



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 7, 2024, 10:30 A.M.

Baptism of Jesus

We are glad to have you
join us for worship.
If you are new to First,
it is our prayer that you
will experience the
presence of God while you
are here. At First, it is
our hope that all who enter
find a home.

FOR WORSHIP

In Mark's Gospel, John the Baptist proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins and declares the coming of Jesus, who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. In an act of humble obedience, Jesus, the sinless One, is baptized by John. As Jesus rises up from the water, the heavens are opened, and the Spirit descends on Jesus, with his Father declaring "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." This public declaration of his belovedness and identity as the Son of God confirms the glory and worship given years earlier to the baby Jesus by the Magi, an event the church celebrates as the Epiphany.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

The Star Proclaims The King Is Here

Flor Peeters

We Three Kings

Paul Manz

The First Noel

Richard Ellsasser

Janice Robison, organist

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Robert Martin

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist Keith Wiens

L: Mountains and rivers, islands and oceans –

P: give God glory!

L: Foolish and wise, rulers and nations –

P: give God glory!

L: All who live, all who breathe –

P: give God glory!

L: Let us worship God.

*HYMN 68

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

What star is this, with beams so bright,
more lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn king,
glad tidings of our God to bring.

2 'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,
"From Jacob shall a star proceed";
and lo! the eastern sages stand
to read in heaven the Lord's command.

3 While outward signs the star displays,
an inward light the Lord conveys
and urges them, with tender might,
to seek the giver of the light.

4 O Jesus, while the star of grace
impels us on to seek your face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse
the guidance of your light to use.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Liturgist Wiens

Gracious God, we are precious in your sight, yet we often forget that we are your beloved. We confess our love can be fickle and inconsistent. We tend to follow selfish goals and forget we are all part of your family, your beloved creation. We are sorry and we want to change. Create in us a clean heart, strengthen our resolve, reconcile us to one another, and bless us with your peace. Amen.

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.

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

Passing of the Peace is one of the most ancient responses in worship. We invite you to share a sign of peace with your neighbor.

The sermon is a reflection on the day's scriptures, suggesting implications for our faith and life.

All bread for Communion is gluten-free.

***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.*

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

L: The peace of Christ be with you.
P: And also with you!

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Helen King

ANTHEM

Star of Wonder

Alan Bullard

*We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts, we traverse afar;
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
Star of Wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
Born a king on Bethlehem plain; gold I bring, to crown Him again.
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. (refrain)
Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising all men raising, worship Him, God most high. (refrain)
Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom.
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (refrain)
Glorious now, behold Him arise: King and God, and sacrifice!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Heaven sings and earth replies. (refrain)*

(lyrics by John Henry Hopkins)

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Liturgist Wiens

**Eternal God, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Beloved Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit: send your Spirit now to illuminate your holy word;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE Psalm 29:1-11 (pages 504, 505 in pew Bible)
Mark 1:4-11 (pages 34, 35 in pew Bible)

Liturgist Wiens
Rev. Martin

L. This is the Word of the Lord!
P: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Deep Waters

Rev. Robert Martin

***HYMN 70**

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

CATHINESS CM

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

**2 God called you, "My beloved Son";
you are God's servant true,
sent to proclaim the reign of heaven,
God's holy will to do,
God's holy will to do.**

**3 Straightway and steadfast until death
you then obeyed the call
to serve with free and willing heart,
to give your life for all,
to give your life for all.**

**4 Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord;
your cross on us be signed,
that likewise in God's service we
may perfect freedom find,
may perfect freedom find.**

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Martin

THE OFFERING / OFFERTORY *What Is This Lovely Fragrance* Janice Robison, organist

Paul Manz

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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: *The Lord be with you.*

