

CHRIST MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Baptism of the Lord
January 11, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

"Wade in the Water"

by Kenergy Sala
Michael Kravchuk, 2020

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Janna VanderWoude

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

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you

****Call to Worship**

Liturgist Jeff Bloom

L: Listen to the witnesses who tell us what they have seen:

All: The Lamb of God is among us!

L: Listen to the friends who invite us to join in their journey:

All: We have found the Messiah!

L: Listen to the neighbors who want to share their story:

All: The Son of God is here!

L: Listen to the One who invites us:

All: You, yourself, come and see!

****Hymn - #401**

"Gather Us In"

Call to Confession , followed by Silence for Reflection and Prayer

Common Prayer of Confession

Pastor Janna VanderWoude

L: You invite us in, Lord Jesus, to see your everyday life,
and recognize the connection you build between heaven and earth.

All: We confess we'd find things easier with complete information and specific directions.

L: You invite us to come and see, and to grow into a relationship.

All: We confess that vulnerability makes us nervous.

We're sometimes not sure what we are supposed to see, and we'd rather you didn't see everything about us.

L: You invite us to come and see, and then to share what we have seen with others.

All: We confess we're not especially comfortable talking about you.

We don't want to offend others, until we feel compelled to correct them.

L: For holding ourselves back from you, O God —Forgive us.

L: For our lack of curiosity, and our lack of grace—Forgive us.

L: When we as your Body the Church don't offer your welcome and grace--Forgive us.

All: Invite us again into your open heart, and make us willing to receive and to share. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

L: God draws near to us in Christ, and draws us ever nearer through the Spirit at work in us.

You are already known, already loved---so simply come and see the One who reveals Love with each breath. This, indeed, is Good News!

All: Trusting in God's forgiveness, we go forward into new life. Thanks be to God!

Response in Song - # 187, v.4 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Early let us seek your favor; early let us do your will.

Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still. (2x)

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

Time for All God's Children

Chad Board

*Please note that any children who come forward to the chancel will likely be seen on the worship livestream.

Children ages preschool—third grade are dismissed to Sunday Experience following the Word in Music today.

Presentation of Bibles to Third Graders

Affirmation of Faith and our Baptism, and the Sacrament of Baptism—see insert

Word in Music

"Come to the Water"

Prayer for Illumination

Liturgist Jeff Bloom

Psalm Text for the day

Psalm 66: 1-5

Liturgist Jeff Bloom

Gospel Text

John 1: 35-51

Rev. Janna VanderWoude

L: The Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Come and See

Rev. Janna VanderWoude

Hymn of Response- - # 475, v. 1,3

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Prayers of the People

EUCCHARIST—OUR GRATITUDE AND TRUST IN GOD'S PROMISES

Invitation to the Offering

Liturgist Jeff Bloom

Offertory

"Baptized in Water"

Traditional Gaelic Melody
Hal Leonard, 2020

We invite you to use the time of the Offertory to reflect and to pray silently, offering thanks for God's goodness, and commitment of ourselves for declaring that the God who creates also re-creates. making all things new.

****Doxology-582, v. 1,2 "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"**
Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, Amen.

World without end, without end, Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, Amen.

****Prayer of Dedication and Discipleship**

Liturgist Jeff Bloom

SENDING

****Sending Song-** # 726, v. 1, 2, 5 "Will You Come and Follow Me"

Blessing and Charge

Postlude

"Shall We Gather At the River"

Music and Lyrics by Robert Lowry

Arranged by Lily Topolski. Lily Topolski Music, 2025

Art Attribution

Oil painting by Mother Maria-Thomas, 2018

Reveries Under the Fig Tree: Reflections for the Advent and Christmas Season



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!

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

Thank you to John Kim and Sam Thomas for operating the sanctuary cameras this week!

CCLI Copyright License #1280964; streaming license #20314021

SongSelect Premium license # RG20-1496988

One License # A-719136

Texts for the Week

John 1:35-51

³⁵ The next day John was standing again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus walking along he said, "Look! The Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard what he said, and they followed Jesus.

³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he asked, "What are you looking for?"

They said, "Rabbi (which is translated *Teacher*), where are you staying?"

³⁹ He replied, "Come and see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.

