



***St. John's United Church of Christ  
Chambersburg, PA  
January 12, 2025***

## **BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

\*Please stand in body or in spirit

**GATHERING SONG**

*"This is the Day"*

**UNISON WELCOME**

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*"The peace of Christ be with you"*

*"And also with you"*

**CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

**PRELUDE**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*

The voice of God resounds upon the waters.

**The Spirit of the Lord hovers over the stream.**

The Son of God is named, "Beloved."

**And all who worship shout out, "Glory!"**

Ascribe to the Lord majesty and strength.

**Let us worship God in holy splendor.**

**\*HYMN #319**

*"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

*from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*

God loves us and calls us each by name. Knowing we are eternally forgiven and infinitely loved, let us boldly confess our sins before God.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*

**We are precious in your sight, yet we often forget that we are your beloved. We confess that our love is fickle and inconstant. We follow selfish goals and deny that our way of life harms others and hurts your world. We are sorry and we want to change. Create in us a clean heart, strengthen our resolve, reconcile us one to another, and bless us with your peace. Amen.**

**KYRIE**

Hymnal Companion C-4

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*

Beloved, God forgives your sins; know that you are pardoned and be at peace to love the Lord and serve the world.

**\*GLORY BE TO THE FATHER #704**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 43:1-7

## RESPONSIVE READING

*"The Baptism of Christ" by Malcolm Guite*

Beginning here we glimpse the Three-in-one;

**The river runs, the clouds are torn apart,**

The Father speaks, the Spirit and the Son

**Reveal to us the single loving heart**

That beats behind the being of all things

**And calls and keeps and kindles us to light.**

The dove descends, the spirit soars and sings,

**"You are beloved, you are my delight!"**

In that swift light and life, as water spills

**And streams around the Man like quickening rain,**

The voice that made the universe reveals

**The God in Man who makes it new again.**

He calls us too, to step into that river,

**To die and rise and live and love forever.**

## ANTHEM

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roxanne Davenport

*Children's Corner will be offered following the Children's Message*

### SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

### SERMON

Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

### SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

### INVITATION TO GIVING

### OFFERTORY

#### \*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #706

*"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

#### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*

**O God, at his baptism, you acknowledged Jesus as your beloved Son, and through him you opened to us a way to become your children by grace. May these gifts we return to you be a sign of our dedication to live as your faithful children, born in the waters of baptism by the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

#### \*HYMN #152

*"When Jesus Came to Jordan"*

#### \*COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

#### POSTLUDE (seated)

The "Nursery Nook in the Narthex" quiet area and infant/toddler space in the Parlor are available for children and families to use during worship. Age-appropriate activity bags are also available.

**Birthdays this week:** 1/14 Alan Young; 1/15 Erik Strunk; 1/18 Linda Barton & Jack Myers  
1/19 Alex Strunk

| <b>Worship Participants:</b> |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Pastor                       | Rev. Caroline E. Saxton        |
| Organist                     | Barbara Motichka               |
| Deacon in Charge             | Sarah Myers                    |
| Lector                       | Henry Hopper                   |
| Children's Corner            | Roxanne Davenport              |
| Media Coordinators           | Calvin Frantz and Ginny Cairns |
| Bulletin cover               | Edd Scheer                     |

**The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross** are given To the Glory of God.



**St. John's Vision**

We are called to love, to learn, to worship and to witness in Christ  
as a congregation that welcomes everyone,  
and seeks service that will advance God's realm on earth.

**St. John's Mission**

To grow in love of God and neighbor

**Worship Resources:**

*Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, edited by Kimberly Bracken Long*  
*"The Baptism of Christ" poem by Malcolm Guite, accessed via*  
<https://www.stpauls.co.uk/epiphany-poetry>

## **NEWS IN THE PEWS January 12, 2025**

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton, [pastor@sjucc1811.org](mailto:pastor@sjucc1811.org) (641) 260-1868 (cell)  
Gary Crum, Music Director | Barbara Motichka, Organist  
Roxanne Davenport, Director of Children & Youth  
The Rev. Stephen W. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus

### **THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S**

#### **Monday, January 13**

10:00 am Meditation Class – Parlor Room 104  
1:30 pm “Jesus is the Question” Book Study – Conference Room 111

#### **Tuesday, January 14**

5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202  
6:30 pm Cub Scouts

#### **Thursday, January 16**

6:00 pm Bell Choir – Choir Room 103  
6:30 pm Girl Scouts – Room 116  
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room 103

#### **Sunday, January 19**

8:45 am Godly Play Class – Room 119  
8:45 am Spark! Elementary Church School Class – Room 115  
8:45 am Teen Discussion Class – Youth Room 206  
8:45 am Wired Word Church School Class – Room 116  
10:00 am Sunday Service – Sanctuary

**Office Transitions and Support** As both Loretta Zimmerman (Office Manager) and Heather Nickey (Office Assistant) are leaving St. John's for new employment opportunities, we are in need of volunteers to help in the office. Please contact Pastor Caroline if interested in providing office coverage. Loretta's last day in the office will be Friday, January 17. Church members are invited to a reception for Loretta from 2-3 pm on Friday, January 10.

