

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
Baptism of the Lord

January 8, 202311:00 AM

Welcome and AnnouncementsRobin Morris

GATHERING

Prelude“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need” (Berry)David Thompson

Call to WorshipRobin Morris
One: Arise, shine, for your light has come,
Many: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.
One: Nations come to that light.
Many: Rulers come to the brightness of Christ’s rising.
One: God revealed the Son to the nations by the leading of a star
so the whole world would know Christ’s glory.
Many: God revealed the Son at the Jordan River, saying,
“This is my Son, the beloved, the Chosen. Listen to him!”
All: We have seen that glory and have come to worship him.

*Hymn of Praise #152“What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright”

*Call to ConfessionRobin Morris

*Prayer of Confession
God of grace,
You have given us Jesus, the light of the world,
but often we choose to ignore the light.
Immersed in ourselves, we have not risen to new life.
We keep destructive habits and hold grudges.
Baptize us with your Spirit,
that, forgiven and renewed,
we may preach your word to the nations
and tell of your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ,
our Lord and our Light forever. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon
One: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ,
and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us,
Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old
life has gone; a new life has begun. Friends, believe the good news.
Many: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*Gloria Patri #581
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.

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Children’s SermonCarrie Wyatt

Anthem“Hear My Words” (Paulus)Chancel Choir
Hear my words, O gracious Lord, To my thoughts attentive be;
Hear my cry, my King my God, I will make my prayer to Thee.
With the morning light O Lord, Thou shalt hear my voice arise;
And expectant I will bring, Prayer as morning sacrifice.
Thou art Holy O my God, Thou delightest not in sin;
Evil shall not dwell with Thee, Nor the proud Thy favor win.
O gracious Lord, Hear my words, O gracious Lord,
I will make my prayer to Thee.

First ReadingIsaiah 42:1-9 (Pew Bible OT p.670)

Second ReadingMatthew 2:1-12; 3:13-17 (Pew Bible NT p.2-3)
One: The Word of God, for us, the people of God.
Many: Thanks be to God.

Sermon“Epiphatism”Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith(A Declaration of Faith, 6.5)
In God’s history with people in the world,
God has often made material things
channels through which grace is understood
and powerfully experienced.
Out of the life and ministry of Jesus,
the Church received baptism and the Lord's supper
as special sacraments of God's saving action.

We believe that in baptism
the Spirit demonstrates and confirms God's promise
to include us and our children in God’s gracious covenant,
cleansing us from sin,
and giving us newness of life,
as participants in Christ's death and resurrection.
Baptism sets us in the visible community of Christ's people
and joins us to all other believers by a powerful bond.
In baptism we give ourselves up in faith and repentance
to be the Lord's.
For both children and adults, baptism is a reminder
that God loves us long before we can love God.
For both, God's grace and our response to it
are not tied to the moment of baptism,
but continue and deepen throughout life.

Prayers of the Peopleconcluding with the Lord’s Prayer

Service of Giving

Offertory“Baptized In Water” (Gaelic Melody)Jim Simmons

*Doxology #606
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

*Hymn #482“Baptized in Water”

*Charge and BenedictionRev. Dr. Lynn Miller

*Postlude“Let the World Go Forth” (Birchwood)Rita Harmon

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\*Please stand, in body or in spirit.

The flowers for worship today are given for the glory of God.

Please remember in prayer:  
JT & Teresa Spires; Ashton & Jenni Lail; Rachel Hopper; Family & Friends of Rev.  
Marion Boozer; Butch Carroll; Noah Lindemann; Mark Porter; Miriam Burgess;  
Steve Beheler; Justina Eddy; Jo Jo Ritchie; Trish Tong; Confirmation Class: Layla  
Lemmonds, Taylor Miller & Leah Miller; Confirmation Sponsors: Michelle Jolly,  
Hazel Hubbard, & Becky Wheeler.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sunday School Offering for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter will be donated to Smile Train.

Epiphany Party  
This morning in Sunday School, the children of the church had an Epiphany  
party. They heard the story of the magi (also identified as kings) traveling to  
worship Jesus and going home by another way! They enjoyed a semi-traditional  
French Galette des Rois and made their own crowns. Today, we all come to  
worship Jesus.

Remove Decorations  
We will meet TODAY at 2:00pm to remove the Christmas decorations from  
the church.

Contribution envelopes for 2023 are in the church narthex. If you did not  
receive a set but would like one, please get in touch with either Jim Watts or  
the church office.

Next week's lectionary readings are:  
Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23.

Upcoming Bible Studies  
Rather than one 10-week (or so) Bible study in the spring, there will be  
two shorter studies.

