

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos

January 14, 2024

Second Sunday After Epiphany

Baptism of the Lord



Preparation: “Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives.” ~ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Gathering As a People of God

Prelude

Prelude on *Rustington*
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

Charles Callahan

Choral Introit

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
PCO Chancel Choir

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

*** Call to Worship**

John Juarez, Liturgist

One: In the beginning, at creation, the Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep.

All: In the waters of the flood, God cleansed the earth and humankind.

One: God caused the waters to part so that Israel could cross from slavery to liberation.

All: Jesus taught us how to live by washing his disciples' feet in water.

One: Jesus met a Samaritan woman at a well and offered her, and all of us, Living Water.

All: Creating, liberating, cleansing, renewing waters are poured out on us at baptism.

Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, the Christ, and reaffirm our own baptism.

*** Hymn #484**

Out of Deep, Unordered Water, vs. 1-3
[Rustington]

Prayer of Confession

Rebecca Mattern

One: The Gospel of Luke tells us that the sky opened up and the voice of God was heard saying, “You are my Son, whom I love; with whom I am well-pleased” God loves us with the same passion that we hear God express in today’s scripture. So trusting that good news, trusting that we are beloved, let us go to God in prayer.

All: Loving God, from the very beginning, you breathed life into us and called us good. However, somewhere along the way we replaced “good” with “not enough.” Somewhere along the way we turned the volume up on that phrase and began to doubt our own self-worth. Forgive us, for this is not what you have taught us. For when the world tells us we are not enough, you call us beloved. Show us how to return to that truth. Show us how to let go of our weariness and rest in that good news. Silent prayer. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Rebecca Mattern

One: Family of faith, God's grace and understanding is deeper and wider than we could possibly imagine. So say these words of grace with me:

All: Our story begins with belovedness. Even when we lose our way, even if we stumble and fall, God never stops breaking through the clouds to claim us. We are known. We are forgiven. We are beloved. Thanks be to God! Amen.

One: As a forgiven people, let us greet each other, sharing the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you. *Please greet your fellow worshippers in ways you feel comfortable.*

*** Act of Praise #581**

Gloria Patri

The Word

Prayer of Illumination

Rebecca Mattern

Beloved God, through the pages of scripture, you have sprinkled your love for us like an echoed refrain. Despite its repeated truth, we too often allow that good news to roll off of us like water, barely allowing it to touch us. Make today different. As we read your Word aloud, let the truth of your love for creation seep into our bones. May we hear your echoes of "beloved" deep within us. Amen.

Children's Message

Rebecca Mattern

Anthem

River In Judea

arr. John Leavitt

New Testament Scripture

Luke 3: 1-3, 15-17, 21-22

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Sermon

How does a weary world rejoice? We trust our belovedness.

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Responding to the Word

(Please see your bulletin insert for Our Call to Baptism and Reaffirmation of Baptism)

Affirmation of Faith

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: With the whole church, let us confess our faith sharing together in the Apostle's Creed.

All: 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.

Minute for Service

Loaves & Fishes

Oliver Graham

Offering

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Invitation

Offertory

Canzona on *Liebster Jesu*

Richard Purvis

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People

John Juarez, Liturgist

One: Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

in 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.

Sent Out As a People of God

*** Hymn #488**

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry, vs. 1-3
[Waterlife]

*** Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Postlude

Go Forth in Faith

Franklin Ritter

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organist

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Education Time: Being a neighbor: Encountering our neighbor with authenticity and openness asks that we examine who we are and what we have been taught by others. We will examine bias - What is it? Who has it? How does it affect how we interact with others? How do we attend to it in our own lives, congregation, community, and world? Why does it matter?

Ushers: Gary & Trudy Sturk, Jeff & Michele Arbour

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Birthday Cake Sunday! Celebrate our January birthdays with a piece of cake in Fellowship Hall after the service. Thank you to Parish Life for supplying the cake and to Edward Ennen and Dave Rumminger for taking care of the coffee.

Next Week January 21, 2024

Scripture: Acts 15: 1-11

Education Hour: Cabin Fever

The Call to Worship is adapted from *Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion Liturgies for Year A. Volume 1*, Westminster John Knox Press. 2013. The Confession, Promise of the Gospel and the Prayer of Illumination are adapted from words by the Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed and graphic design by the Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman. *A Weary World Rejoices - A Sanctified Art LLC* - sanctifiedart.org. The liturgy for today's Reaffirmation of Baptism is adapted from the *Book of Common Worship, PC(USA)*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2018.

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