**Photo Directory Reminder** In addition to submitting your photo for the new directory, please make sure to let the church office know if your contact information has changed. Thank you!

**New Year, New Book Study** Now starting on Monday, January 13, Pastor Caroline will be leading a weekly book study on “Jesus is the Question: The 307 Questions Jesus Asked and the 3 He Answered” by Martin B. Copenhaver. We will meet at 1 pm in the Conference Room. The first session will focus on the forward and introduction. Books can be purchased from your favorite retailer. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

**January First Fruits** go to support the Diaper Depot, a ministry of Central Presbyterian Church which distributes disposable diapers and wipes to 180-200 families month. We know that 1 in 3 families struggle to provide clean diapers for their babies and toddlers. Your contributions of funds for diapers and wipes can go a long way to support this mission. Thank you for your support of the Diaper Depot and families in our community.

**MLK Day of Learning** has unfortunately been cancelled for 2025. Participants are encouraged to join in the MLK Day of Service held on MLK Day, Monday, January 20.

**Community MLK Day Service** Save the date of Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 3 pm at Central Presbyterian Church for the annual remembrance of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Young people are invited to present an essay or another creative expression such as artwork, dance, photography, or dramatic rendering that would incorporate the 2025 theme "Mission Possible: Protecting Freedom, Justice, and Democracy in the Spirit of Nonviolence." This theme honors Dr. King's unwavering dedication to justice and equality thorough nonviolence action. It serves as a powerful reminder that safeguarding freedom, justice, and democracy is achievable when we unite in love and nonviolence. If interested, please speak with Pastor Caroline.

**MLK Day of Service** organized by Franklin County Coalition for Progress will be held on Monday, January 20, 2025. More information is available at [www.fccforprogress.org/mlk-day-of-service](http://www.fccforprogress.org/mlk-day-of-service). Check online to see if spots are available to still volunteer.

**Winter Weather** As we have already experienced, it's a good bet that some winter weather is in our future. In the event of snow and you're not sure if Sunday Worship is cancelled please check your email for a special e-blast or call the church office and select option 1 to hear a message. As for Monday-Friday activities, if CASD classes are cancelled all day, all church activities are also cancelled. If school is delayed morning activities will be cancelled and if there is an early dismissal evening activities will be canceled. Safety first!

**Winter Warmth Drive** helping families in our community stay warm and well fed this winter. Phase 1: Winter Gear December 1 – January 15. Donation needs include: mittens, gloves, hats, socks, toiletries, laundry detergent, and soap. More information can be found in the January Spirit. Donation boxes are in both lobbies. Thank you for your support and generosity!

**Accessibility Update** Thanks to our work with grant writers Ghost Writer LLC, St. John's has received a grant to help purchase new chairs with arms, helping to provide extra support and accessibility for all who come here for worship, fellowship, and fun. We are also applying for grants to upgrade our hearing assistance system.

**Bible and a Beer** is an opportunity to talk about our faith in public. We gather at the Trojan Diner for conversation and a meal (some people do partake of an adult beverage). Join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. Our next gathering will be Monday, January 20.

## Praise to the Lord, the Almighty 319

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a -  
 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign -  
 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy works and de - fend  
 4. Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me a - dore

tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and sal -  
 eth, shel - ters thee un - der His wings, yea, so gen - tly sus -  
 thee; sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at -  
 Him! All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be -

va - tion! All ye who hear, now to His tem - ple draw  
 tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de - sires e'er have  
 tend thee. Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can  
 fore Him. Let the A - men sound from His peo - ple a -

near; praise Him in glad ad - o - ra - tion.  
 been grant - ed in what He or - dain - eth?  
 do, if with His love He be - friend thee.  
 gain, glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him.

## When Jesus Came to Jordan

1. When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap-tized by John,  
 2. He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,  
 3. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;

He did not come for par - don, but as the sin - less one.  
 for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.  
 this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - ery bond-age break.

He came to share re - pent - ance with all who mourn their sins,  
 So when the dove de - scend - ed on Him, the Son of Man,  
 Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:

to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.  
 the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.  
 to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.