



WESTMINSTER

— Presbyterian Church —

Albany, New York
January 7, 2024
Service of Worship 10:00 am

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Baptism of the Lord



WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*(Let the notes of our Prelude be the musical curtain through which we pass as we gather to worship together.
Let the preparation we make together be prayerful.)*

Prelude

Song for the New Year

Rob Roy Peery

Call to Worship

John Bossung

One: Do not fear, for the Lord has spoken:

All: I have called you by name; you are mine.

One: Let us worship God!



Opening Hymn #163

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice



Prayer of Confession

John Bossung

One: The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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.

All: Merciful God,

**in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,
making us part of the body of Christ.**

**We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves,
separated from one another.**

**We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,
and show reluctance to welcome one another.**

We allow the past to hold us captive.

**In your loving-kindness, have mercy on us,
and free us from sin.**

**Fulfill the promises of our baptism
so that we may rise to new life,
and live together in grace.**

(Time of silence)

Assurance of Forgiveness

John Bossung

As a voice from heaven said to Jesus,

Matthew 3:17

so, in Christ, God speaks to us:

You are my child, my beloved;

with you I am well pleased.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God.

Passing The Peace

John Bossung

Words of Welcome

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Choral Anthem

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD



Prayer for Illumination

Henry Sowah

One: God of All Power,

Open our ears, our eyes, and our hearts with a spirit of wisdom and revelation.

Help us to hear your voice, to see your ways, and to receive with joy your truth.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



Scripture

Mark 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And 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.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He 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. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And 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.

And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Sermon

"Beloved"

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer Hymn #288

"Spirit of the Living God" (sung two times)

Gathering Celebrations and Concerns

Prayer Hymn #288

"Spirit of the Living God" (sung once)

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.**



Offering

John Bossung

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff & Elder Peter McKee

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread,
and when he had given thanks, he broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
This is my body, given for you.
Eat this bread, and remember me.

In the same way, Jesus took the cup, saying:
This is the new covenant, sealed in my blood.
Drink this cup, and remember me.

After he rose from the dead, Jesus said:
All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Go, therefore, and make disciples of all people,
baptizing them in the name of the triune God,
and teaching them my commandments.
And remember: I am with you always.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise, O God,
for your saving love poured out in human history—
the blessing of your Word and Spirit at creation,
the deliverance of your people through the sea,
the way your justice rolls down like water,

the river of life that flows from your throne.
We give you thanks and praise, O God,
for Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord—
how he poured out his life in love for the world
through the baptism of his death and resurrection;
how he feeds and fills us with his body and blood
through the bread and cup we share in his name.

Now pour out your Holy Spirit, O God,
to transform us for your service—
through the gospel of salvation,
through the font of new creation,
through the feast of our redemption,
until your realm of glory comes.

We give you thanks and praise, O God,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
in the unity of your Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Jesus said: Let anyone who is thirsty come to me;
out of the believer's heart living waters shall flow. *John 7:37–38*

Jesus said: I am the bread of life;
whoever comes to me will never be hungry. *John 6:35*

Jesus said: I am the vine, you are the branches;
whoever believes in me will never thirst. *John 15:5; 6:35*

Communion

Worshipers may touch the water of the font on the way to the table. After receiving the bread and cup, those who wish may also receive an anointing with oil, given with these words: "Remember your baptism and be thankful, and know that the Holy Spirit is at work within you."

