



**CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**6300 Trinity Drive, Pine Bluff, Arkansas**  
**Sunday, January 8, 2023**  
**Baptism of the Lord**

**GREET THOSE AROUND YOU IN THE NAME OF CHRIST**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RITUALS OF FRIENDSHIP**

**PRELUDE**

**Organ/Piano: Young Ju Oh**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

George: Hear these words from the Holy Scripture: Just as the body is one and has many members and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

**People: For in the one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body— Jews or Greeks, slaves or free— and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.**

George: Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. God has told you what is good: and what does the Lord require of you?

**People: To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.**

George: The joy of the Lord be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

**\*OPENING HYMN # 375 Shall We Gather at the River**

**1 Shall we gather at the river, Where bright angel feet have trod;  
With its crystal tide forever Flowing by the throne of God?**

**Refrain:**

**Yes, we'll gather at the river, The beautiful, the beautiful river;  
Gather with the saints at the river That flows by the throne of God.**

**2 On the margin of the river, Washing up its silver spray,  
We will walk and worship ever, All the happy golden day. [Refrain]**

**3 Ere we reach the shining river, Lay we ev'ry burden down;  
Grace our spirits will deliver, And provide a robe and crown. [Refrain]**

**4 Soon we'll reach the shining river, Soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
Soon our happy hearts will quiver With the melody of peace. [Refrain]**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Rev. Jai Kwak**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, our baptism is the sign and seal of our cleansing from sin, And of our being grafted into Christ. Through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ, the power of sin was broken and God's kingdom entered our world. Through our baptism, we were made citizens of God's kingdom, and freed from the bondage of sin. Let us celebrate that freedom and redemption through the renewal of the promises made at our baptism. I ask you, therefore, once again to reject sin, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, and to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we were baptized.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord. We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires. Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Again, let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

**KYRIE ELEISON: "Lord, Have Mercy"**

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Rev. Jai Kwak**

Hear the good news! In baptism you were buried with Christ. In baptism also you were raised to life with him, through faith in the power of God who raised Christ from the dead. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Amen.

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**Hymnal #581**

**"Glory Be to the Father"**

**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.**

**ANTHEM**

**Piano/Organ: Young Ju Oh**

**Light Dawns on a Weary World**

**Light dawn on a weary world When eyes begin to see all people's dignity.  
Light dawn on a weary world: The promised day of justice comes.**

**(Refrain) The trees shall clap their hands; The dry lands, gush with springs;  
The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing! We shall go out in joy,  
And be led forth in peace, As all the world in wonder echoes shalom.**

**Love grows in a weary world When hungry hearts find bread And  
children's dreams are fed. Love grows in a weary world; The promised feast  
of plenty comes.**

**Hope blooms in a weary world When creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness  
reborn. Hope blooms in a weary world: The promised green of Eden comes.**

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

**CHILDRENS SERMON**

**Rose VonTungeln**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Matthew 3:13–17 (NASB95)**

**Logan Mosley**

**13 Then Jesus \*arrived from Galilee at the Jordan *coming* to John, to be baptized by him.**

**14 But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?"**

**15 But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit *it* at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he \*permitted Him.**

**16** After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove *and* lighting on Him,

**17** and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**MEDITATION**

**Baptism of the Lord**

**Rev. Jai D. Kwak**

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**\*HYMN # 475 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

**1** Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

**2** Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

**3** O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

**\*PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Pastor: With the whole church, let us confess our faith. Do you believe in God the Father?

**People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was**

**conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

Pastor: Remember your baptism and be thankful. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, the life you recreated in us by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die. Your justice never fails. Your mercy is everlasting. Your healing river flows. Your Spirit blows where you will. We cannot stop you, God! But sometimes we try. We try to block the flow or redirect the winds of the Spirit, We lose hope, or take hope away from others.

We let the world tell us who we are, or even let the church limit what you would make of us. We walk so far away from the life-giving Stream that we do not hear its sound, and we forget your power. We burn ourselves. We are dry and thirsty, O God. Come, refresh us! Speak to us once more your great good news of life, and pour into us afresh your love, stronger than death, until we can all rise, and each in our own voice proclaims,

**All: I am a child of God.**

Pastor: Even so, come upon us, Holy Spirit!

**People: Come upon us, Holy Spirit!**

Pastor: Come upon these waters.

