



**WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**Baptism of the Lord**  
**Communion Sunday**  
10 January 2021 10:00 a.m.

**Welcome**

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

**Voluntary**

In God, My Faithful God

Johann Sebastian

Bach

**\*Ringing of the Bell**

*The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.*

**\* Call to Worship**

Rev. Christian K. Choi

We recall the story of Jesus' baptism,  
when the heavens were opened to him  
and Jesus saw the Spirit of God  
descending like a dove and alighting on him.  
Then a voice from heaven echoed,  
This is my Son, the Beloved,  
with whom I am well pleased.  
The voice of the Lord, the God of glory,  
thunders over mighty waters.  
May the Lord give strength to God's people!  
May the Lord bless God's people with peace!  
(Matthew 3:16-17, Psalm 29)

**\*Hymn**

Out of Deep, Unordered Water

Rustington

Out of deep, unordered water God created light and land,  
world of bird and beast and, later, in God's image, woman, man.  
There is water in the river bringing life to tree and plant.  
Let creation praise its giver: there is water in the font.  
Water on the human forehead, birthmark of the love of God,  
is the sign of death and rising; through the seas there runs a road.  
There is water in the river bringing life to tree and plant.  
Let creation praise its giver; there is water in the font.  
Standing round the font reminds us of the Hebrews' climb ashore.  
Life is hallowed by the knowledge God has been here before.  
There is water in the river bringing life to tree and plant.  
Let creation praise its giver; there is water in the font.

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Trajan I. McGill

God who meets us, loves us fully, and calls us into being, we gather in your Holy presence. Some of us are expectant and others of us are uncertain. Meet us wherever we are and gently embrace us with your love. Renew us with the flowing waters of baptism that we may hear your voice. A voice that forgives us when we do wrong, that calls us to serve you and others, and that invites us to use our own voices to challenge injustice in our world. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

**Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

**\*Declaration of Pardon** Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
The peace of Christ be with you. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**\*Response of Praise** Gloria Patri

### Children's Sermon

**Response** I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

*Houston*

I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.  
In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

**First Scripture Reading** Genesis 1:1-5

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness God called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

**Solo** Down to the River to Pray

*Traditional*

As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way and who shall wear the starry crown, Good Lord, show me the way. O sisters let's go down, let's go down, come on down, O sisters, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

**Second Scripture Reading** Mark 1:4-11

<sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with <sup>[b]</sup> water; but he will baptize you with <sup>[c]</sup> the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the

heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; <sup>[d]</sup> with you I am well pleased."

**Meditation**      Called into Being

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

*Text: In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, Genesis 1:1-2a*

**Solo**      Shall We Gather by the River

Robert Lowry, Aaron Copeland, arr

Shall we gather by the river, where bright angels feet have trod,  
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God.  
Yes, we'll gather by the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,  
Gather with the saints by the river that flows by the throne of God.  
Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease,  
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.  
Yes we'll gather by the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,  
Gather with the saints by the river that flows by the throne of God.

**\*Reaffirmation of the  
Baptismal Covenant**

**Presentation and  
Dedication of our Gifts**

**\*Offertory Response**      Doxology

**SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**

The Lord be with you.  
Let us lift our hearts and give thanks to the Lord our God.  
Let us pray. It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise...  
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name.  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Accept this, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:  
*Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.*  
Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine.... Hear now the prayer Christ taught us to pray, saying:

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

## Words of Institution

## Music at Communion

## Prayer after Communion

O God, as you called each of us into being, claimed us in the Spirit's waters, and number us among your own beloved, give us power to do your work, to show your love, and to live holy and joyful lives. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Amen.

## \*Hymn

We Know that Christ is Raised

*Engelberg*

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

We share by water in his saving death.  
Reborn we share with him an Easter life  
as living members of a living Christ. Alleluia!

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

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!

## \*Charge and Benediction

## \*Voluntary

Grand Choeur in G

Théodore Salomé

(\*) The congregation is invited to stand.

## Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Pastor and Head of Staff

Rev. Trajan I. McGill, Associate Pastor for Parish Life

Rev. Christian K. Choi, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry

Dale Rogers, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts

Adam Miller, Tenor      Lyle VanDeventer, Bass

Elsie and Bob Fox, Videographers

Bill Deemer and Mary Ray, Communion Preparation Team

John Stafford, Safety Team