

First Presbyterian Church

Edmonton, Alberta

(Founded 1881)



Baptism of Christ

11:00 am — January 10, 2021

Morning Worship

PRELUDE and LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: "The Peace of Christ be with you."

People: "And also with you."

INTROIT *389 Breathe on me breath of God (vs 1)*

1 Breathe on me, breath of God; fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love
and do what thou wouldst do.

WELCOME AND INTIMATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

WE APPROACH GOD

1. Come down, O love divine, seek now this soul of mine,
And visit it with your own ardor glowing.
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
And kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

2. O let it freely burn, til earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let your glorious light shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

3. Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;

True lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
And pride in earthly glory scorns with loathing.

4. And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
Shall far out-pass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace, till we become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

PRAYERS OF APPROACH: (Unison)

God who watches over us, offering us light and hope, be with us this day as we hear the story of Jesus' baptism. Help us to remember your healing, cleansing, and claiming love for us. Remind us again of the many ways in which you reach out to us. May the image of the waters be for us an image of hope. Bring us closer to you, loving God. Embrace us again with your love.

Lord, you have blessed us with life. What we have done with our lives has both delighted and perplexed you. We are far too often inclined to be stubborn and arrogant, believing that we are all powerful, that we have no need for you. But there is an emptiness in so many of us - a place where we are raw and hurting, bleeding, and bruised. We often fail to heal others or heal ourselves. So many people are drifting over the waters of life without control and direction and we have failed to point them, and ourselves, in the direction of the one who knows the way and is the way. Forgive us, Lord. Help us come to you, seeking your healing and forgiving love. For with you there is mercy and love. You have cleansed and healed us, and adopted us as your beloved children. Help us to live as children of the light, and as people of help and healing; we pray in the name of Jesus, whom by his stripes we are healed. Amen

KYRIE ELEISON (Lord have mercy)

DECLARATION OF PARDON

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung): Hymn #831

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, 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.

ANTHEM *This Baptizing Day*

W.A. Pasch

*Jesus went down to the Jordan one day,
his Father's calling to obey.*

*Then John baptized him, and the Lord God said,
"This is the way!*

This is my own dear son, Follow him; his work's begun.

Sin's drowned, the victory's won! River, wash guilt away!"

This water flows as the promise of grace

for all God's children in this place,

It's not our doing; Christ has done it all.

Give God the praise!

Now let this flood of love wash us clean, all fear remove.

From earth to heaven above, loud thanksgiving we raise!

When I go down to the river to pray,

thinking on my baptizing day,

the Holy Spirit tells me I'm newborn, Old Sin, away!

*My savior died for me. Resurrection set us free,
Grace reigns eternally, through this baptizing day!*

SHARING A STORY

HYMN: 515 Out of deep, unordered water

1. Out of deep, unordered water
God created life and land,
world of bird and beast and, later,
two some people: woman, man.

Refrain: There is water in the river
bringing life to tree and plant.
Let creation praise its giver: there is water in the font.

2. Water on the human forehead,
birthmark of the love of God,
is the sign of death and rising;
through the sea there runs a road. (Refrain)

3. Standing round the font reminds us
of the Hebrews' climb ashore.
Life is hallowed by the knowledge
God has been this way before. (Refrain)

WE HEAR HIS WORD

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 116:1-9 (Refrain II)

***R: When I call upon the Lord with my face to the rising
sun, oh Lord, have mercy on me***

- ¹ I love the Lord, who has heard
my voice and my supplications.
- ² Because God inclined an ear to me,
therefore I will call on the Lord as long as I live.
- ³ The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.
- ⁴ **Then I called on the name of the Lord:
'O Lord, I pray, save my life!' R**
- ⁵ Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;
our God is merciful.
- ⁶ **The Lord protects the simple;
when I was brought low, God saved me.**
- ⁷ Return, O my soul, to your rest,
for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.
- ⁸ **For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling.**
- ⁹ I walk before the Lord
in the land of the living. R

GLORIA PATRI #594

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.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Old Testament Lesson	Isaiah 40:9-11
Epistle Lesson	I John 4:7-11
New Testament Lesson	Mark 1:4-11

SERMON: "The Power of Story"

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

HYMN: 499 *Tell me the old, old story*

1. Tell me the old, old story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
Tell me the story simply, as to a little child,
for I am weak and weary, and helpless and defiled.

