the back lot, please do so. "Change your hearts and lives"--- and your parking spot. Thankyou!

Monday Morning Women's Bible Study

The Monday Morning Women's Bible Study will be meeting Monday, January 13th at 9:30 am in the Trinity Room to watch a video and have a discussion on the book of James Chapter 5. Come and join us in fellowship to start the New Year.

Fourth Monday Meals

Please sign up to cook and/or serve on January 27th.



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 strang - er, 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.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

for my daughters, Erin and Kelcy

COME TO THE WATER

for congregation

Words and Music by
PEPPER CHOPLIN (ASCAP)

Come to the wa - ter on this ho - ly day.
Gath - er - ing un - der God's heav - en a -
God gives us wa - ter to spring through our years,
Here as we meet at the wa - ter's face,

5

Our Lord has called us, we come to o - bey.
broth - ers and sis - ters sur - round you in love.
wa - ter for life and the wa - ter for tears.
we come to cel - e - brate won - der - ful grace.

9

Fol - low the One who has shown us the way. —
God's Ho - ly Spir - it will come like a dove —
Though life runs dry and our hope dis - ap - pears, —
And as we come, we dis - cov - er our place, —

13

Live in God's king - dom for - ev - er.
now to be with you for - ev - er.
God will be with us for - ev - er.
joined with God's fam - 'ly for - ev - er.

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Go, My Children, with My Blessing 547

1 "Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev-er a-lone.
 2 "Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me.

Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.

In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for-
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry; here you touched him, saw his
 Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you; here my ten-der com-fort

ev-er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
 glo-ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure."
 stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free."

Because this Welsh melody usually sets evening texts, the author was asked to create one for use in daytime. His recasting of the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:22–27 imagines that passage as a benediction that might be spoken by God at the conclusion of a worship service.