



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 9, 2022, 10:30 A.M.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Our hope in this season of COVID-19 is that all who worship virtually feel welcome and a sense of God's love through Jesus Christ.

FOR WORSHIP

Today we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. The Epiphany season celebrates the revealing of Christ. Even as we celebrate Christ's baptism this morning, we remember our own. In remembering, we recall three elements of our baptism – our stripping of all that stands between us and God, our washing in the water that cleanses us and drowns our sin, and our being clothed in the garments of righteousness, the new vocation of discipleship.

PRELUDE

Variations on "Puer Nobis"
Of the Father's Love Begotten
Janice Robison, organist

Michael Burkhardt
Wilbur Held

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Robert Martin

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist Carol Perry

L: The voice of the Lord is over the waters,

P: and in the temple God's people say: "Glory!"

L: The heavens opened, the Spirit descended,

P: and a voice sounded: "This is my Beloved One."

L: Do not fear, for God has spoken:

P: "I have called you by name, you are mine."

L: Let us worship God.

*HYMN 361

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

1 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

3 "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

4 "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

5 "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

In the presence of a holy God, we become aware of the ways we fall short of God's best hopes for us, and the ways we have hurt others. We turn to God in prayer, asking for forgiveness.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Liturgist Perry

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from one another. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another. We allow the past to hold us captive. In your loving-kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from all that binds us. Fulfill the promises of our baptism so that we may rise to new life and live together in grace; through Christ we pray. Amen.

We express gratitude that through God's grace and Christ's giving of himself on the cross we are forgiven and restored to God and one another.

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

L: Friends, believe the good news.

P. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***Gloria Patri - 579**

*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 and Amen.*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Richard Nease

ANTHEM

Shepherd Me, O God

Marty Haugen

Refrain: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want; I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love;

I walk by the quiet waters of peace. (refrain)

Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul; you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth;

My spirit shall sing the music of your name. (refrain)

Though I should wander the valley of death, I fear no evil, for you are at my side;

Your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. (refrain)

You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred, crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold.

(refrain)

*Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forevermore. (refrain)*

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Liturgist Perry

Gracious God, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: as we hear your word this morning, may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 43:1-7 (page 672 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Perry

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (page 60 in pew Bible)

Rev. Martin

L. This is the Word of the Lord!

P: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Baptism of the Lord

Rev. Robert Martin

*BAPTISMAL LITANY

L: Remember your baptism and be glad!

P: The waters of God's mercy have flowed, and we have been cleansed and refreshed.

L: 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.

P: We drink of the water of God's creation and praise God's name for life.

L: Remember the waters of the Red Sea and God's salvation.

P: With the people of old, we have been freed from our oppression and brought to a new land.

L: Remember Jesus at the River Jordan;

P: the One who was without sin took upon himself our sin.

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

P: Thanks be to God for unmerited grace!

L: Remember your baptism and be glad!

P: We remember, and our lives are filled with joy!

On behalf of the congregation, the Pastor expresses the corporate prayers of the congregation. These prayers are for world, local and personal concerns.

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.

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Martin

THE OFFERING / OFFERTORY *Christ Our Lord to Jordan Came*

Janice Robison, organist

Marcel Dupre

***DOXOLOGY** *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison) Liturgist Perry
**We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you pour out your Spirit in mercy and love.
Transform our gifts to your service and convert our hearts, that we may live as your
beloved people; in the name of Jesus Christ, the Beloved. Amen**

***HYMN 70** *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized* CATHINESS

1Christ, when for us you were baptized
God's Spirit on you came,
As peaceful as a dove, and yet
As urgent as a flame.

2God called you My beloved Son,
The suffering Servant true;
Sent You the kingdom to proclaim,
God's holy will to do.

3Straightway and steadfast until death
You then obeyed his call,
Freely as Son of Man to serve,
And give your life for all.

4Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord,
Your cross on us be signed,
That likewise in God's service we
May perfect freedom find.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

All Glory Be to God on High
Janice Robison, organist

Georg Boehm

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**Deacon of the Month - Nancy Hartley - a friend to phone in time of need**

740-677-3104 or angelcollector56@gmail.com

Ushers: Helen King and Wendy Toadvine

Chancel Prep: Joyce Beauvais  
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Presbyterian Women

The PW will meet, weather permitting, on Wednesday, January 19th, at the Wyngate Club House. Helen King will lead discussion of Lesson Two of the new study "Follow Jesus." Study books are available in the church office at \$7.00 each. PW will not meet if schools are closed or delayed. Phone 740-592-3853 for more information.

Women's Book Study

Fridays at Noon in Fellowship Hall or by Zoom—For more information contact Richard or Joan Nease at christianed@athensfpc.org

Bell Choir

The Bell Choir will resume rehearsals on January 12th from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Anyone interested in joining, regardless of skill-level or experience, can contact Tyler Thress by phoning (740) 243-0705 or email at tylerthress@yahoo.com.

On-Line Game Night - Saturday, January 29, 2022 - 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. - Everyone is welcome to join in the fun! Children under age 7 can also play if they have an adult to help them. Interested? Just send Barb Martin (barbaramartin729@msn.com) your email address so she can invite you to the Zoom meeting. Be prepared with paper and a marker, and perhaps a box.

Annual Reports

Annual Reports are due in the office on Friday, January 14th.

*Weekly Worship Service
can be seen live on
Sunday Morning*

*FPC's worship services can
be found on YouTube
channel here:
[https://www.youtube.com/
user/athensfpc/search?
query=sermon](https://www.youtube.com/user/athensfpc/search?query=sermon).*

*You can access them
directly on the FPC
YouTube channel and
on the church web site
under Worship Archive.*

The three-year Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and festivals was produced by the ecumenical Consultation on Common Texts in 1992. This lectionary provides scripture readings for proclamation in public worship, following the Sundays, festivals and seasons of the Christian year. Four Scripture passages are given for each Sunday and festival: (a) the First Reading, usually from the Old Testament, but replaced by a reading from Acts during the season of Easter; (b) a Psalm or canticle, intended not as a separate reading, but as a response (ideally, a musical response) to the First Reading; (c) the Second Reading, an Epistle or other New Testament writing; and (d) the Gospel Reading, from Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. The three-year lectionary cycle (Years A, B and C) focuses on different sections of Scripture each year, notably the Gospel of Matthew in Year A, Mark in Year B, and Luke in Year C (the fourth gospel, John, is prominently featured at certain times in each year).

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Sunday, January 9, 2022, the Baptism of the Lord (Year C)

First Reading	Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm	Psalm 29
Second Reading	Acts 8:14-17
Gospel	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Psalm 29

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.
- 3 The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.
- 8 The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 9 The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!"
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king for ever.
- 11 May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Second Reading Acts 8:14-17

14Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit 16(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). 17Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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Minister: Rev. Robert E. Martin  
CE Coordinators: Richard and Joan Nease  
Handbell Director: Tyler Thress

Clerk of Session: Andrew Stuart  
Administrative Assistant: Jane Baker  
Choir Director: David Tadlock

Organist: Janice Robison

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