GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Service of Worship  January 9, 2022 9:30am
Baptism of the Lord

Gathering

PRELUDE  “Sheep May Safely Graze” by J.S. Bach
Linda Dover, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT  “Little Serenade” by Joseph Haydn
Kat Mason, bass flute

*CALL TO WORSHIP  (spoken together)

ONE:  We have been claimed by the God who calls us children.
ALL:  We, the redeemed, have been called by name.
ONE:  As with the Israelites, God promises to pass with us through the water.
ALL:  We will not fear, for God is with us!
ONE:  The rivers shall not overwhelm us for God is our guide and our protector.
ALL:  Through God’s saving grace, the waters that tested us are now the waters that wash us and nourish us.
ONE:  Great is the Fount of Every Blessing, ever flowing, ever redeeming, ever claiming us as God’s children.
ALL:  Come, let us worship the God who washes us in grace.

*HYMN  164  “Down Galilee’s Slow Roadways”  WEST MAIN
Down Galilee’s Slow Roadways

1 Down Gal - i - lee’s slow road - ways a stran - ger trav - eled on
2 A - ris - ing from the riv - er he saw the heav - ens torn;
3 We too have found a road - way; it led us to this place.

from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John.
it seemed the sky so o - pen re - vealed the Spir - it’s form.
We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.

He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe, and slave,
The ho - ly dove de - scend - ed a - mid a glo - ri - ous voice:
But now be - side this wa - ter a - gain a voice is heard.

but there with - in the riv - er the sign was birth and grave.
"You are my own be - lov - ed, my child, my heart, my choice."
"You are my own, my cho - sen, be - lov - ed of your Lord."

When reviewing baptismal resources with other members of the United Church of Canada’s Working Unit on Worship, the author was struck by how few hymns had been written for adult baptism. This meditative text on the Baptism of Jesus is an effort to remedy that situation.
PRAYER FOR CLEANSING (*unison*)

*God of justice, in baptism you anointed us to live boldly in the reality of your coming kingdom.*

*We confess that we have not fulfilled our calling.*

*We have not used your power to serve our neighbors.*

*We have walked away from oppression and injustice.*

*We have turned our backs on your beloved children who hunger and thirst in a world of plenty.*

*Forgive us, Lord. Make us courageous servants of your justice, peace, and wholeness, in Jesus’ name. Amen.*

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: Peace be with you. You are God’s beloved

All: Thanks be to God!

Equipping

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON  Exodus 14:15–25  (CEB)

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to get moving. As for you, lift your shepherd’s rod, stretch out your hand over the sea, and split it in two so that the Israelites can go into the sea on dry ground. But me, I’ll make the Egyptians stubborn so that they will go in after them, and I’ll gain honor at the expense of Pharaoh, all his army, his chariots, and his cavalry. The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD, when I gain honor at the expense of Pharaoh, his chariots, and his cavalry.” God’s messenger, who had been in front of Israel’s camp, moved and went behind them. The column of cloud moved from the front and took its place behind them. It stood between Egypt’s camp and Israel’s camp. The cloud remained there, and when darkness fell it lit up the night. They didn’t come near each other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD pushed the sea back by a strong east wind all night, turning the sea into dry land. The waters were split into two. The Israelites walked into the sea on dry ground. The waters formed a wall for them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians chased them and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and cavalry. As morning approached, the LORD looked down on the Egyptian camp from the column of lightning and cloud and threw the Egyptian camp into a panic. The LORD jammed their chariot wheels so that they wouldn’t turn easily. The Egyptians said, “Let’s get away from the Israelites, because the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt!”
SOLO

“Go Light Your World”
by Chris Rice

Lindsay Callender, soloist – Christopher Callender, guitar
Miles McDonald, bass guitar – Ronda McDonald, piano
Daniel Cole, drum set

There is a candle in every soul - Some brightly burning, some dark and cold
There is a Spirit who brings a fire - Ignites a candle and makes His home

So, carry your candle, run to the darkness - Seek out the helpless, confused and torn
Hold out your candle for all to see it - Take your candle, and go light your world

Frustrated brother, see how he’s tried to light his own candle some other way
See now your sister, she’s been robbed and lied to still holds a candle without a flame

So, carry your candle, run to the darkness - Seek out the lonely, the tired and worn
Hold out your candle for all to see it - Take your candle, and go light your world

We are a family whose hearts are blazing, so let’s raise our candles and light up the sky
Praying to our Father, in the name of Jesus Make us a beacon in darkest times

So, carry your candle, run to the darkness - Seek out the hopeless, deceived and poor
Hold out your candle for all to see it - Take your candle, and go light your world

Carry your candle, run to the darkness - Seek out the helpless, confused and torn
Hold out your candle for all to see it - Take your candle, and go light your world

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Mark 1:1-11 (CEB)
The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God’s Son, happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah:

Look, I am sending my messenger before you.
He will prepare your way,
a voice shouting in the wilderness:
“Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight.”

John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. John wore clothes made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He announced, “One stronger than I am is coming after me. I’m not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. And there was a voice from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness.”

SERMON

“Passage Through the Waters”
Rev. Sue Trigger
INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN 10  “Sing Glory to the Name of God”
Stanzas 1, 2, and 4

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
10 Sing Glory to the Name of God
(Psalm 29)

1 Sing glory to the name of God, whose holy splendor shines abroad.
2 The name of God is full of might; resounding thunder, flashing light.
3 The name of God is wild and free, a whirl in holy mystery.
4 May God forever be our peace; may hymns of glory never cease:

Enthroned above the wilderness canopy:
A secret wrapped in crash ing waves, the God of grace and glory saves.
Not contain the echoes of the great refrain:
Smoke and fire, still chanted by the temple choir:
People come; sing praise to God, the Three-in-One:

This sweeping paraphrase of Psalm 29 conveys a sense of the Jewish reverence for the sheer power of God's name, regarded as too holy for mortal tongues to pronounce. In keeping with its appointment for Trinity Sunday, the final stanza gives the psalm a Christian interpretation.

TEXT: David Gambrell, 2009
MUSIC: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, 1623, alt.; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
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LASST UNS ERREUEN
LM with alleluias
(this tune in a higher key, 327)
Allelujia, allelujia! Allelujia,

Allelujia, allelujia! Allelujia!

Allelujia, allelujia! Allelujia!

Allelujia, allelujia! Allelujia!
*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (*seated*) "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star" by J.S. Bach

Linda Dover, organ

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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