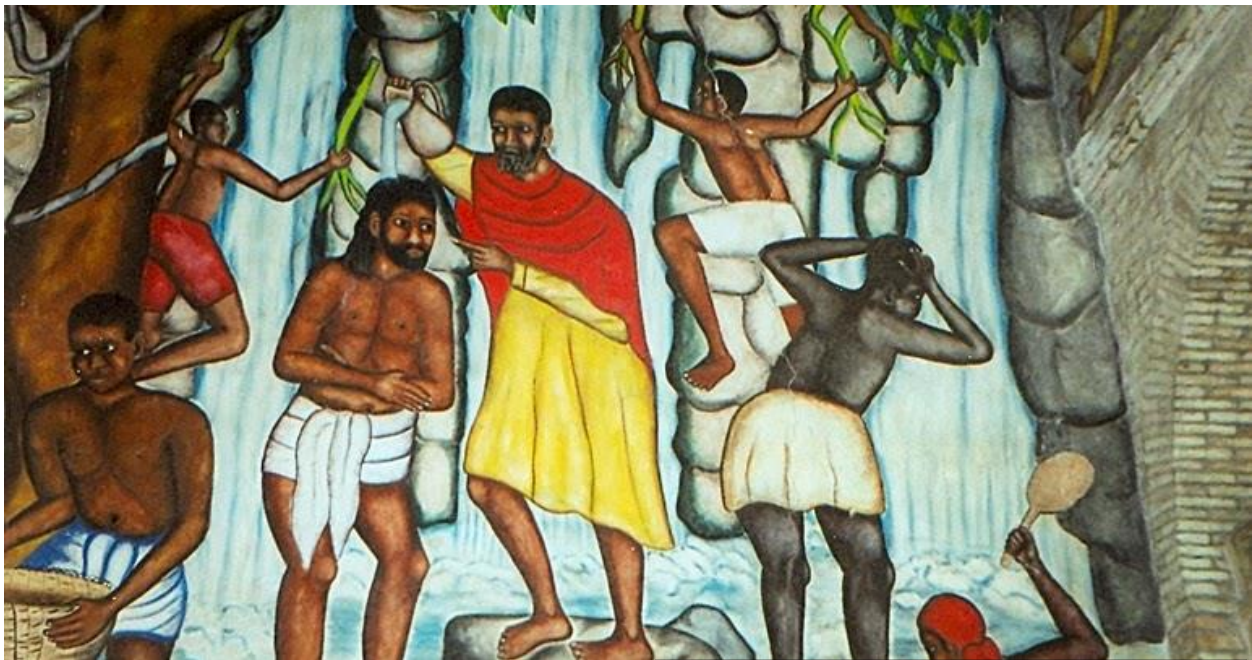


Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen
Sunday Worship – January 12, 2025
Baptism of the Lord



Castera Bazile
Baptism of Jesus
Cathedrale de Sainte Trinite, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Welcome and Opening Sentences

- The voice of the Lord is over the waters, and in the temple God's people say: Glory!
- Let us prepare our hearts and minds for the worship of God.

Prelude

Call to Worship

Please rise in body or in spirit.

The voice of the Lord resounds upon the water.

The Spirit of the Lord hovers over the stream.

The Son of God is named, "Beloved."

And all who worship shout out, "Glory!"

Ascribe to the Lord majesty and strength.

Let us worship God in holy splendor.

Opening Hymn

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

GG #475

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

Prayer of the Day

Pour water into the font

Holy God, when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan
the heavens opened, the Spirit descended,
and your voice affirmed your love in Jesus
for the healing of the human race and all creation.

By water and word you lovingly invite us
into this same life-giving mission.

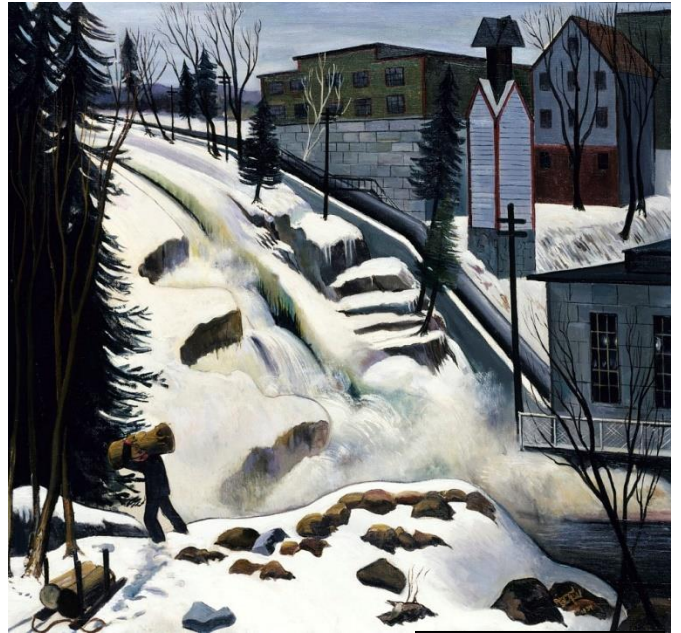
May your Spirit,
moving like a stream of water
flowing from its source,
work in us this day to realize your vision
of a world made new in Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

Call to Confession

God loves us and calls us each by name.
Therefore, let us come boldly before God
as we pray together.

