



January 12, 2025
10:30 a.m. Service
Traditional Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Hymn of Praise – “Blessed Be the God of Israel” (UMH #209)

Blessed be the God of Israel,
who comes to set us free,
Who visits and redeems us,
and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy,
of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise
to bring our people peace.

Now from the house of David
a child of grace is given;
A Savior comes among us
to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald,
forerunner in the way,
The prophet of salvation,
the harbinger of day.

On prisoners of darkness
the sun begins to rise,
The dawning of forgiveness
upon the sinner's eyes,
To guide the feet of pilgrims
along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior
with songs that never cease!

Call to Worship:

Pastor: The voice of God sounds upon the waters.

People: The Holy Spirit descends from above.

Pastor: The Son of God is baptized and affirmed;

People: He is called the Beloved by the Father in Heaven.

Pastor: Come to the waters and be transformed by God's Spirit:

People: God has called us by name and affirmed us as beloved.

Act of Praise – “Glory be to the Father” (UMH #70)

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.

Affirmation of Faith – “The Apostles' Creed” (UMH#881)

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 Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried;

The third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at 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 Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

Scripture Lesson – Isaiah 43:1-7

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, through the waters of baptism you have marked us as your children. Through the work of your Son and the power of the Holy Spirit we are made new: redeemed, strengthened, and gifted to reflect your glory. Thank you for the work of your grace in our lives. Still, we confess how your new way is a struggle for us. We fail to love you with our all and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. We continue to see our worth in the terms of this world, while dismissing the power of your unconditional love. Forgive us, Lord. Free us for joyful obedience, such that we may see ourselves and others as you see us: beloved children, sent to extend the hope and restoration of Christ Jesus to all people. Amen.

Prayer of Intercession

Commissioning of Church Leaders and Servants for 2025

Those who serve as staff members, in leadership positions, as members of ministry teams, and as teachers and Bible study leaders are invited to stand as they are commissioned for service through the following prayer.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, as we recall God's affirmation at your baptism in the Jordan, we want to give thanks for your calling in the lives of these faithful servants in your church. Thank you for the gifts of the Holy Spirit in their lives, and for their willingness to serve in your name. God, we ask that you pour out many blessings on these servants, equipping them to love and serve you by faithfully serving others. Guide and strengthen them for the challenges that face your church. Uplift them when the task at hand feels overwhelming. And draw us all together in your love, such that Christ's kingdom is extended in our community and world through their service.

Today we bless and consecrate to Christ's service all those who will serve at St. John's in the coming year. Amen.

All: We commend our faithful servants to Christ's work, and we pledge to you our prayers, encouragement, and support. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you, that in all things you may do God's will in the service of Jesus Christ.

Extending the Peace of Christ

Choir – "Spirit of God"

Offering

Doxology "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow" (UMH #95)

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
The kingdom come.
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
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 Lord's Prayer

Hymn – “Spirit Song” (UMH #347)

O let the Son of God enfold you
with his Spirit and his love.
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.

O let him have the things that hold you,
and his Spirit like a dove
will descend upon your life and make you whole.

Jesus, O Jesus,
come and fill your lambs.

Jesus, O Jesus,
come and fill your lambs.

O come and sing this song with gladness
as your hearts are filled with joy.
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name.
O give him all your tears and sadness;

give him all your years of pain,
and you'll enter into life in Jesus' name.

Jesus, O Jesus,
come and fill your lambs.

Jesus, O Jesus,
come and fill your lambs.

Sermon: "My Beloved Child"

Text: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Hymn "The Church's One Foundation" (UMH #545)

The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation by
water and the Word.

From heaven he came and sought her to
be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder
we see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,

She waits the consummation
of peace forevermore,
Till, with the vision glorious,
her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee

Benediction

Congregational Response: Sanctuary

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary
pure and holy, tried and true
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you.

Postlude/Dismissal

Today's Worship Leaders Include:

Choir Director: Roy Nelson
Scripture Reader: Valerie Sharper
Acolytes: Carter London and Mason London

St. John's Staff

Lead Pastor - Rev. Brad Leight
Pastoral Associate - Ruth Portzline, CLM
Director of Children's Ministries – Rev. Megan Berkebile
Director of Youth and Family Ministries - John-Thomas (JT) Crockett
Director of Music Ministries - Roy Nelson

Contemporary Worship Leader, Keyboard Accompanist - Alissa Nelson
Church Administrator - Lou Lescas
Office Clerical Coordinator - Holly Gray

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