



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 10, 2010

Eleven o'clock

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

THE GATHERING

The service of worship begins with the prelude; quiet is requested as you enter the sanctuary and prepare for worship. In the spirit of Christian fellowship, we invite you to wear a name tag which is available from the greeters. As a community that prays with and for one another, we invite you to share your joys and concerns by using the blue cards available from the ushers and in the welcome pad folders. Those parts of the Service of Worship in which the congregation participates in word or song are noted in bold type.

**Stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE Christ our Lord to the Jordan Came J. S. Bach

* HYMN 229 From All That Dwell Below the Skies *Lasst Uns Erfreuen*

* CALL TO WORSHIP (*based on Psalm 29*)

Leader: Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength;

People: Ascribe to the LORD the glory of God's name.

Leader: The voice of the LORD is powerful;

People: The voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

Leader: May the LORD give strength to the people!

People: May the LORD bless the people with peace!

INTROIT Von Himmel hoch J. S. Bach

*Glory to God in highest heaven, Who unto us his Son hath given,
While angels sing with tender mirth A glad new year to all the earth.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please use the welcome pad in the blue folder at the end of the pew. Record your presence. Pass it back, noticing who is worshipping with you. When the pad has been returned, please tear off the sheet and place it in the offering plate.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, in the Scriptures we read of your overwhelming majesty and your overwhelming love. We long to experience these aspects of your being, but too often we are so overwhelmed by uncertainty about the future, and feelings of powerlessness in the present, that we fail to hear you speaking to us. We long to hear your words addressed to us: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you." Forgive us for listening to - and believing - voices that call us worthless and unlovable. Forgive us when we allow our fears and our worries to stifle your voice of love. Help us remember that through your prophet Isaiah you spoke to us saying: "You are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you." Help us to hear your words of love with our entire being so that we know that we too are your beloved, on whom your favor rests. This we pray in the name of our Lord and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS OF SILENT AND INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Friends, believe and proclaim the Good News: in Jesus Christ, love breaks through hatred, hope breaks through despair, life breaks through death.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and set free.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Hymnal No. 579

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.*

* EXCHANGE OF PEACE

Leader: Let us open our hearts to one another as Christ has opened his heart to us, and God will be glorified.

People: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

(Exchange Signs of Reconciliation and the Peace of Christ with your neighbor - e.g., *“The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”*
Response - *“And also with you.”*)

TIME WITH CHILDREN

* HYMN 326 Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart Morecambe

+ *Children and Youth leave for their Bible Study Classes.* +

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 43:1-7

ANTHEM The Waters of Life James Biery
The Father's voice calls us, above the waters, The glory of the Son shines on us, The love of the Spirit fills us with life.

SECOND LESSON Acts 8:9-25

SERMON “Life In The Comma” Rev. Richard S. Hong

OFFERTORY Joys Seven arr. Stephen Cleobury

*The first good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of one;
To see the blessed Jesus Christ, When he was first her Son.
When he was first her Son, Good Lord; And happy may we be;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost To all eternity.*

*The next good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of two;
To see her own Son Jesus Christ, Making the lame to go.*

*The next good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of three;
To see her own Son Jesus Christ, Making the blind to see.*

*The next good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of four;
To see her own Son Jesus Christ Reading the Bible o'er.*

The next good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of five;
To see her own Son Jesus Christ, Raising the dead alive.
The next good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of six;
To see her own Son Jesus Christ Upon the Crucifix.
The next good joy that Mary had, It was the joy of seven;
To see her own Son Jesus Christ to wear the crown of Heaven.

* THE DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.

THE SENDING OUT

* HYMN 495 We Know That Christ Is Raised Engelberg

* BENEDICTION

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE Prelude in Classic Style Gordon Young

Our worship ends with the conclusion of the Postlude. It is the custom of our church to remain seated. Those who wish to leave may do so.)

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TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 43:1-7 (NRSV)

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— ⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Acts 8:9-25 (NRSV)

Now a certain man named Simon had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he was someone great. ¹⁰All of them, from the least to the greatest, listened to him eagerly, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great." ¹¹And they listened eagerly to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. ¹²But when they believed Philip, who was proclaiming the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ¹³Even Simon himself believed. After being baptized, he stayed constantly with Philip and was amazed when he saw the signs and great miracles that took place.

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying

on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, ¹⁹saying, "Give me also this power so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." ²⁰But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain God's gift with money! ²¹You have no part or share in this, for your heart is not right before God. ²²Repent therefore of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. ²³For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and the chains of wickedness." ²⁴Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may happen to me." ²⁵Now after Peter and John had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, proclaiming the good news to many villages of the Samaritans.

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