

First Presbyterian Church

Baptism of the Lord

January 9, 2022 -- 11:30am

Restoration and Protection Promised - Isaiah 43:1-3a

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

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



The Baptism of Jesus - Luke 3:21-22

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also have been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² 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."

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

January 9, 2022

Gathering

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

WELCOME – THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

"Epiphany Meditation"

-arr. by N. David Stern

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God is with us always and calls us each by name.

People: When we pass through difficulties and stress,

Leader: God is with us and calls us by name.

People: When we are discouraged and feel lost and alone,

Leader: God is with us, calls us by name, and heals us.

People: Blessed be God who knows us and calls us by name. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of Hope and Light, in the midst of Darkness you offered light to people who live in fear. Today that light comes to us as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Open our hearts this day and remind us that you have marked us as people of hope and light. Prepare us to serve you by serving your world. Amen

* **OPENING HYMN #473**

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

* **PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION**

Sky-shattering God, we confess that we have not always paid much attention to the baptism of Jesus, but viewed it as a nice story which begins Jesus' ministry. We don't always see ourselves as standing in that long line of those marked for service, and therefore it is easy for us to dismiss this as a nice story and nothing more. Yet you have called us by name, knowing each of us, and loving us. We are astonished by this. We know that we have behaved in very unloving ways that do not promote your love and peace. Forgive us for our blindness. Help us to be people who not only recognize the light, but who are willing to live in that light, bringing help to others in your name.

(A moment of personal reflection)

And all of God's people say, **Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

* RESPONSE #577

Glory be to the Father, to the Son and the Holy Ghost!

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you

And also with you

Please greet your brothers and sisters with the peace of Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Sharon Gearing

* HYMN #70

"Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized"

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

Your word of light and hope floods into our lives, O God. We have lived in darkness, in despair and fear, doubt and strife. But on this day of celebration, you remind us that we are marked by you to be witnesses to your light of new hope. As the heavens opened at Jesus' baptism, so is your love poured out on us. We have brought before you names and situations which concern us, people who face illness and grief, whose lives are torn by poverty, war, alienation, addiction, and hopelessness. We ask for your loving mercy on them, O Lord. Heal them and bind up their wounds. Help us to be people who are ready to be involved in ministries of peace and justice, bringing the light of your hope to those who dwell in darkness and despair.

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.

Listening to the Word

SOLO

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

Collin Nelson

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 43: 1-3a

Bible Page 623

Luke 3: 14-17, 21-22

Bible Page 891

SERMON

"What Is Your Identity?"

Rev. Sharon Gearing

* HYMN #372

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

Responding to God

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Going Forth to Serve

DEDICATION OF OUR LIVES

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* WORDS OF DISMISSAL

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.

* POSTLUDE

This morning we welcome to our worship service
Guest Musician, **N. David Stern**.
We are happy to have him with us
during the month of January.



Our Christian Sympathy and Support to

Chuck & Dana Rector and Family
upon the death of Chuck's mother,
Mickey Rector

We rejoice in the assurance of eternal life that is ours in Jesus Christ!



Reception to Celebrate Pastor Sharon Gearing

After nearly 5 years of pastoral service with the First Presbyterian Church of South Charleston, Sharon Gearing has announced her departure. Sharon's last Sunday in our pulpit will be January 16. A Congregational Meeting will be held at the close of the worship service to dismiss Sharon followed by a reception held in her honor. Please come and say goodbye to Sharon. Cards are welcome.

NUTURING FAITH IDEAS

from the Presbytery of West Virginia

Please use these suggested scriptures, questions, and activities to help you explore your faith.

January 9 – Baptism of the Lord: Read Isaiah 43:1-7

"Do not be afraid. I will set you free. I will send for you by name. You belong to me." God's promise is that God will be with us when we face difficult times. What makes you afraid? Give thanks to God that God is with you in your fear.

January 16 – Second Sunday after Epiphany: Read Psalm 36:5-10

"We are filled with light because you give us light." Light brings hope as it makes the dark places less scary. How can you share your light with those you encounter this week?

January 23 – Third Sunday after Epiphany: Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

"There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ." Each of us has an appointed role as part of the body of Christ. This week, consider the role you have and how you carry out its responsibilities.

January 30 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany: Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

"Before I formed you in your mother's body, I chose you." God chose Jeremiah to be God's messenger to the nations. Though Jeremiah insisted he was too young, God gave him the words to say. What has God called you to speak to others about God's way? What excuses keep you from sharing God's word with them?



Please Note...

A **Congregational Meeting** will be held at the close of the worship service on Sunday, January 16, 2022, for the purpose of voting to terminate the Terms of Call for Rev. Sharon R. Gearing.

2022 Offering Envelope Boxes

If you would like a box of 2022 Offering Envelopes.
please call the church office and Becky will mail them to you.

Weather Policy

All meetings are automatically cancelled/postponed
if Kanawha County Schools are close or dismissed early due to weather.

2022 Per Capita

As a part of our church's membership in the Presbytery of West Virginia, we have a financial commitment to the Presbytery of \$30.05 per member. A per capita envelope is included in your box of offering envelopes. Your generous contributions are greatly appreciated.

First Presbyterian Church of South Charleston Website: www.fpcscwv.org makes available Sunday morning live-stream worship services, worship bulletins, newsletters, Session information, and youth group videos. Also, posted are the Announcements for the Month, as well as information about upcoming mission projects and many fellowship opportunities.

**REMEMBER IN YOUR
PRAYERS & DEEDS OF LOVE**

Church Family

Nancy Alert
Sandy Bays
Nancy Bennett
George Brown
Ron Bryant
Von Carter
Helen Cobb
Bob Field
Custer Holliday
Kathy McClure
Drew McIlwain
Marsha McIlwain
Barbara Snyder

Care Facilities

Tom Haines
Ray Hoppe
Jean Sibold

Presbyterian Connections

Child Development Center
Bluestone Camp & Retreat Center
Lineweaver Cottage, Davis-Stuart
Fort Liberté, Haiti
First Presbyterian Church, Huntington
Cabwaylingo Chapel
Gichira Church, Gaaki Parish, Kenya

First Presbyterian Church

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South Charleston, WV 25303
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Ministers:

EVERY MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION

Sharon Gearing, *Pastor*
Collin Nelson, *Worship Assistant*
Becky Smith, *Office Manager*
Charles Yancy, *Custodian*

Office Hours:

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM
(Monday through Thursday; closed Friday)

E-Mail Addresses:

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WIFI Network: 1stPresby SC – Guest

WIFI Password: PresbyGuest

Elders on Session:

Carol Bryan Bob Kent
Cheryl Eary Rick Smith
Joe Fuller Tom Titus