

*The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent,
personal preparation for the worship of God.*

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

In Thee Is Joy Johann Sebastian Bach
Christ Came to the Jordan River. J. S. Bach
Shall We Gather at the River. John Ferguson

Introit

“Open to Me the Gates of Righteousness” Eric Thiman
Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go into them, and I will praise the Lord.

*Doxology (*sung*). The Hymnal, 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Call to Worship

Leader: *The voice of God resounds upon the water.*

People: **The Spirit of the Lord hovers over the stream.**

Leader: *The Son of God is named “Beloved.”*

People: **And all who worship shout out, “Glory!”**

Leader: *Ascribe to the Lord majesty and strength.*

People: **Let us worship God in holy splendor.**

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 156 “Sing of God Made Manifest”

Litany of Confession

Leader: *Timeless God, you cast Light into sin’s dark places
and call us your beloved. Forgive us:*

People: **when we still linger in the shadows;
when we treat others in hurtful ways;
when we speak ill of your friends.**

**Stand as you are able.*

Leader: *As he knelt in the waters of Jordan and prayed,
you proclaimed Jesus as your Son,
pointing to him as the way to you. Forgive us:*

People: **when we put ourselves ahead of him;
when we think he is no longer needed;
when we fail to see him in the broken of our world.**

Leader: *Baptized and blessed in your living waters,
you would have us be your servants in our time. Forgive us:*

People: **when we fail to welcome the stranger;
when we refuse to forgive as you have forgiven us;
when we believe we are too good to kneel down
and tie the shoes of the lost, the least, the last, and the little.**

Leader: *Forgive us, O God, and make us new again.
Refresh our spirits with the waters of your claiming.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe and trust this good news of the Gospel:*

People: **in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Sacrament of Baptism (9:30)

Unison Prayer (9:30)

Holy God,
remind us of the promises given in our own baptism
and renew our trust in you.
Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“Down to the River to Pray” American folk song
arr. Robert Lee

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalms 29 Old Testament, page 477

*Gloria Patri (*sung*) The Hymnal, 581
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.

Scripture Lesson

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 New Testament, page 56
Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Shannon J. Kershner

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 164 “Down Galilee’s Slow Roadways”

A REAFFIRMATION OF OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS

*Baptismal Litany

Minister: *Remember your baptism and be glad!*
People: The waters of God’s mercy have flowed,
and we have been cleansed and refreshed.
Minister: *Remember the waters that God gathered together and called seas:
the mothers of rivers, lakes, and springs
that quench the thirst of the earth and all its inhabitants.*
People: We drink of the water of God’s creation
and praise God’s name for life.
Minister: *Remember the waters of the Red Sea and God’s salvation.*
People: With the people of old, we have been freed from our oppression
and brought to a new land.
Minister: *Remember the well where our Samaritan sister
found Jesus and received her blessing.*
People: We know that sacred place,
for Jesus has also encountered us there,
speaking truth to us and loving us.
Minister: *Remember Jesus at the River Jordan:*
People: the One who was without sin took upon himself our sin.
Minister: *We are redeemed by Jesus, called to live his righteousness.*
People: May God be our help.

Minister: *Remember God's grace; we are redeemed by Jesus
and not by who we are or what we do.*

People: **Thanks be to God for unmerited grace!**

Minister: *Remember your baptism and be glad!*

People: **We remember and our lives are filled with joy!**

*Profession of Faith and Renunciations

*The Apostles' Creed (*unison*)

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 sitteth 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.

Blessing over the Waters

Proclamation and Invitation for Remembrance

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

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.

Prayer Response

"Amen" Clarence Dickenson

Offering

Offertory Anthem

"Deep River" from *A Child of Our Time*. Michael Tippett
*Deep river, my home is over Jordan, deep river, Lord, I want to cross over
into campground. O children, O don't you want to go to that gospel feast,
that promised land where all is peace? Walk into heaven and take my seat
and cast my crown at Jesus' feet, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.*

*Presentation of the Offering and Response

For the life that you have giv-en, for the love in Christ made known,
 with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these gifts that are your own:
 here we of - fer, Lord, our prai - ses; heart and mind and strength we bring.
 Give us grace to love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

*Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

O God, at his baptism, you acknowledged Jesus as your beloved Child,
 and through him you opened to us a way to become your children
 by grace. May these gifts we return to you be a sign of our dedication
 to live as your faithful daughters and sons, born in the waters of baptism
 by the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 163 “Wild and Lone the Prophet’s Voice”

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

All Who Believe and Are Baptized Richard Proulx

Worship Leaders

Hardy H. Kim, Chris Horsman, Judith L. Watt, Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

The Morning Choir

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Worship Notes

BAPTIZED TODAY during the 9:30 a.m. service is Connor Christopher Bilton, child of Jonathan and Kristen Bilton.

TODAY WE REMEMBER THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD, one of the texts traditionally read after Epiphany, when we continue to focus on the revelation of the divinity of Jesus. As we hear again the voice of the Lord saying at Jesus' baptism "You are my Son the Beloved; with you I am well pleased," we also recall our own baptism, in which God has claimed and named us as God's own. In grateful thanksgiving we together renew our commitment to live out our call as beloved children of God.

THE TEXTILE BANNERS AND PULPIT PARAMENT, "UNWEAVINGS," created by fiber artist Laurie Wohl, were commissioned by Fourth Church for use during the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, the longest season of the church year (the season between Epiphany and Lent and between Pentecost and Advent). Through their combination of scripture texts and images, these banners celebrate and elevate the perception of the sacred in the "ordinary" as we make our faith journey day to day.

THE BULLETIN COVER image depicts the baptismal font in Buchanan Chapel. The cover quote is from Ted Loder's prayer "In the Silence, Name Me," in his book *Guerrillas of Grace: Prayers for the Battle*.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: The Call to Worship is adapted from Psalm 29 and Luke 3. Hymn tune names—as well as composers of the music and authors of the text—are listed in the hymnal with each hymn. The words to "For the Life that You Have Given" are by Carl P. Daw Jr. © 1987; music is by Morgan Simmons © 1990, 1992 Hope Publishing Co.

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