

Worship on the Lord's Day

Presbyterian Church of Radford

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

January 10th, 2020

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE - Prelude in C Major, Zipoli - Hudson Crowe

WELCOME

OPENING SENTENCES

The heavens opened, the Spirit descended,
and a voice sounded: This is my Beloved Son.

Mark 1:10-11

Grace and peace to you from God,

Rev. 1:4

who was and is and is to come.

HYMN No. 475 - Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (v. 1, 3) - Alex Lyons

(lyrics & music included at the end of the bulletin)

CONFESSION

Call to Confession

The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

Matt 3:2-3

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Confession

The world trembles out of control.

The violence builds,

Some by terrorism

Some by state greed

Dressed up as policy

Violence on every side.

You, in the midst of the out-of-control violence.

We confess you steadfast, loyal, reliable,

But we wonder if you yourself are engaged

In brutality.

We confess you to be governor and ruler,

But we wonder if you manage.

We in the midst of out-of-control violence,
We in great faith,
We in deep vocational call,
We in our several anxieties.
We - alongside you - in the trembling.

This day we pray for freedom to move
Beyond fear to caring,
Beyond self to neighbor,
Beyond protection to growth.
That we may be a sign of steadfastness,
That anxiety may not win the day.

You are the one who said, "Do not be anxious."
And now we submit to you.¹

Assurance of Pardon

As a voice from heaven said to Jesus,
so, in Christ, God speaks to us:
You are my child, my beloved;
with you I am well pleased.

Matt 3:17

In the name of Jesus Chrst, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Saving God, source of our calling,
your Word is full of power and glory.
Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
so that we may receive your grace
and live as your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

OLD TESTAMENT READING - Genesis 1:1-5

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

¹ Walter Brueggemann, "God's Gift in the Midst of Violence," *Prayers for a Privileged People* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2008), 77-78.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE - Georgeanne Lavery

HYMN No. 476 - Crashing Waters at Creation (v. 1, 4) - Alex Lyons

GOSPEL READING - Mark 1:4-11

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON - Rev. Peter Hawisher-Faul

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

HYMN No. 164 - Down Galilee's Slow Roadways (v.1-3) - Alex Lyons

STATEMENT OF FAITH

From The PC(USA) Book of Confessions - Confession of Belhar, 10.7-9

We believe

- Isaiah 42:1–7* that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;
- Luke 6:20–26* that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged
- Luke 4:16–19* that God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;
- Luke 7:22* that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;
- Psalms 146* that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;
- James 1:27* that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;
- Micah 6:8* that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;
- Amos 5:14–15, 23–24* that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;
- Psalms 82:1–5* that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord

stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged;

Leviticus
19:15 that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

Therefore, we reject any ideology

which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel.

Acts 5:29–32;
1 Peter
3:15–18 We believe that, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head, the church is called to confess and to do all these things, even though the authorities and human laws might forbid them and punishment and suffering be the consequence.
Jesus is Lord.
To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

OFFERING

Call to Offering

Present yourselves as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to God.

Doxology

Prayer Over Offering

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Eternally loving Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we bow before you our maker and our only redeemer.
Have mercy upon us and upon the nation
in this time of unprecedented violence undermining
all sense of common good and thwarting every effort
to heal the bleeding wounds of our division.

We are mindful that it is not by our power that peace will reign
but through the power of your Spirit working in us
to do that which is your will for all nations:
upholding justice, righteousness and the common good for all people.

Blessed God, we confess we are in deep need.
Fear, anger and anxiety are mixed with a bewildering sadness

at the plight of this nation. We don't know any way forward
that will turn bitter enemies into partners who will join one another
seeking peace for this nation. We are stumbling.
Let our stumbling be an occasion for humility
and a deep turning to you.

By your merciful Spirit, fill us with courage
that we will not falter in the calling
to be instruments of your peace,
ambassadors of your saving love in Jesus Christ,
the hope of the world.
As your ambassadors,
deliver us from all cowardice that we may confront
malignant forces of evil arrayed
against the creation of a nation that honors all people.

We are also mindful of those elected officials
whose duty it is to uphold the laws of the nation.
Grant unto them the wisdom to do what is right in your sight,
even when the right thing is the hardest thing.
Stay the hand of the one in power
so the common good of the people will not face further harm.
Let not such power be used for wickedness
upon the innocent or upon this nation.

