



Order of Worship

Baptism of the Lord

January 9, 2022

Call to worship (*Isaiah 43:1*)

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.**

Call to confession

We belong to God. Nothing can break this covenant. Let us,
then, with confidence approach God to honestly confess our
sins in prayer.

Prayer of confession

God, you call us to beloved community with you and with each
other. But we exclude and reject those we deem different. You
claim us as beloved, but we turn against each other in anger and
hate. You liberate us and lead us in Christ's path of peace, but we
build walls and invest in guns and dismiss peace as impractical
and unrealistic. Redeeming God, forgive our worldly ways. Call
us and claim us once again for the work of building your beloved
community. Amen.

Assurance of pardon (*Isaiah 43:1*)

"Do not fear for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine."

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven,
we are redeemed, we are made new. Amen.



Prayer for illumination

Help us, Holy God, to connect to your word anew. Open the Scriptures to us in a way that is life-giving. Encourage us to listen to the message your Spirit makes known in word and worship. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith *(from A Brief Statement of Faith)*

**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.**

**In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**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.**



Call for the offering

A generous God calls us to live generous lives. Let us present our tithes and offerings to further Christ's mission and ministry.

Prayer of dedication

Bless and multiply these gifts, God, that they may be a blessing to others. May whoever benefits from these offerings know of your love for them and our desire to serve. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer:

Before we are born, before we do anything or make something of ourselves, before we make our first mistake or confess our first sin or fail majorly, you claim us, God our Creator, and call us beloved. We give you thanks and praise this Sunday for Jesus' baptism and for ours, for the sign and seal of your claim on us and the sacred water from which we emerge newly born in Christ.

That you come so close, Holy God, close enough to kiss our forehead with holy water and Holy Spirit, is astonishing. How can we comprehend a love such as this? How could we ever earn this amazing grace? You call us to you in love, O God, and send us to love others in Christ's name. Hear our prayers this day as we hold the weary and the suffering in our hearts and minds.

We pray for those recovering and rebuilding from tornadoes and devastating storms. Shelter and protect those who have lost their homes, God. Be their refuge and their strength.

We pray for refugees, for children and families, mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles seeking asylum, safety and opportunity. Your love knows no boundary or border, Holy God. Help us to love as you love.

We pray for the sick and their caregivers. We pray for weary first responders and hospital personnel. Give hope to those who are called to help and heal. Help us see this global pandemic to its end.

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We pray for countries and communities without access to vaccines or affordable healthcare. Help us, Holy God, to dismantle oppressive systems, systems that privilege and hoard. Help us build new and just systems for all your children to know health and happiness.

We pray for those who move into this new year feeling hopeless and beyond repair. Remind them, Savior God, that the night is not night to you. Remind them, Covenant God, that you have called them by name, that they belong to you.

United as the Body of Christ we lift these prayers to you, Savior God. Hear us now, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us by saying together, **“Our Father ...”**

Charge and benediction

Remember, you are God’s beloved,
called and claimed
to love as you have been loved.

May God bless you and keep you,
this day and in the days to come. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott
and provided for free distribution.

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