



CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 7, 2024

Livestream & In-Person

10:00 a.m.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Ivan N. Herman

Click [HERE](#) to register your attendance

* GREETING ONE ANOTHER

PRELUDE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

ElizaBeth Phillips

Leader: God spoke the creative Word into the formless void.

People: The cosmos cries, "Glory!"

Leader: From the wilderness, God brought forth new life and liberation.

People: The plants and animals that inhabit the wild places cry, "Glory!"

Leader: A messenger in the wilderness brings good news.

People: God's people cry, "Glory!"

Leader: In baptism, we are united to God through Jesus Christ.

People: With all of creation, we cry, "Glory!"

Down the mountain the river flows
And it brings refreshing wherever it goes
Through the valleys and over the fields
The river is rushing and the river is here

The river of God sets our feet to dancing. The river of God fills our hearts with cheer
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter and we rejoice for the river is here

The river of God is teeming with life
And all who touch it can be revived
And those who linger on this river's shore
Will come back thirsting for more of the Lord

The river of God sets our feet to dancing. The river of God fills our hearts with cheer
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter and we rejoice for the river is here

Up to the mountain we love to go
To find the presence of the Lord
Along the banks of the river we run
We dance with laughter giving praise to the Son

The river of God sets our feet to dancing. The river of God fills our hearts with cheer
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter and we rejoice for the river is here

CONFESSION AND PARDON

ElizaBeth Phillips

Leader: The One who was without sin received the baptism of repentance so that we who have sinned may be covered by his righteousness. The Spirit enables us to tell the truth of our brokenness, assured already of the grace we know in Jesus Christ. Let us confess together:

All: Creating God, we cannot look at our lives, our communities, or the world around us without seeing the fractures and brokenness that reflect the reality of sin.

You created the earth and called it good, but now it groans, awaiting redemption and re-creation under the weight of our greed, abuse, and carelessness.

You created humanity in your image, and called us very good, but we have ignored the image of God in each other. We have created, maintained, and benefitted from unjust systems built on divisions based on race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and more.

You poured out your love in Jesus Christ, who showed us how to live and how to love, but we continue to make our own path, follow our own desires, and neglect to love others as Christ loves us.

Lord, have mercy. Rend the heavens. Re-create us now.

Silence

Leader: The heavens part, the waters swirl, and the dove descends, reminding us that we, too, are God's beloved children. We are covered by God's grace and forgiven in Jesus Christ.

People: Amen!

* RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE **“Glory Be to the Father (Gloria Patri)”**

No. 581
Glory to God

Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the
Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be - gin-ning, is
now, and e - ver shall be, world with - out
end. A - men, A - men.

TIME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

(Children are invited to the front of the church. Afterwards, they may return to their seats to participate in the remainder of worship and Communion.)

ANTHEM

“When Jesus Comes to Jordan’s Stream”

Casey McKinley &
Michael Joncas

Sanctuary Choir

Laura Leek, solo; Margo Scandella, cello; Dave Mathews, soprano saxophone

When Jesus comes to Jordan's stream a voice from heaven calls
This is my well-beloved Son on whom my favor falls
God's Spirit hovers in the air above the Chosen One
The Triune God made manifest in Voice and Dove and Son,
In Voice and Dove and Son

When Jesus comes to Jordan's stream He mediates God's grace
The Righteous One with sinners stands, with them he takes his place
The bruised reed he will not break nor quench the smoldering wick
He will not crush the broken heart but helps and heals the sick,
But helps and heals the sick

When Jesus comes to Jordan's stream He feels the Spirit's breath
Abiding presence in his life, a love that conquers death
That very Spirit speaks in us that Jesus Christ is Lord
Who does not shout mere human truths but incarnates God's word,
But incarnates God's word

Now, Jesus, comes to us today and give your Spirit's fire
To all who live baptismal life through font, blood or desire
Befriend us, grasp us by the hand, send us forth from this hour
As covenant and nations' light and liberating power,
And liberating power

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:4-11

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.'

SERMON

It's Only a Small Splash of Water, But...

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

* SONG

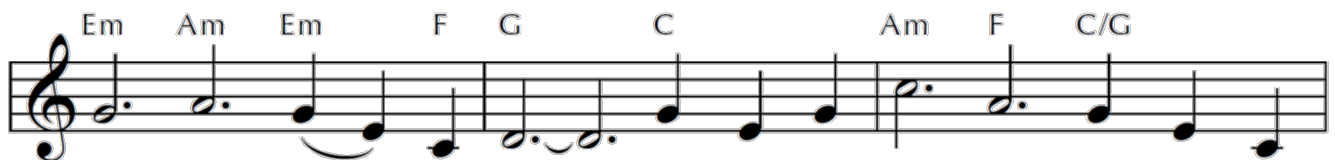
"Baptized in Water"

No. 482

Glory to God



1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
 2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
 3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our King; heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing the
 tomb with Christ our King; one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
 sign of Christ our King; born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor: We come to the Lord's Supper as a community of believers, renewed by the memory of Christ's life and death, by his real presence in the power of the Holy Spirit, and by the promise of his coming again.

