



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6300 Trinity Drive, Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Sunday, January 14, 2024
Baptism of the Lord

GREET THOSE AROUND YOU IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RITUALS OF FRIENDSHIP

PRELUDE

Organ/Piano: Young Ju Oh

CALL TO WORSHIP

George: Hear these words from the Holy Scripture: Just as the body is one and has many members and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

People: For in the one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body— Jews or Greeks, slaves or free— and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

George: Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. God has told you what is good: and what does the Lord require of you?

People: To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

***OPENING HYMN # 375 Shall We Gather at the River**

**1 Shall we gather at the river, Where bright angel feet have trod;
With its crystal tide forever Flowing by the throne of God?**

**(Refrain) Yes, we'll gather at the river, The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river That flows by the throne of God.**

**2 On the margin of the river, Washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever, All the happy golden day. (Refrain)**

**3 Ere we reach the shining river, Lay we ev'ry burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver, And provide a robe and crown. (Refrain)**

**4 Soon we'll reach the shining river, Soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver With the melody of peace. (Refrain)**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Sisters and brothers in Christ, our baptism is the sign and seal of our cleansing from sin, And of our being grafted into Christ. Through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ, the power of sin was broken and God's kingdom entered our world. Through our baptism, we were made citizens of God's kingdom, and freed from the bondage of sin. Let us celebrate that freedom and redemption through the renewal of the promises made at our baptism.

I ask you, therefore, once again to reject sin, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, and to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we were baptized.

CONFESSION OF SIN – A LITANY

Pastor: Sovereign God, in baptism you called us to turn from sin and to turn to Jesus Christ; but we stray from his ways and do not heed your call.

(Silence)

Pastor: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: In baptism you joined us to Christ in his death that we might be raised with Christ in new life; but we cherish old ways and fail to embrace the risen life of righteousness, justice, and love.

(Silence)

Pastor: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: In baptism you united us with all the baptized who confess your name; but we foster division in the church. We refuse to live as one people, and so fail to witness to your reconciling love before the world.

(Silence)

Pastor: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: In baptism you call us to ministry in all realms of life, but we refuse the struggle to know your will; we do not nurture the ways of peace; we allow enmity and hatred to grow among us, putting neighbor against neighbor, and nation against nation. We abuse the earth you entrust to our care, and live in discord with all you have made.

(Silence)

Pastor: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: In baptism you sent us to serve with compassion all for whom Christ died; but we ignore the suffering of the oppressed and the plight of the poor. We take bread from the hungry, and will not listen to cries for justice.

(Silence)

Pastor: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: In baptism you gave us the Holy Spirit to teach and guide us, but we rely on ourselves, and refuse to trust your direction. We spurn your eternal wisdom, preferring the luring ways of the world.

(Silence)

Pastor: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy on us. Remember the promises you made to us in our baptism, forgive our sinful ways and heal our brokenness. Set us free from all that enslaves us, and raise us to new life in Jesus Christ, that we may be your faithful servants, showing forth your healing love to the world, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Hear the good news! In baptism you were buried with Christ. In baptism also you were raised to life with him, through faith in the power of God who raised Christ from the dead. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: Amen.

Pastor: If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

PEACE

Pastor: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

***GLORIA PATRI**

"Glory Be to the Father"

Hymnal #581

ANTHEM

Piano/Organ: Young Ju Oh

Light Dawns on a Weary World

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

CHILDRENS SERMON

Rose VonTungeln

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 3:13–17 (ESV)

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” 15 But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

MEDITATION

With You I am Well Pleased

Rev. Jai D. Kwak

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN # 475 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1 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!

2 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.

3 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.

***PROFESSION OF FAITH (From Apostles' Creed)**

Pastor: Let us confess our faith. Do you believe in God the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the God the Father almighty, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

Pastor: Remember your baptism and be thankful. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

Pastor: Almighty God, the life you recreated in us by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die. Your justice never fails. Your mercy is everlasting. Your healing river flows. Your Spirit blows where you will. We cannot stop you, God! But sometimes we try. We try to block the flow or redirect the winds of the Spirit, We lose hope, or take hope away from others.

We let the world tell us who we are, or even let the church limit what you would make of us. We walk so far away from the life-giving Stream that we do not hear its sound, and we forget your power. We burn ourselves. We are dry and thirsty, O God. Come, refresh us! Speak to us once more your great good news of life, and pour into us afresh your love, stronger than death, until we can all rise, and each in our own voice proclaims,

All: I am a child of God.

