

# Palms Presbyterian Church

January 10, 2021

Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

Renewal of Baptism



## We Come Together as God's People

### A Prayer Upon Entering

God of grace and glory, you call us with your voice of flame to be your people, faithful and courageous. As your beloved Son embraced his mission in the waters of baptism, inspire us with the fire of your Spirit to join in his transforming work. Nourish our endeavors by the waters of our baptism. Engraft us into Christ's body in order that we may branch out with green shoots. Feed us with life above the mundane, with freshness and vitality; with echoes of love promises of hope; a vibrant sensitivity that deepens our roots and causes us to reach for the heavens.

### A Quote to Consider

*"By grace we see what we see. To have faith is to respond to what we see by longing for it the rest of our days, by trying to live up to it and toward it and through all the wonderful and terrible things; by looking to see it again and seeing it better."* Frederick Buechner, *Secrets in the Dark: A Life in Sermons*

**Prelude** *Andante* Cesar Franck  
*Come, Christians, Join to Sing* Don Schlosser

### Welcome and Announcements

**Introit** *I Believe in God the Spirit* David Gambrell/Genevan Psalter  
The Chancel Choir

### Call to Worship (Responsive)

This is a new day! Today, put aside all fear. Leave dismay behind. Take courage in God's loving call

**Christ has called us from behind the locked doors of fear...away from storms that threaten...  
beyond the reign of chaos.**

Christ has called us away from timid proclamation...into bold professions of faith.

**Christ has called us...to be new people...bold and loving...filled with Spirit and Grace.**

**Rejoice with songs of praise, giving thanks to God.**

## We Praise God and Celebrate God's Grace

**Opening Hymn** *Baptized in Water* # 482

### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Merciful God, in baptism you promised forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from sisters and brothers in Christ. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show a reluctance to welcome one another. We allow the past to hold us hostage. In your loving kindness, have mercy upon us, and free us from sin. Remind us of the promises we have made in baptism, so that we may rise to new life and live together in your grace. (A time for silent and personal prayers of confession.)

**Kyrie** *You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!* # 437  
You are the Lord, giver of mercy. You are the Christ, giver of mercy. You are the Lord, giver of mercy.

### The Assurance of Forgiveness (Responsive)

It's over – last year is gone. Our words, our thoughts, our deeds are in the past. Today, we begin anew.

Today, and every day, God offers us life and hope.

**We come to the water. We remember we are named. Claimed.**

The heavens open. The Spirit descends.

**Here, now, forever – we are forgiven and healed. From this time forward, let us live as such people.**

### \*Response to God's Love and Forgiveness

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines On Me* # 582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

### **\*Affirmation of Faith and Renewal of Baptismal Promise**

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

**We do with God's help.**

Who is your Lord and Savior?

**Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**

With the whole church let us confess our faith...

### **Apostle's Creed (Responsive)**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

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

**We believe 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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**We 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.**

### **Time for Children**

#### **Invitation to Offering**

#### **Offertory**

*So the Day Dawn*

K. Lee Scott

#### **\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

#### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

## ***We Hear God's Word***

#### **Old Testament Lesson**

Isaiah 43:1-3;18-19

#### **Anthem**

*Be Not Afraid*

Taylor Davis

Be not afraid, for I have redeemed you. Be not afraid, I've called you by name.

My love for you is everlasting, my love for you shall have no end.

When you pass through the waters, I will surround you. When you pass through the floods, they will not sweep over.

When you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed. You are my child – you are so precious to me.

You are my child and I'll love you always. Just hold my hand and I'll lead you home.

When you feel lost, always remember: I am right here, just call out my name.

#### **New Testament Lesson**

2 Corinthians 5:17-18

#### **Sermon**

God's Gift of a Fresh Start

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Weenink

#### **Choral Response**

*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

Ken Medema

## ***We Respond to God's Word***

### **Prayers of the People and 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.

#### **Closing Hymn**

*I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*

# 488

#### **The Commissioning**

As at the first creation, God calls us from chaos and darkness into the light of birth.

**"The voice of the Lord is upon the waters," calling us to be immersed in the Spirit, as those baptized into grace and reborn in mercy.**

***From the boundless river of God's grace we are buoyed by unending streams of mercy, love and grace.***

#### **Response**

*Amen*

Danish

#### **Postlude**

*Fanfare for the New Year*

Robert Powell

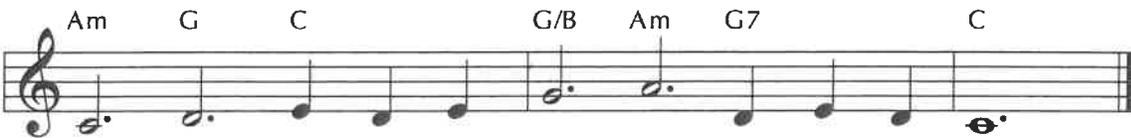
## Baptized in Water



1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the  
 2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the  
 3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our King; heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing the  
 tomb with Christ our King; one with his ris - ing, freed and for -  
 sign of Christ our King; born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.  
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.  
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

Each stanza of this compact and carefully constructed text about baptism begins with allusions to John 3:5 and Ephesians 1:13. The interplay of constant and changing lines accentuates each added image. It is set here to a Gaelic tune first transcribed in the 19th century.

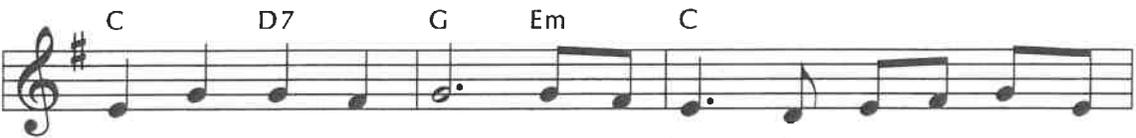
## 488 I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry



1 "I was there to hear your born - ing cry; I'll be there when  
 2 "When you heard the won - der of the Word, I was there to  
 3 "In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no



you are old. I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to  
 cheer you on. You were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord to  
 lon - ger young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, com -



see your life un - fold. I was there when you were but a  
 whom you now be - long. If you find some - one to share your  
 plete what I've be - gun. When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es



child with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of  
 time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to  
 in and you shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as



light you wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell."  
 make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."  
 I have al - ways been with just one more sur - prise."



4 "I was there to hear your born - ing cry; I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold."

Originally created to accompany a video series on baptism, this hymn speaks in the imagined conversational voice of God, assuring the person being baptized of God's presence throughout the changing stages of life. It offers a reminder that baptism is a once-in-a-lifetime event.