Hymn #688

"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart"

Prayer After Communion

Thank you, O God, for making us one—
one in the body, the Spirit, the Lord, *Ephesians 4:4–5*
one in the faith and baptism we share.
Send us out as one people in your service;
in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME



Closing Hymn #157

I Danced In The Morning

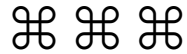
Charge and Benediction

Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff

Postlude

Menuet Gothique from Suite Gothique (Op. 25)

Leon Boellmann



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2024 CHURCH OFFICERS

Session

Leah Threatte, Clerk of Session

2024: Nancy Holroyd, Susan Schell

2025: Ephraim Adjei, Peter McKee, Linore Southworth

2026: John Bossung, Kate Gallagher, Felicia Kollie-Gambles

Deacons

Mary Bullis and Dodie Seagle, Co-moderators

2024: Ruthanne Brod, Cynthia Dwyer, Mabel McGraw

2025: Kelly Crisfield, Carolyn Smith

2026: Mary Bullis, Marie McClumpha, Dodie Seagle

Trustees

John Bossung and Leif Hartmark, Co-chairs

2024: David Adjei, Leif Hartmark, Laura Moody

2025: John Bossung

2026: Pete Seagle, Dixon Southworth, Joy L. Tallmadge, Peter Wrede

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163 Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

1 Wild and lone the proph-et's voice ech-oes through the des - ert still,
 2 "Bear the fruit re - pen-tance sows: lives of jus - tice, truth, and love.
 3 With such preach-ing, stark and bold, John pro-claimed sal - va - tion near,

call - ing us to make a choice, bid - ding us to do God's will:
 Trust no oth - er claim than those; set your heart on things a - bove.
 and his time-less warn-ings hold words of hope to all who hear.

"Turn from sin and be bap-tized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
 Soon the Lord will come in power, burn-ing clean the thresh-ing floor:
 So we dare to jour - ney on, led by faith through ways un - trod,

Quit-ting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's con - trol.
 then will flames the chaff de - vour; wheat a - lone shall fill God's store."
 till we come at last like John to be - hold the Lamb of God.

While all four gospels identify John the Baptist with the prophecy of Isaiah 40:3, this text (well set to a vigorous Welsh tune) draws on the report of his preaching in Matthew 3:1-12. The final lines recall that he was the first to name Jesus "the Lamb of God" (John 1:29, 36).

Spirit of the Living God 288

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

KOREAN

살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서
 살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서
 빛으시고 채우소서
 살아계신 주 성령 내게 오소서

SPANISH

*Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.
 Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.
 Tóname, cámbiame, lléname, úsame.
 Santo Espíritu de Dios, ven sobre mí.*

Both the words and the music of this prayer-song were written by a Presbyterian minister from Tarboro, North Carolina. The words were initially inspired by Jeremiah 18:1-6; a friend helped him set them to music during an evangelistic meeting in Orlando, Florida, where the song was first sung.

TEXT: Daniel Iverson, 1926; Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee; Spanish trans. anon.

LIVING GOD

MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926

Irregular

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Korean Trans. © 2001 Birdwing Music (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com)

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart 688

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,

wear 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.

This reflection on Galatians 5:25 was written by a literary Anglican clergyman whose preaching drew people of many social classes to one of the formerly poorer London churches. The tune was created for "Abide with Me" (no. 836) but more often appears with the present text.

157 I Danced in the Morning

Capo 3: (D) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm)
 F Dm Am Dm

1 I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I
 2 I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but
 3 I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame. The
 4 I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black. It's
 5 They cut me down and I leapt up high. †

(Em) (A)
 Gm C

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
 they would not dance and they would not foll - ow me. I
 ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame. They
 hard to dance with the dev - il on your back. They
 I am the life that will nev - er, nev - er die. I'll

(D) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm)
 F Dm Am Dm

came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At
 danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John. They
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and
 bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but
 live in you if you'll live in me, †

(Em) (A7) (G) (D)
 Gm C7 Bb F


Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
 came with me and the dance went on.
 left me there on a cross to die.
 I am the dance and I still go on.
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

This 20th-century ballad-like retelling of the life of Christ, though written for this Shaker tune, has many similarities with the pre-Reformation carol "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day." Such narrative carols were common both at Christmas and as part of medieval mystery plays.

JESUS CHRIST: LIFE


Refrain

(F#m) (Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (D) (Bm)
Am Dm Am Dm F Dm




Dance, then, wher-ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

(Em) (A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A7) (D)
Gm C F Dm F C7 F



Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be,

(Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
Gm C7 F B^b F



and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.