P: **And also with you.**

L: *Lift up your hearts.*

P: **We lift them to the Lord.**

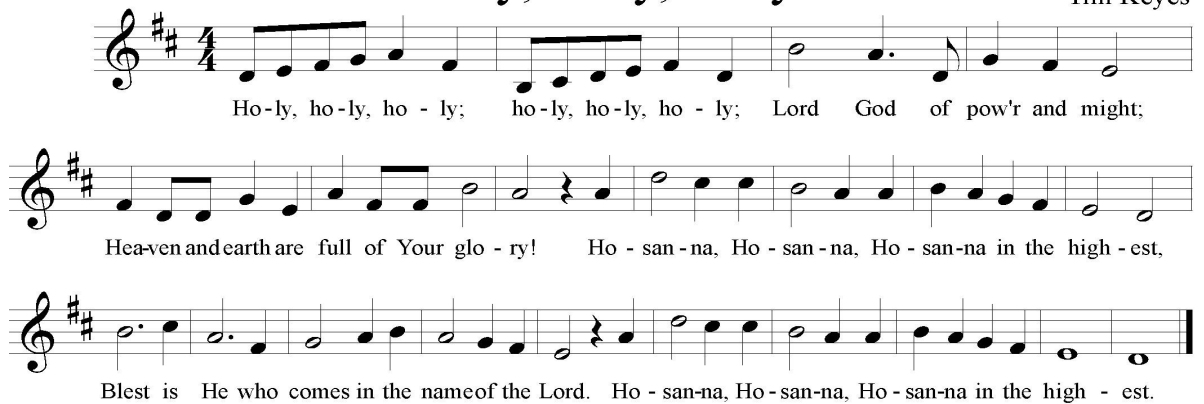
L: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

P: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PRAYER **L:** *It is truly right and our greatest joy.....who forever sing to the glory of your name:*

Holy, Holy, Holy

Tim Keyes



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly; ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly; Lord God of pow'r and might;
Hea-ven and earth are full of Your glo - ry! Ho - san-na, Ho - san-na, Ho - san-na in the high - est,
Blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na, Ho - san-na, Ho - san-na in the high - est.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Words of Institution

***HYMN 409** *Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice*

ABERYSTWYTH

1 Wild and lone the prophet's voice
echoes through the desert still,
calling us to make a choice,
bidding us to do God's will:
"Turn from sin and be baptized;
cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Quitting all the sins you prized,
yield your life to God's control.

2 "Bear the fruit repentance sows:
lives of justice, truth and love.

**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>

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

Per Capita for 2024

"At the November Presbytery meeting, the Presbytery of Scioto Valley approved the 2024 Presbytery budget. The budget was approved with NO increase to per capita which will remain at \$40 per member for the coming year". Your financial support makes a difference. It is a vital part of the connectional church.

Trust no other claim than those;
set your heart on things above.
Soon the Lord will come in power,
burning clean the threshing floor:
then will flames the chaff devour;
wheat alone shall fill God's store."

3 With such preaching, stark and bold,
John proclaimed salvation near,
and his timeless warnings hold
words of hope to all who hear.
So we dare to journey on,
led by faith through ways untrod,
till we come at last like John
to behold the Lamb of God.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

From Heaven Above
Janice Robison, organist

Walter L. Pelz

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**Deacon of the Month of January – Nancy Hartley**  
740-677-3104 - angelcollector56@gmail.com - A friend to phone with joys or concerns  
Ushers: Becky Pankratz and Wendy Toadvine Fellowship: Becky Pankratz  
Communion Prep: Helen King and Mindy King  
Communion Servers: Harvey Ballard, Mary Costello, Nancy Hartley, John King and Adrienne Nagy  
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Women's Book Study - Join the Women's Book Study on Fridays, noon via Zoom starting on January 19th to begin discussion on *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor. For more info, please contact Joan Nease at christianed@athensfpc.org

Game Night - Friday, January 26th - Come and play board games with friends in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m. Some games will be provided; players may bring games to share. In case we need to cancel due to weather or pandemic conditions, please contact Richard or Joan At christianed@athensfpc.org if interested in participating.

Mission Outreach Committee Diaper Project - This Diaper Project will benefit some of the Mission Partners here in Athens: Athens County Food Pantry and Cat's Cupboard. There is a box in the Narthex for donations of diapers. Monetary donations can be made by placing in the brown envelopes and marking "diapers".

Court Street Clothesline Donations for Winter Needs - The Christian Education Committee is inviting everyone to donate new winter gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, and socks for our church's Winter Clothesline. A collection box will be placed by the Christmas tree in the fellowship hall. The warm clothes will be hung from a clothesline along the railing on the Court Street side of the church for people in need during cold weather.

Minister: Rev. Robert E. Martin Clerk of Session: Andrew Stuart
CE Coordinators: Richard and Joan Nease Administrative Assistant/Financial Secretary: Jane Baker
Organist: Janice Robison Bell Choir Director: Anna Crum Choir Director: David Tadlock

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Youtube - <https://www.youtube.com/c/FirstPresbyterianChurchAthensOH/>