

# First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day  
Baptism of the Lord

January 8, 2012

9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Hymn (PH 411)  
Concerns of the Church

Prelude "Fanfare" Leighton

Call to Worship

Sing, and bless God's name;

***tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.***

Proclaim God's glory to the nations,

***God's marvelous deeds to all peoples.***

\* Hymn 8 (Sing) "Gather Us In"

*Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.*

\* Call to Confession

\* 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 sisters and brothers in Christ.***

***We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,***

***and show reluctance to welcome one another;***

***we allow the past to hold us hostage.***

***In your loving kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin.***

***Remind us of the promises you make in baptism***

***so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace.***

\* Silent Confession

\* Assurance of Pardon

\* Passing of the Peace

\* Gloria Patri (PH 579)

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Genesis 1:1-5 (OT, p. 1)

Psalter: Psalm 29 (Sing 127)

A Time with Children

11:15 - Children through grade 4 are invited to Children's Worship in Room 110.

Anthem "Down to the River to Pray" arr. Curry  
"Sweet Little Jesus Boy" Robert MacGimsey

Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:4-11 (NT, p. 34)

Sermon: "With Water and Fire"

Rev. Carter

## RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\* Hymn 241 (Sing) "Sing! A New Creation"

Renewal of Baptism (Sing 240)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters" arr. Wood

\* Doxology (PH 592)

\* Prayer of Dedication

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

\* Hymn 177 (Sing) "O Christ, the Great Foundation"

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude "Postlude" Cook

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\* All who are able shall stand.

PH Presbyterian Hymnal

**Sing** Sing! A New Creation (green songbook)

**The flowers** this morning have been given by Paul and Nancy Ford to the glory of God and in memory of Paul's sister, Sally Ford Guadagnino.

### PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	William Carter
Director of Educational Ministries	William Cosnett
Director of Music	Alan Baker
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Andy Kepler (9:00); Warren Grill (11:15)
Children's Worship Leader	S. Flynn, P. Williams
Ushers	B. Schillinger, Vi Dygert (9:00) S. Hosier, J. Conklin, W. Wescott (11:15)

### ABOUT THIS MORNING'S SPECIAL MUSIC

This morning's Gospel lesson on the Baptism of Jesus is closely related to the January 6 feast of Epiphany, as each celebrate the revelation of God the Son as a human being in Jesus Christ. In describing Christ's baptism, Mark states that as Jesus was coming up out of the water, "he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove." This imagery opens the last of T.S. Eliot's "Four Quartets," which consider the place of Christianity in deciphering the meaning of our lives. Written during the height of the Nazi Blitz of England, it counters Hitler's madness with a note of hope and spiritual triumph. Our worship begins this morning with an organ prelude selected to similarly "break the air;" consider Eliot's poetry as you listen:

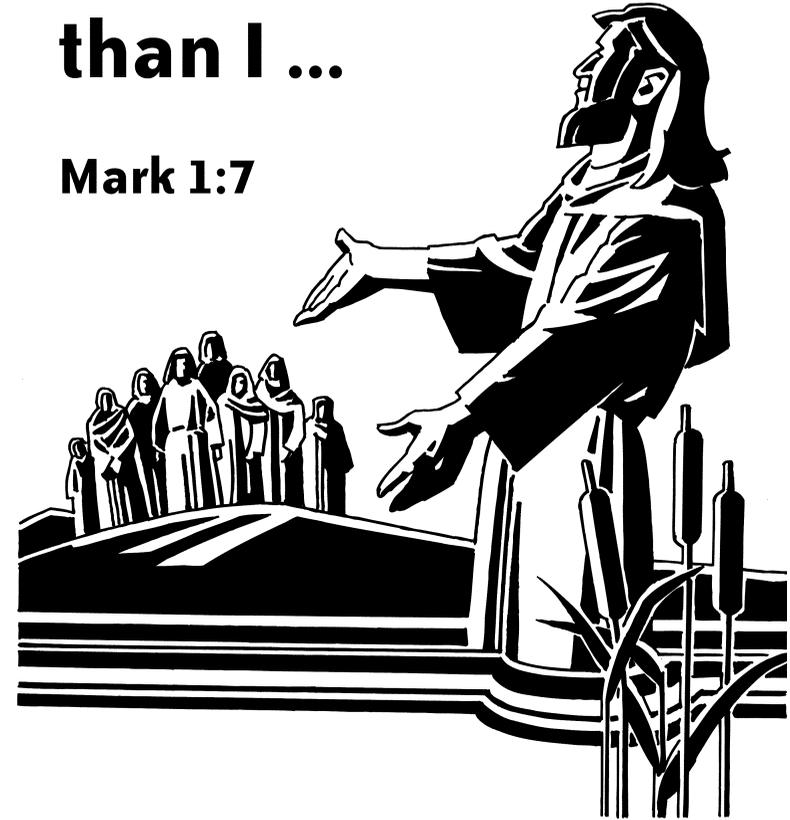
*The dove descending breaks the air  
With flame of incandescent terror  
Of which the tongues declare  
The one discharge from sin and error.  
The only hope, or else despair  
Lies in the choice of pyre of pyre—  
To be redeemed from fire by fire.*

*Who then devised the torment? Love.  
Love is the unfamiliar Name  
Behind the hands that wove  
The intolerable shirt of flame  
Which human power cannot remove.  
We only live, only suspire  
Consumed by either fire or fire.*

The choir's anthem at the first service is the simple, traditional American tune, "Down to the River to Pray." Returned to popular consciousness by Alison Krauss and the Cohen Brother's 2000 movie, "O Brother, Where Art Thou," there it accompanies a scene of believers at a river baptism. The words and melody may have originated as an Appalachian hymn, but also perhaps as a slave song. Epiphany, of course, commemorates the visitation of the Magi to the infant Jesus, and thus at the second service we will bid a farewell to our seasonal consideration of Christ the child with the quasi-spiritual, "Sweet Little Jesus Boy." According to the Reader's Digest Christmas Songbook, Robert MacGimsey wrote this carol after walking past crowded speakeasies in New York City on Christmas Eve, 1932. A white southerner, MacGimsey nevertheless wrote songs in the musical style of the African-Americans who lived with and worked for his family.

# After me will come one more powerful than I ...

**Mark 1:7**



*We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.*

**First Presbyterian Church  
300 School Street  
Clarks Summit, PA 18411  
570/586-6306  
[www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org)**

### ***Genesis 1:1-5***

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

### **Mark 1:4-11**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 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. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 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. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 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. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”