

First Presbyterian Church



Baptism of the Lord Sunday
January 7, 2024



700 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214

814-226-8145

churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org

www.clarionfirstpresby.org

We come together to worship, grow, and serve as disciples of Christ.

We Gather in God's Name

(Tune your car radio to 88.7 FM)

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Pam Reid

We silently shift our focus to God and prepare to worship.

Prelude

Prelude on an Old Shaker Tune Joseph Brackett, arr. Eugene Butler

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing Robert Robinson,
Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second

Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

Call to Worship

God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

God's speech is God's action.

When God creates, the creation is good.

God our maker has done it again.

God has brought us to a new dawn.

Let us worship God!

✠ When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

✠ Hymn No. 2

Come, Thou Almighty King

Text: *Collection of Hymns for Social Worship*, 1757, alt.
Music: de Gardini, 1769, alt.

✠ Call to Confession

Nothing can be hidden from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth, whose wisdom is endless, whose mercy is great. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

✠ Prayer of Confession

God whose spirit moved over the waters, you have washed us in your mercy, claimed us as your own, bound us in community, and called us to lives of baptismal grace. Forgive us, O God, for we have not lived as if we were your baptized people. We stumble over opportunities for forgiveness. We prioritize our own selfish interests. We are slow to disrupt the status quo, even when it means ignoring our neighbors' suffering. Forgive us, O God, and by your forgiveness, lead us back to your waters of transformation. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

✠ Declaration of Forgiveness

Those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength. They will rise up to fly like eagles, they will run and not be weary, they will walk and not grow faint.

Friends, believe the Good News:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

GLORIA PATRI

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

✠ Gloria Patri

We Share God's Word

Time with the Children

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Prayer of Illumination

Pam Reid

First Scripture Mark 1:4-11 (p. 34)

Second Scripture Psalm 29 (p. 504)

The words of scripture, inspired by God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon "God's Power and Love" Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Organ Interlude

♣ **Hymn No. 10** *Sing Glory to the Name of God* Text: Gambrell, 2009
Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1623, alt.

We Give Thanks to God

♣ **Affirmation of Faith** Adapted from the Confession of 1967

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory *The Voice of the Lord is Over the Waters* Nathan George
(Guitar Accompaniment: Dan Willy)

♣ **Doxology**

♣ **Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

♣ **Hymn No. 634** *To God Be the Glory* Text: Crosby, 1875
Music: Doane, 1875

Remembering Our Baptisms

♣ **Charge and Benediction**

Postlude *Spirit of God* Atkinson

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.

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.

POSTLUDE

Please remember at the close of the service, the Postlude is a time to silently reflect on God and the mission to which we are called. We ask that you please remain silent and seated until the music has ended.

WELCOME VISITORS

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church. We are glad to provide hybrid and virtual worship services for this Sunday. Services are currently livestreamed on our Facebook page (First Presbyterian Church of Clarion) in real time, then archived to our website and Facebook page.

At First Presbyterian Church our mission is to worship, grow, and serve as followers of Jesus. From our youngest to our oldest, we seek to worship God in our actions, grow in God's love, and serve God's people in our community and around the world. We hope that you will come join us so we may personally extend a warm welcome. If you have any questions or particular prayer needs, please feel free to contact the church office at 226-8145 between 9 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

For more information visit our website at www.clarionfirstpresby.org.

Find us on Facebook! (First Presbyterian Church of Clarion)

Radio Broadcast-WWCH 94.1 FM every third Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

Video recordings of past sermons may be viewed by clicking the "Worship" link on our home page at www.clarionfirstpresby.org or a phone app is available at sermon.net (look for First Presbyterian Church—Clarion.) You can also choose to listen to an audio version. Simply pick the option that works best for you. Videos of Sunday worship are also posted on our Facebook page (see above).