First, in January/February a 4-week study of the twelve disciples – who  
they were, what they did, what we know about them, what we don’t know,  
what they can teach us. You will be required to learn the song with all their  
names. You will not be required to sing the song as a solo.

There will be a second 5- or 6-week study during the weeks of Lent.  
That study will be a broad overview of the whole Bible.

No night is convenient for everyone, but we can try to make it  
convenient for the most people. If Monday or Tuesday is better (or worse) for  
you, please let Lynn know.

Today in the Liturgical year

Both Christmas and Epiphany were likely Christian attempts to counter pre-Christian rituals associated with the winter solstice, though Epiphany was almost certainly celebrated in the church earlier than Christmas. In the East (in Alexandria), the solstice was reckoned to be on January 6, while in the West it was associated with December 25. On those days, the "unconquerable sun" returned as the days began to lengthen. Epiphany was almost certainly celebrated before Christmas. A sermon fragment from the end of the second century/beginning of the third refers to a festival that celebrated Christ's nativity, his baptism and his first miracle (turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana).

The word *Epiphany* is a Greek word, which gives us some hints as to the origin of this liturgical celebration. *Epiphany* means "manifestation," so the Gospel readings on the day of Epiphany and the Sundays following it focus on stories of Jesus being made manifest to the world as the Son of God: in the visit of the magi, in his claiming in baptism, in his performing miracles. In the East, Epiphany became a normal day for baptisms.

Baptism of the Lord marks the move out of the Advent/ Christmas/ Epiphany cycle into Ordinary Time (green paraments and stoles). In Jesus' baptism, we, too, are reminded that we have been washed in the waters of baptism and claimed as children of God, incorporated into the Body of Christ, which is the Church, and commissioned and empowered for a life of Christian discipleship.

Living Out the Great Commission

How is the Presbyterian Church (USA) working in missions around the world? In more than 50 countries around the world, Presbyterian mission co-workers serve as teachers, doctors, chaplains, church planters, and public health specialists. They teach theology, church history, Greek, Hebrew, and English. They preach and evangelize. They organize and host mission teams from the United States. They accompany, they listen and they work in partnership with Christians in those countries.

At <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/mission-connections/> you can view an interactive map showing where our mission co-workers are living and working. You can view a flipbook that introduces all of our mission co-workers. You can also read letters from individual mission co-workers that share the work they are doing.

Epiphany's story of the magi tells about the world coming to Christ. Our support of these mission co-workers is the story of how our denomination shares Christ with the world. Are there things LPC could be doing to more intentionally support one or more of our mission co-workers?

STAFF

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CALENDAR of EVENTS

**Sunday, January 8**  
9:45 AM Confirmation Class – Parlor  
9:45 AM Children's Sunday School – Epiphany Party  
10:15 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room  
11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & via Facebook Live  
2:00 PM Remove Christmas Decorations

**Monday, January 9**  
5:30 PM Girl Scouts

**Tuesday, January 10**  
10:30 AM Circle 1 – Parlor

**Wednesday, January 11**  
6:00 PM Wednesday Night Supper – FLC

**Sunday, January 15**  
9:45 AM Confirmation Class – Parlor  
9:45 AM Children's Sunday School  
10:15 AM Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room  
11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & via Facebook Live

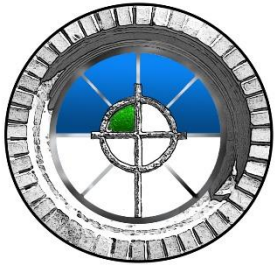
Upcoming  
**Tuesday, January 10; Circle 1**

NEXT STEPS

- ☐ Make reservation for Wednesday Night Supper
- ☐ Review a book from our Library
- ☐ Let Lynn know what day is best for Bible Study
- ☐ Read about Mission co-workers @ <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/mission-connections/>

BIRTHDAYS

January 14 – Tom Thomson



**LIMESTONE**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC(USA)

WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF A LOVING GOD,  
GATHERING, GROWING, GIVING, AND GOING TO SERVE,  
TOGETHER



Daniel Bonnell. *The Baptism of the Christ with Dove.*

The feast of Epiphany invites us to listen to the voice of God and step forth on a spiritual pilgrimage; to enter a new secular year forgetting all that lies behind and ignoring all that seems reasonable today; to trust in the possibility of God's dream and go forth carrying with us the gold of love, the incense of longing, and the myrrh of suffering. Epiphany invites us to live as the mad *Man of La Mancha* who dreamed the impossible dream and strove with the last ounce of courage to reach the unreachable star. --John H. Westerhoff, III, *A Pilgrim People*

QR code for electronic contributions:



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