⁴⁰ One of the two disciples who heard what John said and followed Jesus was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated *Christ*). ⁴² He led him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which is translated *Peter*).

⁴³ The next day Jesus wanted to go into Galilee, and he found Philip. Jesus said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Philip was from Bethsaida, the hometown of Andrew and Peter.

⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law and the Prophets: Jesus, Joseph's son, from Nazareth."

⁴⁶ Nathanael responded, "Can anything from Nazareth be good?"

Philip said, "Come and see."

⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said about him, "Here is a genuine Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, "How do you know me?"

Jesus answered, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree."

⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are God's Son. You are the king of Israel."

⁵⁰ Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these! ⁵¹ I assure you that you will see heaven open and God's angels going up to heaven and down to earth on the Human One."

Psalm 66:1-5

Shout joyfully to God, all the earth!

² Sing praises to the glory of God's name!

Make glorious his praise!

³ Say to God:

"How awesome are your works!

Because of your great strength,
your enemies cringe before you.

⁴ All the earth worships you,
sings praises to you,
sings praises to your name!"

⁵ Come and see God's deeds;
his works for human beings are
awesome.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a congregational meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2026 immediately following worship. The meeting is to approve the budget and the pastor's Terms of Call. All members are encouraged to attend.

WINDOW ON MISSION

In an effort to keep the congregation better informed about the its work, the Mission and Local Outreach Committee shares periodic informational updates. In addition to increasing awareness about what it is doing in the community, nationally, and globally on the congregation's behalf, these communications also encourage participation in hands-on mission opportunities. Here is a summary of activity from July to December of 2025.

Local Mission

- On the fourth Monday of every month, CMPC volunteers provide and serve hot dinners at **Grassroots Route One Day Center** in Laurel for the homeless in our community. The number of persons using the Center continues to grow, as does the need for food. This is an ongoing mission that welcomes new volunteers. Suzy Crabb is the point person for this mission.
- The committee made donations to support **CMPC Preschool, Bridges to Housing Stability, Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services, Columbia Community Care** which operates food pantries in Howard County and the **Howard County Food Bank** which is run by the Community Action Council of Howard County. Even with the support of local and state nutritional programs, food banks, and other services, thousands of families still struggle to find consistent access to food and essential resources every week.
- In lieu of the Angel Tree, Sue Ashman and Rachel Bis facilitated a partnership with **Toys for Tots** that to collect toys in November. In December, hats, gloves, and socks were collected for the CWS. In addition, monetary donations from the congregation were received for gift cards for Grassroots residents. FISH separately did Christmas shopping, wrapping and donating gifts to seven students at local schools.
- For the twenty-second year, CMPC participated in the **Cold Weather Shelter** organized by Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center. From December 29 to January 4, CMPC volunteers and groups including LOGOS, Scout Troop 75, Women's Bible Study, and the Mission and Local Outreach Committee, provided and served home-cooked dinners and delivered breakfasts to 60 residents (including homeless persons) housed at the Grassroots facility in Columbia. Suzy Crabb, Tina Helble, and Kathryn Koch helped coordinate effort and transport the food.

National Mission

- M&LO supported two national missions; namely, the Fuller Center Disaster Rebuilders – Moss Point, MS house re-build and Pine Springs Christian Camp in Jennerstown, PA, which a number of young people from CMPC attended.

Global Mission

- The committee supported **Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza**, the only Christian hospital in Gaza, which continued to treat victims of the war in Gaza throughout the fighting.
- The committee donated funds to support **Save the Children relief efforts in Ukraine**, which supplies hygiene kits, offers mental health and psychosocial support, the provides child-friendly spaces, and cash transfers to families affected by the war.
- It also helped **Friends for Health in Haiti**, which is striving to improve the health of the people in the community of Gattineau through an outpatient clinic that provides primary health care, and hygiene education, as well as livelihood assistance to those in need.
- The Fifth Sunday Offering on August 31 was accepted on behalf of the **Uganda Water Project** and on November 30 for **Grassroots and the cold weather shelter**.

Of course, this work would not be possible without the generous support of our congregation for which we are very grateful and appreciative.



The Sacrament Of Baptism

Amara Noman Bhatti

JANUARY 11, 2026

*Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church
10600 Shaker Dr. Columbia, MD 21046*

Jesus said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Mark 10:14-16

Words of Presentation

Pastor Janna and Elder Jeff Bloom

Presentation of Amara Noman Bhatti.

