



**Andy Loyd (friend of Pastor Stephanie)
Being baptized in the Jordan River!**

Central Presbyterian Church

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**January 10, 2021
Celebration of Baptism of the Lord**

Welcome & Announcements

Prayer (Please take a moment to prepare your heart for worship.)

God who watches over us, offering us light and hope, Be with us this day as we hear the story of Jesus' baptism. Help us to remember your healing, cleansing, and claiming love for us. Remind us again of the many ways in which you reach out to us. May the image of the waters be for us an image of hope. Bring us closer to you, loving God. Embrace us again with your love. We open our hearts to you this day. Amen.

Prelude "*Allegro in A Major*" – Bach/Hill

Call to Worship

L: From the waters of Creation, the earth sprang forth. From the waters of a womb, God's blessed Son was given to us.

P: From the waters of a river, people were baptized and marked as God's Children

L: Praise be to God, whose loving gifts and presence have called us together.

P: Let us shout our love to God for God's abundant love. Amen.

Hymn "*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*"

**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 redeeming love.**

**Here I find my greatest treasure;
hither by thy help I've 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,
bought me with his precious blood.**

Call to Confession

Let us draw near to God with sincerity of heart and full assurance of faith, our guilty hearts sprinkled clean, our bodies washed with pure water. (Hebrews 10:22) Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we are far too often inclined to be stubborn and arrogant, believing that we are all powerful, that we have no need for you. But there is an emptiness in us - a place where we are raw and hurting, bleeding, and bruised. We have tried our own healing methods, and they have not worked. We long for home and hope. From across these waters, you have called us. God of mercy and love, you have called us over the waters, and through the waters of baptism you have blessed us. You have cleansed and healed us, and adopted us as your beloved children. Help us to live as children of the light, serving you faithfully all our days. Amen.

(Time of silence for personal confession.)

Assurance of Pardon

The love of God is always offered to us, freely, joyfully, for all eternity. Rejoice, dear friends, this is the Good News of our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

L: Peace be with you.

P: And also with you.

Gloria Patri *“Glory Be to the Father”*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.**

Scripture Readings

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?”

“John’s baptism,” they replied.

Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Mark 1:4-11

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him.

Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message:

“After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

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

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon "New Beginnings"

Hymn "*Baptized in Water*"

**Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king;
heirs of salvation,
trusting his promise -
faithfully now God's praise we sing.**

**Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our king;
one with his rising,
freed and forgiven
thankfully now God's praise we sing.**

Apostles' Creed

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People As prayers are offered:

L: God of Mercy,

P: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn "*To God Be the Glory*"

**To God be the glory
Great things He has done
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin
And opened the life-gate that all may go in
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord**

**Let the earth hear His voice
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
Let the people rejoice
Come to the Father
Through Jesus the Son
Give Him the glory
Great things He has done**

**O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood
To every believer the promise of God
The vilest offender who truly believes
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
Let the earth hear His voice
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
Let the people rejoice
Come to the Father
Through Jesus the Son, yeah, yes
Give Him the glory
Great things He has done**

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Words of Institution

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy.....therefore we
praise you, joining our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the
faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your
name:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are
full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who
comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: You are holy..... Great is the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Charge and Blessing

Postlude “*Ode to a New Year*” – J. Denton



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WORSHIP LEADER:

Pastor Stephanie McCullough

ORGANIST:

Emma Lou Denton

PIANIST:

Rich Ford

LITURGIST:

Dan Stephenson

CCLI License #2716138

Pastor’s New Hours:

Monday and Tuesday: OFF

Wednesday – Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.