

## **First Presbyterian Church**

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

**Come, Worship the Lord, Our God**

**Baptism of the Lord**

CCLI License # 2839486

**January 12, 2025**

**10:30am**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Like the soft whisper of a little child singing  
to herself before anyone else in the house is awake,  
**ever so gently, God's voice cradles us  
with songs of wonder and awe.**

With the persistence of teenagers and young adults,  
heady with the newfound freedom of questioning everything,  
**God's voice rumbles like a river through our lives,  
sweeping away all the boundaries between us.**

Like the grandpa who passes on the secret to his bread,  
like the nana who teaches her grandkids how to drive,  
**God's voice is always reminding us  
that we are precious, esteemed, beloved.**

## **GATHERING PRAYER**

Holy God, when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan the heavens opened, the Spirit descended, and your voice affirmed your love in Jesus for the healing of the human race and all creation. By water and word you lovingly invite us into this same life-giving mission. May your Spirit, moving like a stream of water flowing from its source, work in us this day to realize your vision of a world made new in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

### **\*HYMN: "Lord, When You Came to Jordan"**

1. Lord, when You came to Jordan  
And asked to be baptized,  
What was Your vow and vision  
Of love and sacrifice?  
Was there a sudden splendor  
Of prophets, priest, and kings,  
A wind that stirred the waters,  
A blur of mighty wings?
2. Was this God's crowing moment  
Of all You had become,  
The Spirit's power and blessing:  
"Go now, You are My Son?"  
Did scripture join with scripture  
In words of sharp surprise:  
"The Lord's Messiah shall conquer,  
Rejected and despised?"
3. Faith rest content with questions  
Of when and why and how,  
But craves the gift of seeing  
What God is doing now.  
Lord, bring us to our Jordan  
Of newly opened eyes,  
Through love, immersed in living,  
As You were once Baptized.

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Broken? God promises to make us whole. Lost? God promises to come and find us, gather us up, and bring us home. Confused about tomorrow? God promises our future is grounded in love. Let us confess that, though we have heard the promises over and over, we have trouble believing them, as we pray together saying,

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**We know what it is like to be singed by the flames of our lives, Holy God. We look for ourselves in all the wrong places—success, power, adulation. We carve our names in the granite walls of work, hoping we will be remembered when we are gone. We have gone through the waters of baptism, but live as if they have not changed us.**

**We need to hear your sure word, “do not fear,” Shaper of our lives. Our failures do not cause you to quit loving us, for you continue to claim us, gathering us up in your compassionate arms. In our baptism, we discover not the end, but the first step of our journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

*Silence is kept*

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God's words of comfort and restoration are more powerful than any foolishness, any mistakes, any sins we commit. This is good news: we are God's people!

**Thanks be to God! By water and word, by the Spirit of God's redeeming grace, we are marked and sealed as God's beloved children. Amen.**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Glorious God, when Jesus was baptized for your healing mission the heavens opened in a flash of glory as vision and voice blazed upon the waters. May your Spirit so burn in us that we hear your word translated into deed and follow Jesus in paths of justice, right relationship, and peace. Amen.

**Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7** Passing through the waters

<sup>1</sup>But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. <sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup>For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. <sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my sight and honored and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. <sup>5</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; <sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—<sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **ALL GOD'S CHILDREN**

**Responsive Psalm: Psalm 29** The voice of God upon the waters

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,

**ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.**

<sup>2</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;

**worship the LORD in holy splendor.**

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, **the LORD, over mighty waters.**

<sup>4</sup>The voice of the LORD is powerful;

**the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;

**the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.**

<sup>6</sup>He makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Sirion like a young wild ox.

<sup>7</sup>**The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.**

<sup>8</sup>The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;

**the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl and strips the forest bare,

**and in his temple all say, "Glory!"**

<sup>10</sup>The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;

**the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.**

<sup>11</sup>May the LORD give strength to his people!

**May the LORD bless his people with peace!**

**Gospel Reading: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22** The baptism of Jesus

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON: "Baptism of Jesus"**

**Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee**

**SERMON HYMN: "Baptized in Water" #482**

**BUNESSAN**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

As people who have passed through the waters of baptism, let us make our grateful offering to God our Redeemer.

## **THE OFFERTORY**

**DOXOLOGY: "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night" #675 (vs 4)**

**TALLIS' CANON**

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**We offer our gifts in recognition that we are baptized people, transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. So, we will hold nothing back but will share our lives, our hearts, our energies, as well as our efforts, in ministry to the world around us. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: "Ho, All Who Thirst" #479**

**JACOB'S WELL**

## **CHARGE**

Baptized, we will go to share God's love with others.

**We will welcome those the world rejects as our sisters and brothers.**

Baptized, we will become the grace of our Lord Jesus.

