

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

The Baptism of Jesus

January 9, 2022

10:00 a.m.

Eternal God, at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Grant that all who are baptized into his name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; for he lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

In preparation for worship, please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude

“When Jesus Came to Jordan”

arr. David Cherwien

Call to Worship

Do not fear, says the Lord; I am with you. I have called you by name; you are mine.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

When Jesus was baptized by John, suddenly the heavens were opened.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

* Hymn 375

"Shall We Gather at the River"

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 one another.

We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,

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.

* Silent Confession

* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

* Response (Hymnal 584)

Glory, glory, glory! Glory be to God on high. (repeat)

And on earth peace to all people in whom God is well pleased. (repeat)

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-7 (OT, p.672)

Psalter: Psalm 29 (Hymn 10)

A Time with Children

New Testament Lesson: Luke 3:15-17, 21-38 (NT, p. 60)

Sermon: "All the Way Back"

Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 297

"In Christ Called to Baptize"

* Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant (Hymnal, pp. 20-21)

* Profession of Faith

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God,
do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

I renounce them.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

* Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;**

**who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;**

the third day he rose again from the dead;

**he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;**

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;

the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

* Prayer

Offering

Offertory

"Baptized in Water"

arr. Dale Wood

Prayers of the People and 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.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

- * Hymn 485 "We Know That Christ is Raised"
* Charge and Benediction
* Postlude "Wade in the Water" arr. Joe Utterback

If you are leaving before the postlude is finished, please do so quietly.

* All who are able shall stand.

The flowers have been given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Helen M. Blume by her sister, Janet Stansbury.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	Rev. William G. Carter
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Alan Baker
Usher	Tracy Smith

**First Presbyterian Church
300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411
570/586-6306
www.fpccs.org**

Church Family Announcements

Thank you for joining us for Worship. We worship every Sunday in two ways!

- Promise to wear a face mask? No covid-related symptoms for the past 14 days? Willing to have your temperature taken at the door? **Join us in person at 10:00 am.** (Reservations are no longer necessary.)
- **Tune in online** for our weekly service, which is broadcast live on [our video page on YouTube](#) and archived for later viewing on the same site.

Our Session requires masks for all worship services, meetings, and group events in the church building. Temperature checks will continue at church gatherings, and social distancing will be encouraged. We believe in the effectiveness of the covid-19 vaccinations and urge everybody to get vaccinated against covid-19.

If all of us can choose restraint and pursue public health, we have a better chance for stopping the spread of the virus and its variants. In the words of St. Paul, "Do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Galatians 5:13-14)

Our sanctuary is open for prayer whenever the building is open.

Thank you for your **strong financial support!** There is a link [to contribute online](#). You are also invited to drop off your contributions at the church office during working hours or send them to 300 School Street, Clarks Summit, PA 18411. We appreciate your generosity, especially in this difficult time.

“The Way” Adult Education - The Bible Tells Me So: Why Defending Scripture Has Made Us Unable to Read It, based on the book by Peter Enns. What if the Bible is fine just the way it is? Not a well-behaved Bible, where everything lines up and makes sense, but the messy, troubling, and weird Bible we actually have? What if the Bible doesn't need to be protected and defended, but understood just as it is? Perhaps, when we let the Bible be the Bible (rather than what we expect it ought to be, or need it to be), we find a deeper faith in the process. Our winter series on Wednesday nights draws on the work of scholar Peter Enns, from his book, *The Bible Tells Me So*. It can be ordered from any bookstore.

It's time for Annual Reports! Will all committee chairs, staff, and board treasurers please submit a brief report of your 2021 activities (electronically, preferably) to the church office (office@fpccs.org) by January 19, 2022.

Meetings this week

Sunday, January 9	10 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
	11:15 a.m.	Session Meeting	Room 206
		Confirmation Class	Room 206
Tuesday, January 11	10 a.m.	MBK Quilters	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, January 12	10:30 a.m.	Prayer and Share	Room 209
	6 p.m.	The Way Adult Bible Study	Room 206
	7:15 p.m.	Adult Choir	Sanctuary
Thursday, January 13	8:30 a.m.	Men's Breakfast	
	7 p.m.	AlAnon	Fellowship Hall
	7 p.m.	Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sunday, January 16	10 a.m.	Worship	Sanctuary
	11:15	Confirmation Class	Room 206
	4 p.m.	Music for Midwinter	Sanctuary

Music for Midwinter: Sunday, January 16, 2022 4:00 pm
Nathan Worrell, piano; Mike Carbone, soprano sax; Bill Carter, piano

Two talented artists will warm our winter air. Nathaniel Worrell, a student at Valley View High School, will offer a dazzling program of classical piano music. Mike Carbone, professor at Binghamton University, will offer a set of chamber music for soprano saxophone, accompanied by pianist Bill Carter.

We are grateful for the many ways that people support our church's ministry to the community and world. If you wish to contribute by cell phone, **scan here**.