People: Christ makes himself known to us in the breaking of bread.

Pastor: He offers his body broken for our sake and his blood shed for the forgiveness of our sins.

People: We accept his promises and gifts and depend on his life to sustain ours.

Pastor: In turn we offer ourselves in thanksgiving to the risen Lord who has conquered death.

People: So we celebrate his victory here and now and anticipate the joyous feast in his coming kingdom. Reunited around one loaf and cup, we receive strength and courage to continue our pilgrimage with God in the world.

(If you are worshiping via live stream, place a plate with bread or crackers in your home worship space. Beside it set a cup with juice, wine, water, or other common beverage. With these elements we celebrate the shared presence of Christ that connects and nourishes our communion of faith.)

WORDS OF REMEMBERING

Pastor: We remember that Jesus came to lead followers to feed those who are hungry, shelter those unhoused, clothe those naked, and comfort those afflicted.

We remember that Jesus came to lead followers to destroy injustices, lift up those who are oppressed, break the yokes of those victimized and, at the same time, stop pointing fingers of blame.

And we remember that Jesus sealed the covenant not in a fast of deprivation, but a feast of hope, as he sat at a Passover meal celebrating escape from oppression and claimed that the new Way is bread and fruit and love.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Spirit of Christ, we thank you that your Bread is Body and your Cup is poured for all. Feed us now that we might shake into the world the seasoning of love. Shine on our lives today and give us enough for everyone's tomorrows.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

(Wherever you are, in the Sanctuary or at home, you are invited to partake of the bread and the cup.

If you are worshiping in person, come down the center aisle to receive the communion elements; partake and return to your seat using the side aisles.

Servers will bring communion to the seats of those who cannot come forward.)

COMMUNION SONG

"Remembrance"

Chris Davenport & Benjamin Hastings

I take the bread of life, broken for all my sin.

Your body crucified to make me whole again

I will recall the cup poured out in sacrifice.

To trade this sinner's end for Your new covenant

Hallelujah! I'll live my life in remembrance. Hallelujah! Your promise I won't forget

I'll walk salvation's road with fear & trembling.

Your way borne as my own as Christ is formed in me

Hallelujah! I'll live my life in remembrance. Hallelujah! Your promise I won't forget

If ever I should lose my way, if ever I deny Your grace, remind me of the price You paid

Hallelujah! I'll live in remembrance

You've been so, so good to me. You've been so, so good to me,

Oh, to think where I would be if not for You, if not for You

As far as heights reach from the depths, as far as east is from the west

So far Your grace has carried me

Until I see You face to face, until at last I've won my race, remind me You're not finished yet

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! I'll live in remembrance

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pastor: Faithful God, now that we are fed, we recognize how many there are who need a lighted lamp to be lifted high, and it may take several hands to hold it. Now that we are fed, we recognize how many there are who need a taste of hope for tomorrow and who need a sip of courage to face it. Let us not hide the brightness of hope or

OFFERING AND PRAYER

OFFERTORY

"This Little Light of Mine"

arr. Mark Hayes

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: God of new beginnings, as we turn the calendar page to a fresh, new year, we long to erase and leave behind the brokenness of the year behind us. We forget that our time is not your time. We are grateful that you are just as present with us today as you were last week, and that you will be present with us in the coming weeks when we are ready for yet another fresh start.

We pray for all that we wish to erase: wars, genocide, and atrocities that are beyond what most of us can imagine; places on the brink of humanitarian crisis, and those already past it; senseless gun violence; climate change and its many devastating facets; inequalities of wealth and access; the erosion of democracy; cultural, social, political, and familial divides; economic despair; loneliness; hopelessness; hunger for good; thirst for clean water; addiction; despair; and more.

People: Rend the heavens, we pray!

Pastor: We pray for the burdens that we continue to carry forward: scary diagnoses, unknown and uncertain futures, loss of loved ones, watching loved ones losing more of themselves.

People: Send your Holy Spirit of comfort and peace.


Pastor: We follow Jesus, reminded that the waters of baptism unite us to you and to each other. We enter wildernesses not of our choosing, reminded that they are places of new beginnings.

Our time is not your time, and yet in this new year, we believe that you are doing a new thing. Hear our prayers for new beginnings, new hope, and healing as we offer you the prayers of our hearts.