God of grace, we also lift to you those on our prayer list...

Great Trinity of Love: receive our prayers.
Satisfy those that align with your eternal purpose.
Give to us faith and courage,
And grant that by your Holy Spirit,
we may walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.²

And now we pray as Christ taught us, saying,
***Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come,***

² Roy Howard "Prayers of the people: Let Our Stumbling Be an Occasion for Humility" *Presbyterian Outlook*,
<https://pres-outlook.org/2021/01/prayers-of-the-people-let-our-stumbling-be-an-occasion-for-humility/>,
accessed Jan 7th, 2021

***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.***

GO IN GOD'S NAME

HYMN No. 292 - As the Wind Song (v. 1-2) - Alex Lyons

BLESSING AND CHARGE

POSTLUDE - Postlude in F Major - Engel- Hudson Crowe

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Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475

1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith - er by thy help I'm come;
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

TEXT: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.
 MUSIC: Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813

NETTLETON
 8.7.8.7.D

Down Galilee's Slow Roadways 164

Capo 3: (A9) (D/A) (A9) (Dsus)(D)
 C9 F/C C9 Fsus F

1 Down Gal - i - lee's slow road-ways a strang - er trav - eled on
 2 A - ris - ing from the riv - er he saw the heav - ens torn;
 3 We too have found a road - way; it led us to this place.

(A9) (D/A) (G) (F#m)
 C9 F/C B^b Am

from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John.
 it seemed the sky so o - pen re - vealed the Spir - it's form.
 We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.

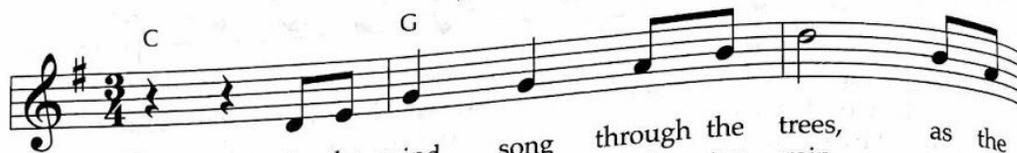
(Bm) (F#m) (Gmaj7) (F#m7) (Em) (A/C#)(Bsus)(Bm)
 Dm Am B^bmaj7 Am7 Gm C/E Dsus Dm

He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe, and slave,
 The ho - ly dove de - scend - ed a - mid a glo - rious voice:
 But now be - side this wa - ter a - gain a voice is heard.

(G) (D/F#) (Em7) (G/A) (Asus)(A7) (D)
 B^b F/A Gm7 B^b/C Csus C7 F

but there with - in the riv - er the sign was birth and grave.
 "You are my own be - lov - ed, my child, my heart, my choice."
 "You are my own, my cho - sen, be - lov - ed of your Lord."

When reviewing baptismal resources with other members of the United Church of Canada's Working Unit on Worship, the author was struck by how few hymns had been written for adult baptism. This meditative text on the Baptism of Jesus is an effort to remedy that situation.

As the Wind Song
風之頌

1 As the wind song through the trees, as the
2 As the rain - bow af - ter rain, as the
1 風之頌, 林雨 中 吹 送, 輕風之
2 彩之虹, 雨 後 高 懸, 生風之



stir - ring of the breeze, so it is with the Spir - it of
hope that's born a - gain, so it is with the Spir - it of
送, 心中振動, 上主的靈如風吹
盼, 人間再現, 上主的靈如風吹



God, as the heart made strange-ly warm, as the
God, as the green in the spring, as a
送; 心溫暖, 奇異難明, 風浪
送; 春天裡, 青山綠水, 線上



voice with - in the storm, so it is with the Spir - it of
kite on a string, so it is with the Spir - it of
中, 靜聽主聲, 上主的靈如風吹
繫飛揚風箏, 上主的靈如風吹



God. Nev - er seen, ev - er known where this wind has
God, mak - ing worlds that are new, mak - ing peace come
送; 眼不見, 心未明, 風來去何
送; 大地萬象更新, 和平終實

Reversing the usual order, this hymn began with the music rather than the words. The composer (from Singapore) sent this tune to the author (in New Zealand) to see what text it might inspire from her. She also suggested the tune name, a Maori phrase meaning "Holy Spirit."

