

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

God, you have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us. Give us grace that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills and our works, a continual thank offering to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Closing Hymn #96

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

SENDING IN GOD'S LOVE

Charge & Benediction

Benediction Response

Surely the Presence

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. I can feel His mighty power and His grace. I can feel the brush of angels' wings. I see glory on each face.

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Postlude

Jeremy Kurn

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A Service for the Lord's Day
January 9, 2022 ~ 10:00 am
Baptism of the Lord Sunday

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

As the music begins, we invite you to use this time to make the transition from getting here to being here. Take these few minutes to silently prepare for worship and allow the Spirit to refresh you.

Prayer for the Day

Companionship One, the calling of love is full of risk. Oppressive forces and institutions seem so permanent, and our individual lives, so vulnerable and fleeting. Deepen our faith in your abiding promises, that we may be a brace for each other. In community, we pray.

Amen.

Gathering Music

Jeremy Kurn

Words of Welcome

Rev. Sheri Fry

Introit

Jeremy Kurn

*Call to Worship

Liturgist Mary McCarron

Leader: Through every age of struggle, every era of hope,

the Holy One is a faithful companion.

Leader: From spirits that seduce with power,

they deliver and transform.

Leader: In the labors of liberation,

they sustain with joy and courage. Praise God, whose presence is a force for life.

Parts of the service in **bold** are for everyone to speak in unison.
Parts with an asterisk * mean that all are to stand in body or in spirit.

*Lighting the Christ Candle (unison)

We give thanks for the light of hope – unrelenting and inexplicable.
We give thanks for the light of peace – strong and unafraid.
We give thanks for the light of joy – persistent and unpredictable
We give thanks for the light of love – hot and holy.
Let the light we kindle go before us, strong in hope, wide in good will,
inviting the day to come. Amen.

*Opening Hymn #408 *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

*Prayer of Confession (unison)

Rev. Sheri Fry

Gracious God, we admit that it's easier to have pain-causing words on our lips, than praise for another. Our foolishness often keeps us from seeing the deep hurts and hunger of the suffering who are around us. We stand by the side of the road, afraid to step forward in faith, afraid to trust that you are with us, afraid to cry out for healing and hope. We ask that you forgive our faithlessness and our fears. We pray we might find your grace, discover your love, and serve your people in your name. Amen

*Assurance of God's Love

One: What marvelous love, what wondrous grace, what abundant mercy God offers to us! We are God's people.

All: We are God's children those whose lives have been changed by the One who loves us and forgives us. Thanks be to God. Amen

*Response of Praise *He Came Down that We Might Have Love* (v. 1 & 2)

LISTENING FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Mary McCarron

Be light to our path.
Be hope to our world.
Be born in our hearts again this year.
Amen.

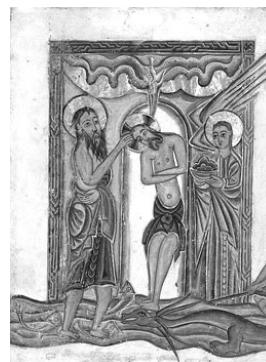
First Lesson

Isaiah 43:1-7

Mary McCarron

Leader: Listen to the voice of the Spirit speaking to the church.

All: Thanks be to God



Anthem

Come Thou Font of Every Blessing

The Chancel Choir

Second Lesson Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sermon *Participating in the Enchantment*

Rev. Sheri Fry

Moment of Silent Reflection

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Affirmation of Faith (unison)

Mary McCarron

We believe in God the Creator, maker of all things. We believe in Jesus the Christ, Lord and Savior of the world. We believe in the Holy Spirit, giver of life and light. We belong to the Church, God's family everywhere. Amen.

Call to Prayer

Jeremy Kurn

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Sheri Fry

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 of our Gifts and Ourselves

Offertory

Jeremy Kurn

*Doxology

Hymn#607

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all creatures here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

SERMON MUSINGS



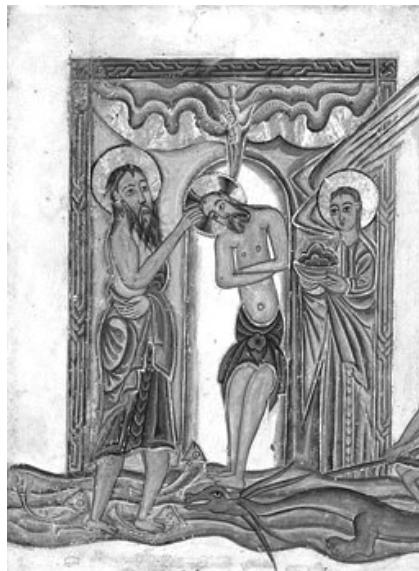
Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The waters call out to us in the texts, both as a site of chaos and turmoil, but more importantly, as a site of Divine companionship and restoration. Amidst great waters, we are sometimes awakened to our smallness. We confront the depth of our insignificance as the waters threaten to thrash or drown us. Instead, we're met by our Help, sovereign even over the waters, joining us as we're immersed, lifting us children of The Holy from its depths that we might know healing.

Beloved, the voice from heaven had proclaimed as the baptismal waters of the Jordan rolled off Jesus' body. Beloved, the voice named him as he prepared to begin his public ministry. Beloved, spoken with such power that it would permeate Jesus' entire life and teaching. Beloved, he would name those he met who were desperate for healing, for inclusion, for hope. Beloved, echoing through the ages, continuing to name those drenched in the waters of baptism. Beloved. Child of God.

In the sacrament of baptism and as members of the body of Christ, we, too, are named as beloved children of God. How will we live in such a way that others will know themselves as named by God, beloved by God...especially those who have been given cause to think they are less than loved, less than children of the One who created them?

-Rev. Sheri Fry



GoodStuff@GoodShepherd



Opportunities This Week

Monday - Men's Shed 10 am - noon

Tuesday - ESL Class 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Wednesday - Choir Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:15 pm

Thursday - ESL Class 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Opportunities Later this Month

January 16th - Class on Legacy Giving following worship with Rev. Joseph Moore

January 23rd - Annual Congregational Meeting following worship



I don't like to commit myself about heaven and hell - you see, I have friends in both places. - Mark Twain

FOOD BANK

Tuesday through Thursday 10:00 am - 11:45 am
Third Saturday of the month 9 am - 12 pm. Need donations of
toilet paper.



The Food Bank would like to have a few backpacks (new or gently used) for our homeless clients. See Becky Van Dyke.

The Christmas Joy Offering has collected \$465 to date for special needs of current and past church workers and future church leaders attending college. The Alternative Christmas Market raised \$840. \$440 will go to the agency for Women's Empowerment, 2 flocks of chicks and some shares of a cow. \$100 will go to Highlands Camp for camperships and \$300 will go to ZMP to help children in Zimbabwe. Thank you to all who helped with these projects for Good Shepherd to help others locally and globally.



Joys and Concerns
Please pray for those dealing with health issues: for Marion H.; Jim M.; Bill; Jane; Haylee; Jason; Gil; Tammy Vaugh; and Maxine; for all those grieving the loss of loved ones: for Jean Cook's family; Burton Kugler's family; the McCarron family; and the Coleman family; and for communities affected by COVID-19 or by human rights violations here in the United States and throughout the world; and for our church, that it may thrive as it brings the good news to our area.