**People: Come upon these waters.**

Pastor: Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.

**People: Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.**

Pastor: Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.

**People: Let these waters fill us with hope for your now and coming reign.**

Pastor: Most Holy God, Abba, Father!

**People: Glory to you!**

Pastor: Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord!

**People: Glory to you!**

Pastor: Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness!

**People: Glory to you!**

Pastor: Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!

**People All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!**

*All who are baptized and have renewed their vows are invited to come to the font to use the water as a sign of refreshing. Gifts for the offering may also be placed near the font at this time.*

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

(You each are encouraged to give voice to your concerns or to name those for whom you love and pray.)

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

**\*CLOSING HYMN # 744 Arise, Your Light Is Come**

**1 Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey; show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.**

**2 Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door; proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.**

**3 Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born, bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.**

**4 Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.**

**CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**\*\*POSTLUDE**

**EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

*Go forth into the world rejoicing. Love and serve the Lord.*

***\*Those who are able, please stand.***

***\*\* Please be seated and remain for the postlude if you can.***

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

<i>Dominik Munn</i>	<i>Sydney Hayes</i>
<i>Jemmie Moseley</i>	<i>Hester Insley</i>
<i>Emil &amp; Carol Brown</i>	<i>Karen Perdue</i>

**FRIENDS AND RELATIVES**

<u>Name</u>		<u>Name</u>	
<i>Allie Cooper &amp; Carol Taylor</i>	<i>Friends of Denise Mosley</i>	<i>Rebecca &amp; Earl Phillips</i>	<i>Friends of Karen Perdue</i>
<i>Max Zeng</i>	<i>Mike and Lan Kelly's son</i>	<i>Dr. Laura Festa</i>	<i>Wife of Dr. Dan Festa</i>
<i>Luis Sanchez</i>	<i>Father of Lizabeth Sanchez</i>	<i>Haley Chandler</i>	<i>Friend of the Church</i>
<i>Bernice Collins</i>	<i>Friend of the Church</i>	<i>Pat Mosley</i>	<i>Mother of George Mosley</i>

***PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FELLOW PRESBYTERIANS:***

**Mt. Vernon, Pea Ridge**

**First, Huntsville**

***PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN***

***AROUND THE WORLD***

***Help us keep our prayer list up to date. If you have family or friends who need to be added or removed from the prayer concerns list, please let the Office know.***

Welcome to Central Presbyterian Church, where we come together to celebrate God's love, nurture growth, share our faith and serve the needs of others. This congregation opens wide its doors and hearts and welcomes all in the name of Jesus Christ.

## Announcements

Today, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord using some part of the liturgy approved by the Worship and Spiritual Renewal Committee of the 218th General Assembly of the PCUSA. This is to remind us to remember that in baptism, we have been united with Christ in His death and in His resurrection. And in that same baptism, Christ calls us to ministry in all realms of life. May the presence of Christ never leave your heart. To each new chapter of your life, may the Lord grant you His grace and strength. Happy New Year!

Today we will have a Congregational Meeting after the service. Please remain for the meeting. This will be for the purposes of presenting the budget to the congregation and electing the incoming session class. We will also be dealing with matters of session class size and lengths of term.

Session members are to meet to have the first "Discernment Process" seminar with Rev. Joseph Moore from the Presbyterian Foundation of the General Assembly of PCUSA today at 3:30 PM. All members of the session are required to attend.

We will be holding a family movie night for our January Blue Moon event. This will take place on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30pm. More details to come soon!

<b>Pastor</b> Rev. Jai D. Kwak	<b>Pianist/Organist</b> Young Ju Oh
<b>Treasurer</b> Rose VonTungeln	<b>Sound Board Operator</b> Zac Cosner

**Email:** [Office@centralprespb.com](mailto:Office@centralprespb.com)  
**Phone:** 870-879-9074  
**Website:** <http://www.centralprespb.com>  
 Website Password: Trinity9074



### Session

<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Zachary Cosner (Clerk)	Laura Cosner
Pat Drewett	Jane Judkins
George Mosley	Denise Mosley
Danny Reeves	Suzy VonTungeln

### Standing Committee Moderators:

Zac Cosner - Budget & Finance  
 Suzy VonTungeln - Fellowship & Education  
 Denise Mosley - Missions & Outreach  
 Laura Cosner - Worship & Music



"Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me."

St. Patrick

