FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Service
The Baptism of the Lord

January 14, 2024

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Select Variations from *"Theme, Varie et Finale"* Manuel Ponce
Matthew Kuplack, guitar

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Thus says the LORD: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
People: I have called you by name, you are mine.
Leader: When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
People: and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
Leader: Let us worship the Lord, our strength and our Redeemer!
People: Come, let us worship God!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN #306
Fairest Lord Jesus CRUSADERS' HYMN

1 Fairest Lord Jesus,
Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God to earth come down,
Thee will I cherish,
Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.

2 Fair are the meadows,
Fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

*Please stand if you are able.

3 Fair is the sunshine,
Fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heaven can boast.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious and Loving God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the Body of Christ. But we confess that we remain focused on ourselves. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and allow the past to hold us hostage. We doubt the need for transformation in our lives, or we doubt the possibility of it. In your mercy, Lord, forgive us; remind us of the promises you make in baptism and help us to keep our own, that we may live filled with your grace and guided by your Spirit.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Mark 1:4-11 Bob Hunsicker

Leader: The word of the Lord;

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON The Rev. J.C. Austin

"Rise and Shine: Breaking and Entering"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

*SERMON HYMN #70

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized CAITHNESS

1 Christ, when for us you were baptized
God's Spirit on you came,
As peaceful as a dove, and yet
As urgent as a flame.

2 God called you his belovèd Son,
Called you his Servant too;
His kingdom you were called to preach,
His holy will to do.

3 Straightway and steadfast until death
You then obeyed his call,
Freely as Son of Man to serve,
And give your life for all.

4 Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord,
Your cross on us be signed,
That likewise in God's service we
May perfect freedom find.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (the 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory What Cheer? Good Cheer! Peter Warlock

Chancel Choir

Lift up your hearts and be glad
In Christ's birth', the angel bade,
Say each to other, if any be sad:
What cheer? Good cheer!
What cheer? Good cheer!
Be merry and glad this good New Year!

The King of heav'n his birth hath take,
Joy and mirth we ought to make:
Say each to other, for His dear sake:
What cheer? Good cheer!
What cheer? Good cheer!
Be merry and glad this good New Year!

I tell you all with heart so free:
Right welcome ye be to me;
Be glad and merry for charity.
What cheer? Good cheer!
What cheer? Good cheer!
Be merry and glad this good New Year!

*Doxology #592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow OLD HUNDREDTH

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 Dedication

WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise…

As our Savior Christ has taught us, so we pray:

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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Communion Music Allegro, BWV 998 Johann Sebastian Bach

Matthew Kuplack, guitar

*SENDING HYMN #63

As with Gladness Men of Old DIX

1 As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most glorious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to Thee.

2 As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

3 As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

4 Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Fanfare" from *5 Works for Organ* Healey Willan