

Southminster Presbyterian Church

1124 Montgomery Highway
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216
(205) 822-1124
southminsterpcusa.org

JANUARY 10, 2021

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

10:30 AM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

PRELUDE

"When Jesus Came to Jordan"

David Cherwien

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mark Ezekiel

One: On that first day, when time began:

Many: you gave birth to creation; light danced through the darkness; the waters of hope flowed free and clear.

One: On that first day at the Jordan, when redemption began:

Many: you spoke of life for all your children, as your Child stepped into the waters of forgiveness, dancing in hope with his cousin, John.

One: On this first day of the week, when we begin anew:

Many: you call us to faithfulness, as we open our hearts to you, your voice claiming us as your own.

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Baptized and Set Free"

Kenneth Kosche

CALL TO REPENTANCE

Mark Ezekiel

PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

Timeless God, you cast Light into sin's dark places and call us your Beloved. Forgive us: when we still linger in the shadows; when we treat others in hurtful ways; when we speak ill of your friends. As he knelt in the waters of Jordan, you proclaimed Jesus as your Child, pointing to him as the way to you. Forgive us: when we put ourselves ahead of him; when we think he is no longer needed; when we fail to see him in the brokenness of our world. Baptized and blessed in your living waters, you would have us be your servants in our time. Forgive us: when we fail to welcome the stranger; when we refuse to forgive as we should; when we believe we are too good to kneel down and tie the shoes of the lost, the least, the last, the little.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mark Ezekiel

FIRST READING

Mark 1:1-11

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"O Love"

Elaine Hagenberg

Bekah Anderson, Heather Benoit, Ginny Ezekiel, Kimberly Green, Anna Murphy

*O Love, O Love, O Love, that will not let me go,
O Love, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thy ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.*

*O Joy, O Joy, O Joy, that seeks me through the pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.*

*O Love, O Love, O Love, that will not let me go,
O Love, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thy ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.*

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson

SILENT REFLECTION

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson and Clerk Mark Ezekiel

THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

All join the Pastor in saying, **"Alleluia! Amen."**

POSTLUDE

"Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized"

Kenneth Kosche

THE CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson
Robert Newman
Dr. Larry E. Hardin
David Renaker
Jeanie Covin
Betsy Murphy
Dereck Stewart

Pastor
Program Director
Director of Music Ministry
Organist
Director of Day School
Church Administrator
Sexton

Rick, Reed, Treasurer

Mark Ezekiel, Clerk of the Session

Natalie Reed, Assistant Clerk of Session

PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Chris Coley**, at home for recovery from hip replacement surgery
- **Doug Deslattes** for increased strength as he prepares to enter the hospital on Tuesday for his next round of chemotherapy
- **Sheri Hall**, for continued recovery from a lumpectomy. Sheri will learn her treatment plans tomorrow and is scheduled to have radiation Tuesday
- **Gerrie Hodgins**, at Grandview Hospital, for recovery from COVID
- **Jane Holbert**, son **Christopher** and daughter, **Anna Brooks**, all for recovery from COVID
- Shirley Martin's daughter-in-law, **Kimberly Martin**, as she receives dialysis three times a week and is still waiting for a kidney transplant.
- Betsy Murphy asks prayers for 3-month-old **Charlie Millar** and his parents, **Justyn and Craig and big brother George**. Charlie is hospitalized at Children's in ICU with a severe respiratory infection.
- Christina Frederick asks prayers for her friend, **Mitzi Owen and family at the loss of her son, Kevin**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School classes will be taking a break in January, resuming in February. We will have our Coffee Hour, so make plans to join us at 9:45 AM for that. We will have a little time to catch up with each other after the holiday before we head over to our YouTube channel to watch worship at 10:30. Our Zoom link for Coffee Hour is:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/919202336?pwd=VTJHSUZtdDdRQ0g1aC95aytKT1I3Zz09>

Today we are thrilled to ordain and install (via ZOOM) new elders. Congratulations to **Garrett Chow, Richard Holbert and Jonathan Wright** who will be ordained and installed, and to **Brooke Heisler, Judy Reed, Brian Tielking, and Sherri Van Pelt**, who are to be installed during the 10:30 Worship Service.

Living River Weekly Fun Fact #2

The idea of Living River was conceived in 1999 when a Camp-Visioning task force was formed by the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley. The vision was to have a camp/retreat/environmental ministry in Central Alabama. How can you be a part of this vision? Contact Jenny Thagard at jthagard@livingriver.org or Betsy in the Church Office at (205) 822-124.