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CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Mihm
Organist: Jean Mitrosky
Director of Music: Bonnie Champion
Treasurer: Brenda Nesbitt
Secretary: Debra Owens
Sexton: Mike Hetrick
Sound Engineer: Josh Deitz
Video Engineer: Dan Willy

Ruling Elders:

<u>Class of 2024:</u>	<u>Class of 2025:</u>	<u>Class of 2026:</u>
Kathy Larimer	Jeff Deitz	Norma Kooman
Elaine Matticks	Jeff Kapp	Dave Larimer
Pam Reid	Kurt Nesbitt	Cindy Stants

Deacons:

<u>Class of 2024:</u>	<u>Class of 2025:</u>	<u>Class of 2026:</u>
Bonnie Champion	Kim Lewis	Robin Cable
Marianne Reynolds	Lee Seitz	Tamalyn Goble
Mary Swanger	Lori Smith	Joey Kunselman

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: Rev. Rebecca Mihm
Lector: Pam Reid
Time with Children: Rev. Rebecca Mihm
Director of Music: Bonnie Champion
Organist: Jean Mitrosky
Sound Engineer: Josh Deitz/Jeff Kapp
Video Engineer: Dan Willy/Kurt Nesbitt
Acolytes: Gavin Kunselman, Clara Stants, Jeremy Willy
Ushers in Charge: Kim Lewis, Lori Smith

The Sanctuary flowers today are given to the glory of God, and in honor of Doug Bills, by Pauline Henry.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship
 11:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Confirmation Class
 11:00 a.m. Choir Practice

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

12/31/2023

Weekly Contributions 12/24/23 Evening

Envelope Contributions	\$950.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$266.75
Total Contributions	\$1,216.75

Weekly Contributions 12/31/23

Envelope Contributions	\$1,740.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	\$121.00
Per Capita	\$36.25
Total Contributions	\$1,897.25

Weekly Donations 12/31/23

Christmas Joy	\$50.00
Food Bag	\$130.00
Parking Permits	\$150.00
Men's Fellowship	\$20.00
	\$350.00

Total	\$2,247.25
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NOTES:

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Monday, January 8

6:00 p.m. Mission Team, Ministry Central
7:00 p.m. Worship Team, Chapel

Tuesday, January 9

6:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous, Step Down Room

Wednesday, January 10

7:00 p.m. Evening Circle, Church Parlor
8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Step Down Room

Thursday, January 11

12:00 p.m. Afternoon Circle, Chapel
2:00 p.m. Food Bag Distribution, CE Lobby
5:00 p.m. Echoes of Joy Practice
6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Practice

Next Sunday, January 14

10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Confirmation Class
11:00 a.m. Choir Practice

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 2024 Per Capita Apportionment for the Clarion First Presbyterian Church is \$37.40 per individual active member. This funds our work as a connectional church at the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly levels. An envelope has been included in the 2024 envelope packets for the annual cost for each church member. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and write Per Capita in the memo line.

The Annual Report reminder has been emailed to those responsible for completing their section of the report. All reports are due by January 12. The annual report has to be compiled, proofed, and printed for presentation at the 1/28/24 Congregational Meeting. Call Deb at the Church Office if you have any questions.

Do I Smell Chili? The Community Committee is holding a **Chili Cook Off on January 21**, in the Social Hall immediately after Worship. Bring your special, family, super-secret recipe Chili! We will all vote on the "Tastiest Chili." Pastor Rebecca will speak about her trip to Israel. A donation jar will be available for those who wish to donate.

Mission's Coat Project continues. The coat rack is on the walkway between the Ramp Room and the CE Building. Coats hung on the rack are for anyone who needs a coat. If you need a coat, please take one. If you have a coat or two

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

that are new or still in great shape, hang them on the rack so someone else may be blessed with their warmth this winter. New or gently-used boots are also needed. The Coat Project will run from now until spring.

Looking Ahead:

Souper Bowl of Caring—Sunday, February 11th. Please bring your most delicious soup and/or bread to share. Donations will go to our Food Bag Ministry. We will be in the Social Hall immediately after Worship. We hope to see you there!