Questions

Questions to the Parents

Pastor Janna

Questions to the Children

Joseph Bhatti

Today we celebrate that Amara is becoming part of our church family. We are all God’s children.

These questions are for all of the children of Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church. When we say “We will”, we make a promise to God, and to Amara.

Will we help Amara remember that God loves her, and we love her?
We will.

Will we share the stories of Jesus with them, as we grow together, play together, and worship together in this place? **We will.**

Questions to the Congregation

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Amara, by word and action, with love and prayer?

Congregation: **We do.**

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

**** Profession of Faith**

For all gathered—those presenting children, along with all those who would, on this day of remembering our Lord's baptism, remember and re-affirm their own.

Affirming our Faith with the Baptismal Questions

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God,
do you turn 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.

Affirming our Faith with the Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;**

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty---from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
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 Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God:

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

...To you be all praise, honor, and glory; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns forever.

The Baptism

Words of Charge and Welcome

The Sacrament of Baptism

The act of baptism is deceptively simple—but in a handful of water, there is a deep well of mystery and meaning. In baptism, we are called to a new way of life as Christ's disciples, sharing the good news of the gospel with all the world. Presbyterians describe baptism as a sign and seal of the covenant of grace made by God through Jesus and extended to us: In baptism, God claims us as beloved children and members of Christ's body, the church, washing us clean from sin as we renounce the power of evil and seek the will and way of God.

Infant baptism expresses that it is God who chooses us for faith, discipleship, and salvation; without God, we have no power to claim these things for ourselves. However, we affirm that people come to faith at different stages in life, and recognize the baptism of older believers as an equally valid expression of the sacrament. Presbyterians also allow for baptism by immersion. Whatever the method, the deep significance of baptism demands a visible and generous use of water, conveying the lavish outpouring of God's grace, filling believers with the gifts of the Spirit, and overflowing in lives of faithfulness, service, and love.

A congregation's session authorizes baptisms and provides for the spiritual growth and nurture of members. That's why a ruling elder of the church always presents the candidate for baptism. In turn, both the family and the congregation promise to contribute to the baptized person's Christian formation.

Christ's gracious invitation is open to all, and the PC(USA) recognizes all baptisms with water in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit administered by other Christian churches.

But baptism is only the beginning of a lifelong process of formation in the faith.

So remember your baptism and be thankful! In the sacrament of baptism—our inclusion in the covenant of grace, incorporation into the life of Christ, and anointing with the gifts of the Spirit—we have countless reasons to give God thanks and praise. As Jesus said, "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38). Filled with the never-failing grace of Jesus Christ poured out for us, our hearts overflow with gratitude and joy, spilling out into the world in lives of service and love for God and neighbor. As those who ourselves have been baptized in the name of the God who created us, Jesus who redeemed us, and the Spirit who sustains us, we join together in welcoming, by her baptism, Amara Bhatti into the life and ministry of the Risen Christ.

Here in This Place

Gather Us In

401



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



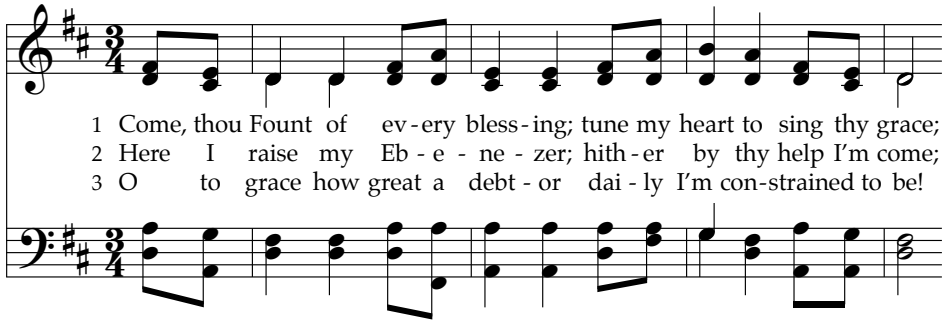
blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