Pastor: Even so, come upon us, Holy Spirit!

People: Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

Pastor: Come upon these waters.

People: Come upon these waters.

Pastor: Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.

People: Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.

Pastor: Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.

People: Let these waters fill us with hope for your now and coming reign.

Pastor: Most Holy God, Abba, Father!

People: Glory to you!

Pastor: Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord!

People: Glory to you!

Pastor: Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness!

People: Glory to you!

Pastor: Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!

People All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!

All who are baptized and have renewed their vows are invited to come to the font to use the water as a sign of refreshing. Gifts for the offering may also be placed near the font at this time.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

(You each are encouraged to give voice to your concerns or to name those for whom you love and pray.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***CLOSING HYMN # 744 Arise, Your Light Is Come**

1 Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey; show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

2 Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door; proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

3 Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born, bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

4 Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

****POSTLUDE**

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Go forth into the world rejoicing. Love and serve the Lord.

****Those who are able, please stand.***

***** Please be seated and remain for the postlude if you can.***

PRAYER CONCERNS

*Munn Family
Jemmie Moseley
Karen Perdue
Mike & Lan Kelly*

*Hester Insley
Emil & Carol Brown
Laura Hayes
Linda Vick*

FRIENDS AND RELATIVES

<u>Name</u>		<u>Name</u>	
<i>Max Zeng</i>	<i>Mike and Lan Kelly's son</i>	<i>Rebecca & Earl Phillips</i>	<i>Friends of Karen Perdue</i>
<i>Luis Sanchez</i>	<i>Father of Lizabeth Sanchez</i>	<i>Dr. Laura Festa</i>	<i>Wife of Dan Festa</i>
<i>Bernice Collins</i>	<i>Friend of the Church</i>	<i>Haley Chandler</i>	<i>Friend of the Church</i>
<i>Pat Mosley</i>	<i>Mother of George Mosley</i>	<i>Allie Cooper & Carol Taylor</i>	<i>Friends of Denise Mosley</i>
<i>Mary Owens</i>	<i>Friend of Rose VonTungeln</i>	<i>Family of Casey Hardin</i>	<i>Relative of Bubba VonTungeln</i>

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FELLOW PRESBYTERIANS:

Mt. Vernon, Pea Ridge

First, Huntsville

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

AROUND THE WORLD

Help us keep our prayer list up to date. If you have family or friends who need to be added or removed from the prayer concerns list, please let the Office know.

Welcome to Central Presbyterian Church, where we come together to celebrate God's love, nurture growth, share our faith and serve the needs of others. This congregation opens wide its doors and hearts and welcomes all in the name of Jesus Christ.

Announcements

On this day of the Baptism of the Lord, we remember our own baptisms. We are united with Christ, not just in his death and resurrection, but also in his call to ministry. That call echoes in every realm of life, from the ordinary to the extraordinary. May the presence of Christ forever dwell within you, guiding your steps and filling you with his grace and strength as you turn the page to a new chapter. Happy New Year!

The Presbyterian Women's Circle gathers for fellowship and spiritual growth today after the service. We'd love for you to join!

Mark your calendars and grab your favorite dish, because next Sunday is our monthly potluck fellowship! As we gather on the Third Sunday, let's celebrate the joy of being one in faith, just as Jesus called us to be. Bring your delicious contributions to share (and appetites to enjoy!), and prepare for a warm afternoon filled with friendship, laughter, and the spirit of community. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow believers, share stories, and deepen our bonds as a church family.

A session meeting is scheduled to take place next Sunday following the fellowship luncheon.

Pastor

Rev. Jai D. Kwak

Pianist/Organist

Young Ju Oh

Treasurer

Rose VonTungeln

Audio, Video Technician

Zac Cosner

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Session

Class of 2023

Laura Cosner

Jane Judkins

Denise Mosley

Suzy VonTungeln

Class of 2024

George Mosley (Clerk)

Zac Cosner

Pat Drewett

Standing Committee Moderators:

George Mosley - Building & Ground

Zac Cosner - Budget & Finance

Suzy VonTungeln - Fellowship & Education

Denise Mosley - Missions & Outreach

Laura Cosner - Worship & Music