MEMBER CARE

Please pray for:

- *Members with known health concerns:* Ruth Ann Minich, Randy Cable, Margy Port, Don McCord, Rick Goble, and those who are homebound.
- *Our family and friends in need of prayer:* Shirley & John McKinley's relatives: Mary Biser, Charlotte Hartman, Kenneth Daugherty Jr., Ben McKinley, and David Mahle; Kristen Maze's neighbor, Laurie Dickey; Beverly Wentling's daughter, Rebecca Irwin; Bert Louder's grandson, Anthony Louder; Jim & Pat McConnell's friend, Pat Hargest and Jim & Pat's son Michael; Marianne Reynolds' mother, Alice Davis; Jeff Deitz's friend, Alexandra Sharrar; Peggy, Dee Wenner's sister-in-law; Dr. Shannon Penland; Mary Kay Arth, Carolyn McFarland's friend; Kay Fye, Tamalyn Goble's mother; Paul Stahlman, Bill Champion's friend; Tracey & Jody Hall, Stu & Stacy Hoffman's daughter and granddaughter; the family and friends of Janelle Moore; Dawn Reed and family; Mason Martin and his family; Angelo Gehenio; and Jeri Reddinger.
- *Everyone serving in the US Military.*
- *Our faith partners: Gitwe Congregation in Rwanda.*

Homebound Member of the Week: Please remember Don McCord, 9 Maronee Street, Clarion, PA 16214-1657.

JANUARY 7, 2024 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

taking faith home

God reaches out to us through Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 1:4-11	The baptism of Jesus
Monday	Genesis 1:1-5	God creates light
Tuesday	Acts 19:1-7	Paul baptizes in Ephesus
Wednesday	Matthew 28:16-20	The commissioning of the disciples
Thursday	Psalms 145:14-21	The Lord is kind and merciful
Friday	1 John 3:11-24	Love one another
Saturday	Psalms 29	The voice of God in the storm
Sunday	John 1:43-51	Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And just as he [Jesus] was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

Mark 1:10 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of heaven and earth, we thank you for reaching out to us through Jesus' baptism so that your Spirit may rest on all of us with forgiveness and grace. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you care for all that you create. We thank you for your power and glory that provides us food from the earth so that we may live in peace. Amen. (Psalm 29)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Holy Spirit bless you as God's beloved child.

JANUARY 7, 2024 HYMN OF THE WEEK *I'm Going on a Journey*

taking faith home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Talk or reflect on a baptism that you witnessed.
- Do you believe that baptism is a life-changing event? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 1:4-11.

Jesus' baptism takes place in the context of a very important scene. John the baptizer is preaching repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Huge crowds are drawn out to the wilderness to listen to John, where he baptizes and cleanses them from their broken lives. It is a time of truth telling that touches many lives. This happens in the wilderness, not in the center of political, economic, or religious powers like Jerusalem. It's a place on the edge, a place of vulnerability where surviving is not easy. Jesus' baptism happens in a life and death setting filled with hope for the future. After his baptism, Jesus sees the heavens torn apart and a divine voice announces Jesus as God's Son and the Beloved (v. 11). In Jesus, God is coming down from heaven to be with us through the Spirit that descended to be with Jesus, and through Jesus, to be with us. Jesus' baptism is the first story in the Gospel, and, therefore, has particular importance. It reveals God coming into our world through Jesus, the Son of God, bringing forgiveness and the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Discuss: How has God "come down" into your life?

Pray: **Loving God, you who reach out to us through Jesus and his baptism in the wilderness, give us confidence to trust that you have come for us with forgiveness and grace. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and the theme for this week, how can you help someone who feels alone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Christian baptism ushers in a new life in Christ that involves daily repentance and forgiveness. To emphasize the daily renewal we experience in baptism, begin the day by making the sign of the cross on your forehead or over your heart and say: **"In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I am a beloved child of God."**