

January 8, 2023

Baptism of the Lord

PRELUDES

*Stars of the Morning
By Waters Still*

Dennis Eliot
John M. Rasley

WELCOME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #388

Come All You People Uyai Mose

**Come all you people, come and praise your Maker; come all you people,
come and praise your Maker; come all you people, come and praise your
Maker; come now and worship the Lord.**

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 29)

One: The voice of the Lord is over the waters;

All: The God of glory thunders, the Lord over mighty waters.

One: The voice of the Lord is powerful;

All: The voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

One: May the Lord give strength to his people!

All: May the Lord bless his people with peace!

*OPENING SONG #156 *Sing of God Made Manifest* Salzburg
(verse 1)

**Sing of God made manifest in a child robust and blest, to whose home in
Bethlehem where a star had guided them, magi came and gifts unbound,
signs mysterious and profound: myrrh and frankincense and gold grave
and God and king foretold.**

(verse 2)

**Sing of God made manifest when at Jordan John confessed, "I should be
baptized by you, but your bidding I will do." Then from heaven a double
sign—dove-like Spirit, voice divine—hailed the true Anointed One: "This
is my beloved Son."**

(verse 3)

**Sing of God made manifest when Christ came as wedding guest and at
Cana gave a sign, turning water into wine; further still was love revealed
as he taught, forgave, and healed, bringing light and life to all who
would listen to God's call.**

(verse 4)

**Sing of God made manifest on the cloud-clapped mountain's crest, where
the law and prophets waned so that Christ alone remained: glimpse of
glory, pledge of grace, given as Jesus set his face towards the waiting
cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.**

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*Please stand as you are able.

CALL TO CONFESSION (from Isaiah 43)

One: "Do not fear, says the Lord, I am with you. I have called you by name; you are mine." Confident in God's promises, let us confess our sins to God and one another:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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 hold grudges, cling to destructive habits, 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 sin. Fulfill the promises of our baptism so that we may rise to new life and live together in grace.

(Moment of Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: As a voice from heaven said to Jesus, so, in Christ, God speaks to us, "You are my child, my beloved; with you I am well pleased." In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #482 Baptized in Water**
(verse 3)

Bunessan

***Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ
our King; born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now God's
praises we sing.***

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***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (from Isaiah 9)**

One: A child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

WORD

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Saving God, your Word is full of power and glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that we may receive your grace and live in peace as your beloved children. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Malachi 3:1-3*

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he

*Please stand as you are able.

appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.

CHORAL ANTHEM*Christmas Canon*

O'Neill & Beck

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING*Matthew 3:1-17*

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” ⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

MESSAGE*“Jesus Baptized by John”*

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**THE LORD'S PRAYER****WITNESS****CALL TO OFFERING**

We take this time to reflect and recognize all contributions of time, talent, and treasure. A basket is available in the narthex for making monetary donations.

OFFERTORY *How Lovely Shines the Morning Star* Michael Praetorius

***SONG OF RESPONSE #647**

Give Thanks

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"

Give thanks.

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***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***SENDING SONG #488**

I Was There to Hear Your Burning Cry
(verse 1)

Waterlife

"I was there to hear your burning cry; I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold. I was there when you were but a child with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell."

(verse 2)

"When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on. You were raised to praise the living Lord to whom you now belong. If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun."

(verse 3)

"In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun. When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes, I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise."

(verse 4)

"I was there to hear your burning cry; I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold."

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *The First Noel* Traditional

POSTLUDE *The Festive Trumpet* Brian Glyncannon

*Please stand as you are able.

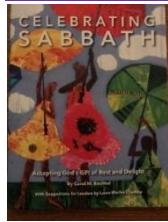
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The store will be open on:
Friday, February 10, 2023 (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)
Saturday, February 11, 2023 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Sarah Circle



Sarah Circle is a group of Valley Presbyterian ladies who meet the second Tuesday of each month. Guided by God, we have discussions and share insights. We learn about the teachings in the Bible and about ourselves.

The Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 10, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., in the Church Library. The study will be on Sabbath and Servitude, Lesson five, in “*Celebrating Sabbath*”. All Valley women are welcome to join us for fellowship and discussion.

Annual Meeting – January 29, 2023



Session has appointed January 29, 2023, as the date for our Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation. This meeting – open to all members and friends of Valley – will begin immediately following the worship service.

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

Please consider donating the following items in January to help stock the shelves at the Chagrin Falls Park Community Center:



Eggs, butter, milk, oil, pancake mix, laundry detergent, bleach, fresh meat: sausage, kielbasa, chicken.

CFPCC is receiving donations at your car. Someone will come out and retrieve donations.

Health and Safety Protocols

With the return to in-person worship services, we ask you to follow these guidelines:

- Windows may be open or fans turned on to provide appropriate air circulation.
- When inside the church building, face coverings are optional based on personal comfort level.
 - Socially distance as able in the pews and sanctuary.
 - If you are not feeling well today, please stay home.
- At this time, we will not be the offering plate or holding hands for the benediction at the close of the service.
- After the worship service has concluded, we ask that you move outside for any extended conversations.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Any changes to these protocols will be shared in advance of Sunday gatherings.

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.valleypresbychurch.org

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Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan
Liturgist: Ruth Gurd

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeters: The Timmons Family