

JANUARY 10, 2021
BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY

PRELUDE — *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

Refrain:

*All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!*

*Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One.*

Refrain

*The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayers and anthems before thee we present.*

Refrain

*To thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.*

Refrain

*Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King!*

Refrain

CALL to WORSHIP

Molly Ramsey

One: In the beginning, God created the world, and God blessed it:

All: **"It is good."**

One: In the beginning, God created light, and God blessed it:

All: **"It is good."**

One: In the beginning, God created life, and God blessed it:

All: **"It is good."**

One: Since the beginning, God has not stopped creating,

All: **Calling us closer to all that is good. Let us worship God together.**

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

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. But we have not lived as your baptized people. We are not worthy to kneel at your feet. We are not ready to welcome your way. We stumble over opportunities for forgiveness and prioritize our own selfish interests. Forgive us, gracious God. In Christ, stoop down to save us, and by your forgiveness, lead us back to your waters of transformation.

(Time for silent prayer and confession.)

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: Beloved of God, hear the good news of the Gospel. As a voice from heaven said to Jesus, so God says to each of us: You are my beloved child, and with you I am well pleased. Together let us proclaim this good news:

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!**

RESPONSE to GOD'S GRACE — *Glory to the Father*

GLORIA PATRI

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen. Amen. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READING — *Psalm 29*

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendour.
The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.
The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.
The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.
The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say,
‘Glory!’
The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.
May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATION

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

AFFIRMATION of FAITH — from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

MUSICAL MEDITATION — *Sing Glory to the Name of God*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Sing glory to the name of God, whose holy splendor shines a broad.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Enthroned above the crashing waves, the God of grace and glory saves.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The name of God is full of might: resounding thunder, flashing light.

Alleluia, alleluia!

The wilderness cannot contain the echoes of the great refrain:

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*The name of God is wild and free, a whirl in holy mystery.
Alleluia, alleluia!
A secret wrapped in smoke and fire, still chanted by the temple choir:
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
May God forever be our peace; may hymns of glory never cease:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Let all the faithful people come: sing praise to God, the Three-In-One:
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

POSTLUDE — I Bind unto Myself Today

ST. PATRICK; DEIRDRE

*I bind unto myself today the strong name of the Trinity
by invocation of the same, the Three in One and One in Three.
I bind this day to me forever, by power of faith, Christ's incarnation,
his baptism in the Jordan river, his death on cross for my salvation,
his bursting from the spiced tomb, his riding up the heavenly way,
his coming at the day of doom, I bind unto myself today.
I bind unto myself today the virtues of the star heaven,
the glorious sun's life-giving ray, the whiteness of the moon at even,
the flashing of the lightning free, the whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,
the stable earth, the deep salt sea around the old eternal rocks.
I bind unto myself today the power of God to hold and lead,
God's eye to watch, God's might to stay God's ear to hearken to my need,
the wisdom of my God to teach, God's hand to guide, God's shield to ward,
the word of God to give me speech, God's heavenly host to be my guard.
Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ is quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.
I bind unto myself the name, the strong name of the Trinity
By invocation of the same, the Three in One and One in Three
Of whom all nature has creation, eternal Father, Spirit, Word.
Praise to the Lord of my salvation; salvation is of Christ the Lord!*

QUESTIONS for REFLECTION at HOME

- What storms of life are you experiencing right now?
- Where do you hear God's voice speaking into them?

OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Tim Carpenter – Director of Music
Justin Hartz - Organist
Video Ministry Volunteers

Photos provided by: Damon Miller
Additional photos may be found on unsplash.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please note all announcements for Sunday bulletins are due by noon the Tuesday before they are to be published. Please email announcements to Bulletin@MPCusa.net.*

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: JOIN BROWN BAG & BIBLE STUDY

Have you been considering joining Bible Study but haven't wanted to jump in midstream? Now is the perfect time to plan to join us in January!

Join us as we take the plunge into 1 Kings together! We hope you'll consider joining us for this new adventure in the new year.

EVERYONE is welcome—this includes people who read the Bible and commentaries regularly, as well as people who don't even know what a commentary is—we are learning and growing together and we have a lot of fun doing it! Make this part of your New Year's resolution and carve out a part of your week to study God's word among friends. Following our Bible Study, folks are also welcome to stay for our weekly prayer meeting that meets for about 15-20 minutes on Zoom.

If you would like to attend Brown Bag & Bible Study (or are at least interested enough to check it out for a couple of weeks), please contact Pastor Rachel at rachelrhodes@mpcusa.net. We'd love to have you!

NEW MEMBER CLASS - JANUARY 10, 17 & 24, 2021

If you are not a member at MPC, we would love for you to consider joining us in ministry and mission. This three-week class, led by Pastor Rachel Rhodes and Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla, will be an opportunity to explore church membership, whether you're ready to join or just curious about what that would mean. We will explore topics like, "What do we believe as Presbyterians?"; "How are we called to be the church in the world?"; "What does ministry and mission look like at MPC?"; "Who is it that God is calling me to be and how can I seek to pursue God's call more fully through membership at MPC?" This class will gather over Zoom at 9:00 a.m. for three consecutive Sundays and you'll be welcomed into membership during worship on Sunday, January 31, 2021. If you are interested in participating, please contact the church office by calling 215-295-4191 or emailing office@mpcusa.net. You may also speak directly with Pastor Rachel by emailing her at rachelrhodes@mpcusa.net.

UPCOMING ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Attention Adult Learners and Priesthood of All Believers! MPC Adult Sunday School is alive, well, and continuing into the new year. Through January 31, Molly Ramsey is teaching a four-week course on social location and the Bible, then we will invite MPC mission partners to share the ways God's work is being done in our backyards. On February 7, a representative from Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County will share their work in Morrisville and more, as well as on February 14 a representative from Center for Child and Family Achievement will provide insight on education work in Trenton. Please join us every Sunday morning over Zoom from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (notice the time change). If you are interested, please contact Pastor Alex at alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.net so he can add you to the email chain with the Zoom link for each session.

2021 CURRENTS — DEADLINE AND OTHER CHANGES

The deadline for the upcoming edition of *Currents* is Friday, January 15. The frequency of the publication will be changing to a quarterly format. Any submissions of upcoming news for February-April, including Lent and Easter, should be forwarded to Damon Miller at damonmiller@mpcusa.net by the deadline. Please contact Damon if you have any questions regarding the new format.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

The Food Center would like to thank the MPC congregation for their amazing participation in the Advent Mission Project. The donated bags were chock full of good food, and some had a few extra goodies...some bags had no food, but were filled with financial donations to support the mission of the Food Center. No matter how you participated, thank you for sharing God's love with our neighbors during the season of Advent.