



# *Order of Worship*

Baptism of the Lord

January 12, 2025

---

## **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**

Our God is loving, just and merciful. God delivers us from sin and restores us by grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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 hurricanes and natural disasters. Shelter and protect those who have lost loved ones and homes, God. Be their refuge and their strength.

We pray for refugees, for children and families, mothers, fathers, aunts and 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 first responders and hospital personnel. Give hope to those who are called to help and heal. May our world know well-being.

We pray for countries and communities struggling for safety and freedom. We pray for those without access to healthcare, food or shelter. Help us, Holy God, to dismantle oppressive systems that privilege and hoard. Help us build new and just systems for our collective flourishing.

We pray for those who, in this new year, feel helpless and hopeless. 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, that none of us is alone.

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.

© Presbyterian Outlook, 2025

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

For more resources,  
visit [pres-outlook.org](https://pres-outlook.org)

