



First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Rev. Leslie Latham

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

4th Sunday after Epiphany

BAPTISM PRAYER STATIONS

CCLI License # 2839486

Words to hymns are on the back of the bulletin

January 30, 2022

10:30 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING THOUGHT *from the Follow Me Café Discussion Guide*

Baptism is, in some ways, incredibly simple: washing with water in the name of the triune God. A few words and a handful of water are the only essential ingredients. At the same time, baptism represents a great event with profound significance for an entire life of discipleship—our full immersion in a new way of being, with implications that ripple out into every aspect of our lives.

Baptism is a singular event. We believe that God's action is decisive, God's promise is reliable, and God's mark is indelible. Therefore, baptism does not need repeating in the life of an individual. In the life of a congregation, however, baptism is practiced again and again as new members are received into Christ's body. Each celebration of baptism is an occasion for the whole church to remember and give thanks for the redeeming gift of God's grace. In this sense, baptism is something we practice each day, our whole lives long.

HYMN: #318 *In Christ There Is no East or West*

Psalm 71:1-6

¹ In you, O Lord, haven I take refuge, let me never be ashamed.

² **In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;
incline your ear to me and save me.**

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;
you are my crag and my stronghold.

⁴ **Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**

⁵ For you are my hope, O Lord God,
my confidence since I was young.

⁶ **I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;
from my mother's womb you have been my strength;
my praise shall be always of you.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Galatians 3:25-28

²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

BAPTISM PRAYER STATIONS - See Insert

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

God is our rock and our fortress. Let us celebrate our salvation by fearlessly giving a portion of what has already been given to us, either by placing it in the basket in the back of the church, or by mailing it in.

THE OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of wisdom, may this offering serve as a powerful witness to this world in need. Guide us as we administer the gifts that you have given us for the building of your kingdom. In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

HYMN: #488 *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*

COMMUNAL CHARGE

*****The liturgist reads each line, and the people repeat after*****

God of love, /
we are your children. /
That makes us siblings /
in the family of God. /
Help us love and live like a family— /
not just any family— /
but your beloved family. /
Amen. /

BENEDICTION

Hymns

“In Christ There Is No East Or West” - #318

1. In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north.
But one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.
2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find.
His service is the golden cord close binding humankind.
3. Join hands, then, people of the faith, whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.
4. In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north.
All Christly souls are joined as one throughout the whole wide earth.

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry - #488

1. I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.
2. When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk 'till rising sun.
3. In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in, and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.
4. I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.



Baptism Prayer Stations

January 30, 2022

First Presbyterian Church, Tonawanda, NY

created by Rev. Theresa Cho

<https://theresaecho.com/2012/01/01/interactive-prayer-stations-on-baptism/>

On fifth Sundays, we often do something different during worship. I (Pastor Leslie) particularly like having prayer stations. For the month of January, we have been learning about baptism—the act of commending ourselves or our children into a life in a faith community in the Church of Jesus Christ. Because of COVID (sigh) you might not get to worship, but here is a way you—no matter your age or circumstances—can participate. I have adapted these stations for your use at home, using simple items you have. The sixth station is geared especially for young children. If you live alone, invite someone to go through them with you! I hope you will enjoy these stations, created by the Rev. Theresa Cho, a Presbyterian pastor in the Bay Area. NB: I'd LOVE if you'd send pictures of your participation/creations!

1. Calls Us by Name

God calls us each by name in baptism. Write down “nicknames” as you wish to be called and listen for God’s voice.

Some examples might include *daughter, Child of God, special, beloved, cherished, friend, Daddy, etc.*

Take a moment for a prayer of thanksgiving using the names you wrote down.

2. New Life PARENTAL SUPERVISION REQUIRED FOR LITTLES

Gather together paper, pens, heat-resistant bowl, candle

Think about: What does it mean for you to die and rise with Jesus in baptism? Write down those things in you that need to die, and carefully burn them in the bowl. Let the light remind you of the promises of Epiphany and resurrection.

3. Cleansed

Gather together a pretty bowl of water, clean pebbles, towel

“Wash” your hands in the bowl as a symbol of cleansing. Take a pebble to remind you of your baptism. If it’s big enough, write the date you were baptized on it.

4. Rebirth Certificate

Using the words below, make a special certificate commemorating each person’s baptism. Take a picture of your creation(s)!

You have been adopted into God’s family, the church. Jesus is your sibling.

Romans 8:15-16

5. Cross

What is a special cross in your home or at church? Think about these words from Romans 6:3-8—*You share in the death and resurrection of Jesus. You never need to be afraid of death. Your eternal life has already begun.*

6. Interactive Stations for Toddlers

Gather together paper and crayons, colored pencils, or markers

Activity 1: Say, God knows your name. Can you say your name? Can you write your name? God knows your name. God says your name. God remembers your name!

Activity 2: Say, You belong to God. Draw some things that belong to you. What is a special thing that you don't want to lose? Why doesn't God want to lose you?

“The origin of the Greek word for baptize makes the Scripture come alive, calling for both action and response. *Baptizo* means to dip under, immerse, or submerge. When we respond to the call of Jesus and profess our faith, we are immersed in the waters of baptism.... The action of baptism is the same: in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God claims us as God's own in the waters of baptism. This is celebrated in the community of believers of which we have become a part and as a member of the universal family of God. Our response then is to immerse ourselves in the life and calling of faith. Jesus' commission to us is to go and do the same, sharing the good news, baptizing in the name of the triune God, and welcoming people into the community of faith. Water. Words. Community.”

From “Practicing the Practices” BAPTIZE unit from FOLLOW ME curriculum

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