We entrust the prayers voiced, the ones that remain held in confidence, and those known only to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray by saying:

All: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

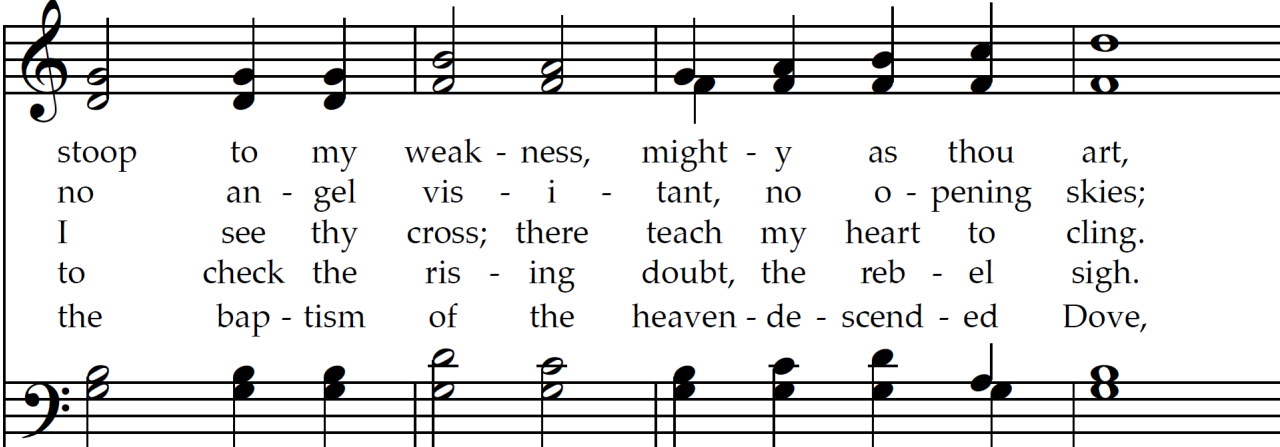
(If you would like to privately share a concern, thanksgiving, or request for healing, please come to the Stephen Ministry banner on the east wall of the Sanctuary immediately following the service for individual prayer with a Stephen Minister.)



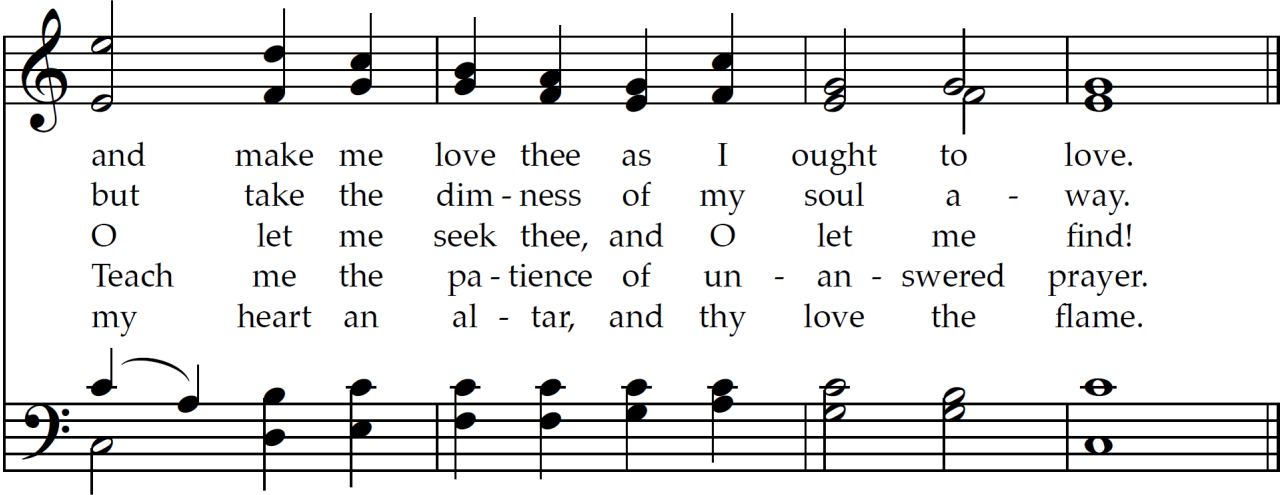
1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King;
 4 Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh.
 5 Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,



wean it from earth; through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all thine own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;



stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;
 I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.
 to check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh.
 the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,



and make me love thee as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek thee, and O let me find!
 Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE **"The Lord Whom We Love"**

Kurt Kaiser

Congregation may join hands

The Lord whom we love, whom we wor-ship and a -
dore, we will serve through - out this com-ing week. He it
is who binds us to - geth - er, and he it is who sends us a -
part, to be God's peo - ple, be God's peo - ple. A - men.

* POSTLUDE

"Fanfare"

Jacques Lemmens

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Liturgy and Prayers of the People by Stephanie Sorge © *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2023

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Audio/Video: Bruce MacLean and Noor Bitar

Music Director: Keith Atwater

Guest Organist: Heidi van Regenmorter

Piano: Gabe Bisho

Drums: Will Condrey

Bass: Merlyn van Regenmorter

Vocalists: Karen Gray, Anita Lawson, and Laura Leek



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