BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 16, 2022
11:00 AM

CHURCH LIFE UPDATE Margaret LaMotte Torrence

PRELUDE *Be Still My Soul* Finlandia / arr. S. Phillips
(Isaac Mingus, cello and Steven Phillips, piano)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** based on Isaiah 43:1-4
Suzanne Waxman

Thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O loved one,
he who formed you, O precious one:

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

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior . . .
you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you.

***HYMN 403** *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty* Unser Herrscher

Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion,
Let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty
Waits for God who answers prayer;
O how blessed is this place,
Filled with solace, light, and grace.

Gracious God, I come before thee;
Come thou also unto me;
Where we find thee and adore thee,
There a heaven on earth must be;
To my heart O enter thou;
Let it be thy temple now.

Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee;
Let thy will be done indeed;
May I undisturbed draw near thee,
While thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
Here is balm for all our woes.

**Those who are able are invited to stand.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Margaret LaMotte Torrence

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 those you have given to us as family.
We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,
and hesitate to welcome each other.
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 prayer)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*** SONG OF JOY** (sung to the tune of *Morning Has Broken*)

Baptized in water, sealed with the Spirit,
Marked with the sign of Christ our King,
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
Joyfully now God's praises we sing!

*** THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

SERMON *Beloved* Rev. Floyd Churn

ANTHEM *Gather at the River* arr. Susan LaBarr

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.

And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul.

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** From *Confession of 1967, PC(USA)*
Suzanne Waxman

By humble submission to John's baptism,
Christ joined himself to men and women in their need
and entered upon his ministry of reconciliation
in the power of the Spirit.
Christian baptism marks the receiving of the same Spirit
by all his people.

Baptism with water represents
not only cleansing from sin, but a dying with Christ
and a joyful rising with him to new life.
It commits all Christians to die each day to sin
and to live for righteousness.

In baptism, the church celebrates
the renewal of the covenant
with which God has bound us to God's very self.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Margaret LaMotte Torrence

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.

***HYMN 546** *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing* Sicilian Mariners

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, your love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us,
O refresh us,
Traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration
For your gospel's joyful sound;
May the fruits of your salvation
In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful,
Ever faithful
To your truth may we be found. ***(continued on page 4)***

Savior, when your love shall call us,
From our struggling pilgrim way,
Let no fear of death appall us,
Glad your summons to obey.
May we ever,
May we ever
Reign with you in endless day.

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Floyd Churn

POSTLUDE *Bouree No. 1 from Suite III in C Major* J.S. Bach
(Isaac Mingus, cello)

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