Prayer of Confession

**In the waters of baptism, O God,
you have cleansed us and claimed us.
Forgive us for refusing your grace
and rejecting your name.
We have followed our own paths,
and they have led us far from you.
Help us to live into our baptism,
to trust that all we need is in you,
for you have marked us as your own,
loving us without limit.
Wash us with your love again,
that with clean hearts,
we may go in the way of Jesus.**



Raymond Skolfield
Natural Power

Silent Confession

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.
Friends, hear and trust the good news of the Gospel:
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, healed, and made whole.
Thanks be to God.**

Act of Praise

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, v. 1

GG #119

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord be with you all. / **And also with you.**

The Life of the Church

Time with the Younger Church

Prayer for Illumination

Glorious God, when Jesus was baptized for your healing mission,
the heavens opened in a flash of glory
as vision and voice blazed upon the waters.

May your Spirit so burn in us that we hear your word translated into deed
and follow Jesus in paths of justice, right relationship, and peace. Amen.

A Reading from the Prophets

Isaiah 43: 1-7

But now, Leah and Rachel and Jacob,
hear the word of YHWH –
the One who created you,
the One who fashioned you, Israel:
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.
² When you pass through the seas, I will be with you;
when you pass over rivers, you will not drown.
Walk through fire, and you will not be singed;
walk through flames and you will not be burned.
³ I am YHWH, your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your deliverer.
I give Egypt as ransom for you,
Nubia and Seba in exchange for you.
⁴ You are more precious to me than Assyria;
you are honored, and I love you.
I will give people in exchange for you,
whole nations in exchange for your life.
⁵ Have no fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your descendants from the east
and gather them from the west.
⁶ To the north I will say, “Give them up!”
and to the south, “Do not hold them back!”
Bring my daughters and sons from afar,
return them from the ends of the earth –
⁷ everyone who is called by my Name,
whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made!

Anthem

Gospel Reading

Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And 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.**

Sermon

Response to the Word: Thanksgiving for Baptism

The Lord be with you. / **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. / **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Glory to you, O God –

your voice is over the waters, full of power and majesty.

Your word shakes the wilderness and blesses us with peace.

**We give you thanks and praise for the new thing you have done
in Jesus Christ our Savior.**

As he was baptized by John in the Jordan,
you anointed him with your Holy Spirit
and claimed him as your beloved Son.

We give you thanks and praise that by the grace of our baptism
you have claimed us as well and poured out the gifts of your Spirit
so that we might be dead to sin and alive to you in Christ Jesus.

Continue to pour out your Spirit upon us.

**Empower us to love and serve you and to live as your faithful people,
bearing witness to the good news of Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

“I will come to you in the silence; I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice.
Be still and know I am here.

“I am hope for all who are hopeless; I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light.
Come and rest in me.

*Refrain: Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine.”*

“I am strength for all the despairing,
healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see; the lame will all run free,
and all will know my name.

Refrain

“I am the Word that leads all to freedom;
I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name, embracing all your pain.
Stand up, now walk and live!

Refrain.

Prayers of the People / Lord’s Prayer

Let us offer together our prayers
for this world which God so loves,
responding: Holy Spirit, **hear our prayer.**

God, like the very air we breathe,
you are always with us,
sometimes stirring, sometimes still.
Stir in us now.

Breathe into your very body, the church,
and awaken in us hearts of compassion,
as we bring our prayers into the midst of this community.

O God, may our hearts break for this broken world –
forests stripped bare and ground cracked open by human greed.
May we be your healing and restoring hands.
Holy Spirit, **hear our prayer.**



Flora Wong
Jesus Baptized

O God, may our spirits sigh for those who wander,
displaced from their homes by famine, fire, and war.
May we be your voice to bid them welcome,
Holy Spirit, **hear our prayer.**

O God, may our souls shake for those lost in the wilderness
of anxiety, depression, or grief.
May we be the arms of your warm embrace.
Holy Spirit, **hear our prayer.**

O God, may our very beings tremble at your scattered family,
torn asunder by hatred, racism, and bigotry.
May we be your feet, bringing the good news of justice and peace.
Holy Spirit, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you formed us and made us.
We are your body,
and we cannot do your work apart from each other.
By the shaping of your Holy Spirit,
make us into the people to whom you have already said:
With you I am well pleased.

We pray this, as all things, in the name of the One
who taught us to pray together, saying:
Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Invitation to the Offering

Beloved children,
we were created for God's glory.
Let us give to God the glory God is due,
through the work of our hands
and the fruit of our labor.

Offertory

Act of Dedication

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, v. 3

GG #119

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king!"*

Gloria Ssali
Baptism of the Lord



Offertory Prayer

O God, at his baptism, you acknowledged Jesus as your beloved Son,
and through him you opened to us
a way to become your children by grace.

May these gifts we return to you be a sign of our dedication to live
as your faithful daughters and sons,
born in the waters of baptism by the power of the Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Go My Children, with My Blessing, v. 1-2

Purple 547

“Go, my children, with my blessing, never along.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river, I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”

“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response

Go My Children, with My Blessing, v. 3

“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

Postlude

Today’s Worship Leaders:

Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell

Mike Hudler

Beverly Avila

Robert Garza

Ale Pacheco

FPC Chancel Choir

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