Refrain:

Tell me the old, old story; tell me the old, old story;
tell me the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

2. Tell me the story slowly, that I may take it in,
that wonderful redemption, God's remedy for sin.
Tell me the story often, for I forget so soon;
the early dew of morning has passed away at noon.

(Refrain)

3. Tell me the story softly, with earnest tones and grave;
remember I'm the sinner whom Jesus came to save.
Tell me the story always, if you would really be,
in any time of trouble, a comforter to me. **(Refrain)**

4. Tell me the same old story,
when you have cause to fear
that this world's empty glory is costing me too dear.
Yes, and when that world's glory is dawning on my soul,
tell me the old, old story: Christ Jesus makes thee whole.
(Refrain)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Minister: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be a disciple, to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, to resist oppression, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ, as best you are able?

(Let people answer silently to themselves)

Minister: And do you promise, according to the grace given to you, to grow in your faith and to be a faithful member of the church, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering God's mission in all of the world?

(Let people answer silently to themselves)

Minister: Normally you would be invited to the front where I would touch your forehead with oil. So today you come in Spirit and not in body as I say to you, the Gospel, the good news of Jesus:

“You are God's beloved child!”

Prayer of Recommitment

All: By your Spirit, Almighty God, Grant us: Love for others; Joy in serving you; Peace in disagreement; Patience in suffering; Kindness toward all people; Goodness in evil times; Faithfulness in temptation; Gentleness in the face of opposition; and Self-control in all things. Then strengthen us for ministry in your name. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Baptized in Water*
Soloist: Betty Kolodziej

Michael Seward

1 Baptised in water, sealed by the Spirit
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king;
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise -
faithfully now God's praise we sing.

2 Baptised in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our king;
one with his rising, freed and forgiven
thankfully now God's praise we sing.

3 Baptised in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our king;
born of one Father, we are his children -
joyfully now God's praise we sing.

DOXOLOGY #830

*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.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

We take Christ's Love To The World

HYMN: 522 *We know that Christ is raised*

1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by futile death, he broke its hold,
and our despair he turned to blazing joy. Alleluia!

2 We share by water in his saving death.
this union brings to being one new cell
a living and organic part of Christ. Alleluia!

3 The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit's fission shakes the church of God.
Baptized, we live with God, the Three in One. Alleluia!

4 A new creation comes to life and grows
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe, restored and whole, will sing: Alleluia!

BENEDICTION

Sing Amen. Amen, we praise your name O God (2x)
Amen, 4x, Amen, we praise your name O God

POSTLUDE From "*Water Music*"
Handel

GF

WARMEST GREETINGS: We are pleased to welcome all who
join us this morning by video stream. We welcome friends
from **Westmount Presbyterian Church** who are worshipping
with us. Worship is live streamed at
<https://www.twitch.tv/firstpresbyterianedmonton/>

Our amazing **online Church School** with Julia-Don
Edwards:<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSzLkIA3uQbUMnvNaDQMCLA>

Joyful Giving: There are various ways to give. You can **Mail** a cheque or your envelope. You can pay by **PayPal** on the church's website. Click on donate button.

You can also donate via an **e-transfer**. You put **treasurer@firstpresbyterian.ca** in your list of recipients, set up a question and answer and email the answer to the Treasurer, Javed Sommers, at above address. **Be sure to email your name and address to treasurer so he can send you a tax receipt at the end of the year.** Use same address to ask any questions about donating or finances.

We want to thank you for your generosity.

Image on Front: The Baptism of Christ is a painting done by Andrea del Verrochio circa 1472 in his studio, with the help of his student Leonardo da Vinci. The painting is housed in the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy

We thank the **Musicians and Technicians** who are making the service possible to be live-streamed.

Bible Study is planned to resume Jan.13th for our 8-week winter session! We will adopt a ZOOM remote meeting format, and we will continue with the "*We make the Road by Walking*" Bible study from last year. Eila Peterson will be the convener and will forward you the link to ZOOM.

If you are not set-up with ZOOM, now is the time to do it. To register for Bible Study, Eila can be reached at eila.peterson@gmail.com

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