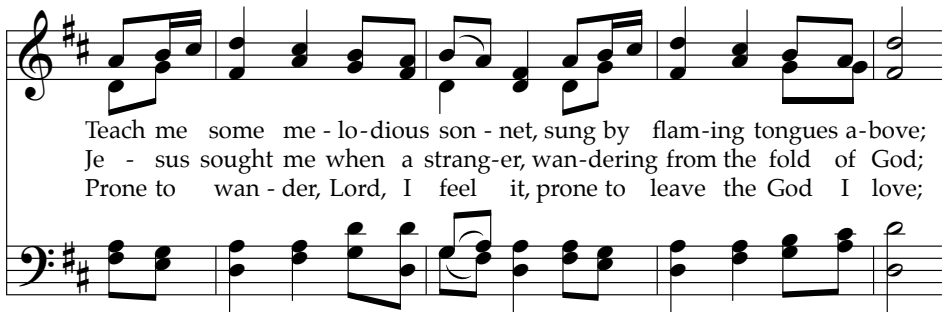
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475



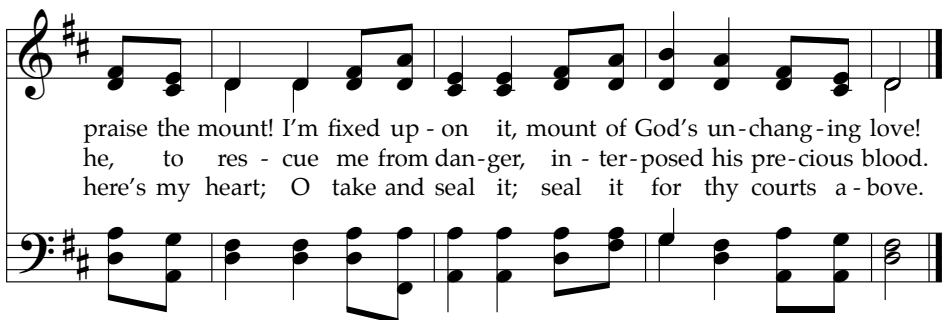
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



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;

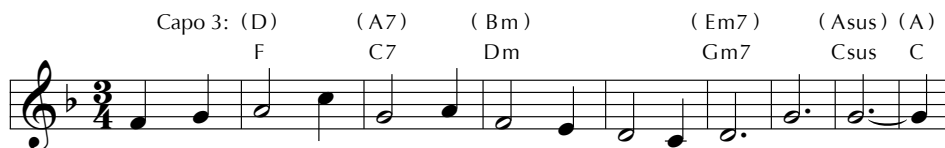


praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

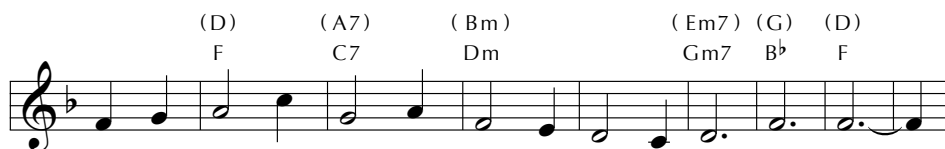
Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

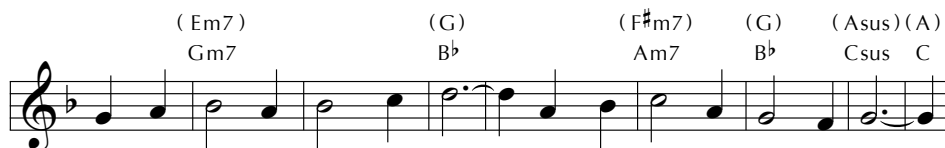
The Summons



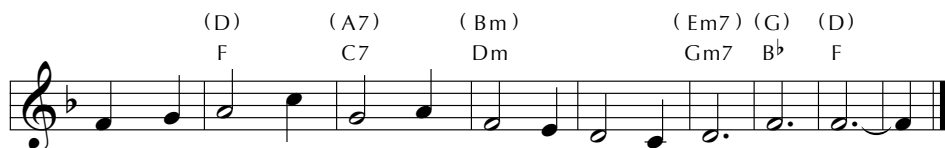
1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

The first four stanzas of this ballad-like hymn are understood to be in the voice of Christ, with the fifth reflecting the individual singer's response. Created for this traditional Scottish tune, the text was written to mark the conclusion of a youth volunteer's time of ministry.