**We will share the waters of life with everyone we meet.**

Baptized, we will become the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

**We will be a community of justice, not judgment;**

**we will be a household of hope, not an exclusive club for just a few.**

## **BENEDICTION**

### **Volunteers This Week:**

Liturgist: Tom Dugan

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Leslie Dugan

Greeter(s): Pat Loeswick

Coffee Hour: Laura & Alvin Marohn

### **Volunteers Next Week 1/19/25**

Liturgist: Janet Haacker

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Randy Marohn

Greeter(s): Ina Charsley, Terry DeLuca

Coffee Hour:

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

The prayer concerns have recently been updated. If you have a prayer request, please contact **Pastor Rebecca at 315-317-6140 or the church office at 716-692-1319.**

## **CALENDAR**

Sunday, Jan 12

9:30am All Age Faith Formation (Parlor)  
10:30 am Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)  
11:30am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

Monday, Jan 13

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)  
6:00pm Church Stretch  
7:00pm CE Team

Tuesday, Jan 14

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours  
10:00am-11:30am God Loves Me Storytime

Wednesday, Jan 15

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Thursday, Jan 16

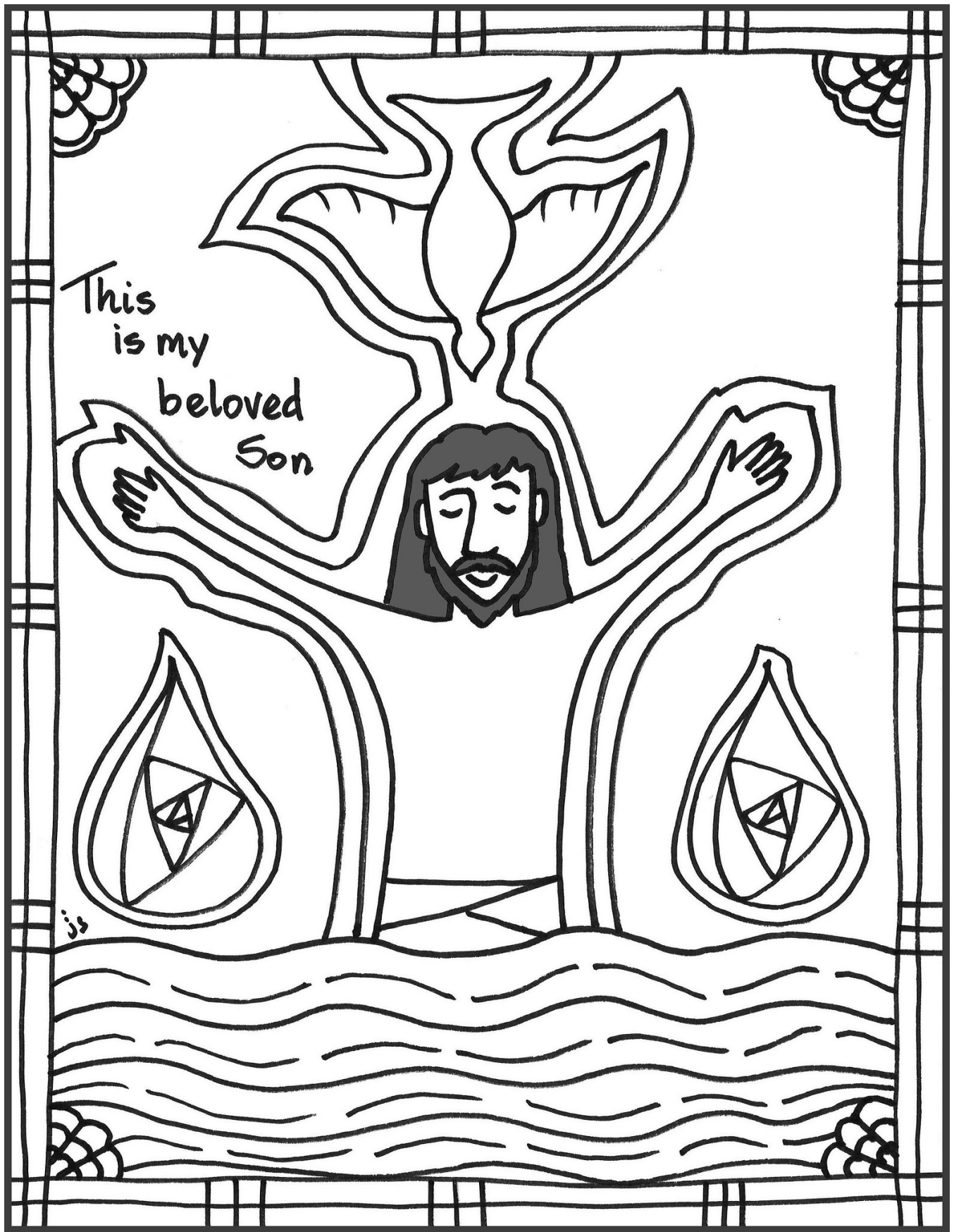
9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours  
10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)  
6:00pm-8:00pm Choirs Practice

Saturday, Jan 18

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, Jan 19

9:30am All Age Faith Formation (Parlor)  
10:30 am Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)  
11:30am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)



Portions of the liturgy by Thom M. Shuman and Feasting on the Word. Images by Rev. John Stuart, stushieart.com.