

**PROVIDENCE FORGE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord Sunday
January 10, 2021**

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 148)

Leader: The voice of the Lord is powerful and full of majesty.

People: May the Lord bless us with God's peace!

Leader: The voice of the Lord proclaimed Jesus as God's beloved.

People: In our own baptisms, we are claimed as God's beloved.

All: Thanks be to God.

SONG OF PRAISE #469 Morning Has Broken

1 Morning has broken like the first morning,

Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.

Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!

Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from Heaven,

Like the first dew fall on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,

Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning,

Born of the one light Eden saw play.

Praise with elation, praise every morning,

God's re-creation of the new day!

Text: From *Enlarged Songs of Praise*, 1931. Used by permission of David Higham Assoc. Ltd. All rights reserved.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we are estranged from you and from one another. We treat others as strangers rather than as people created in your image and fellow children of God. We exploit the earth as though it were our possession rather than a gift entrusted to our care and a reflection of your image and glory. Forgive us our sins and transform us by your Spirit that we might live as people who have been baptized as your own children. Amen.

Silence is kept.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel and of Jesus' solidarity with all who have been immersed in baptismal waters, repenting of their sin. God has forgiven us of our sins and set us on new paths. Let us remember our baptisms and trust in God's mercy to restore our right standing as God's own. Thanks be to God! Amen.

FOR CHILDREN Mark 1:11 (Easy to Read Version)

A voice came from heaven and said, "You are my Son, the one I love. I am very pleased with you."

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:4-11 NRSV

4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. **6** Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7** He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. **8** I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." **9** In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. **11** And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

ANTHEM

SERMON

Rev. Nancy Coleman

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving God, just as you claimed Jesus as your beloved, so also have we been claimed as your own children. We remember before you all the children and adults who have been baptized in this congregation and their parents and sponsors. Help us remember the promises we have made to each of them — to nurture them in their lives of faith. And help us to remember our own baptisms daily. Holy one, our baptisms remind us that the font is the true center of our universe, and is the place where we were called to live as your beloved people in covenant relation with you, with one another, and with your good creation. Help us remember that declaration and promise. Empower us to reflect your love in all that we do, healing divisions, addressing enmity, and reaching out to those we perceive as enemies. God of all nations, we pray for elected officials in our own country and in all countries around the globe — for those who have been entrusted to exercise leadership on behalf of the common good. Help them to discern wise use of resources to address the needs of citizens suffering from the pandemic and its grave economic strains. And move us all to attend to the cries of the marginal in our midst. We pray for those who are sick and who are suffering loss, that they may know the comfort of your presence with them. All these things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

Opportunities are Easytithes <https://app.easytithes.com/App/Giving/pfpc>
C&F Bank for PFPC and mail to P.O. Box 239
**5¢ a Meal can be offered both using Easy Tithes or a separate check sent to the church.*

SONG OF RESPONSE #426 Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak

**1 Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of Thy tone;
As Thou hast sought, so let me seek thine erring children lost and lone.**

**2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wandering and the wavering feet;
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed Thy hungering ones with manna sweet.**

**3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious things Thou dost impart;
And wing my words, that they may reach The hidden depths of many a heart.**

**4 O fill me with Thy fullness, Lord, Until my very heart o'erflow
In kindling thought and glowing word, Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.**

**5 O use me, Lord, use even me, Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where;
Until Thy blessed face I see, Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.**

BENEDICTION

Hear the voice of God that claimed you in baptism: you are precious, beloved in God's sight. God's Spirit empowers us now to follow Jesus into our world. So as you go, lift up the brokenhearted and stand with the oppressed. Love God with your whole life and love your neighbor as yourself. Amen.

People: Peace be with you!

Liturgy adapted from Roger Gench, Presbyterian Outlook