

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PASTOR DEREK FORBES &

PASTOR MEG VAIL

JANUARY 10TH, 2021

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Derek

CALL TO WORSHIP

Laura Sawyer

One: In a new year, with change on the horizon,

Many: yet still carrying the year past, we come.

One: Amidst all the ways we mark time—

Many: calendars, clocks, administrations, liturgical colors, birthdays...

One: God breaks in with a new thing.

Many: Let us come and see, and allow the Spirit to re-orient us to a new way of being.

One: Let us worship God together.

OPENING HYMN #12

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

Laura Sawyer

In spite of God’s love for us and gift of mercy to us, we often act in destructive and hateful ways. We close our hearts to God and disobey God’s guidance. Assured of God’s forgiveness when we stumble or fall, let us confess our sins together.

God of Love and Justice, you reveal yourself in ways we do not expect. We confess that we sometimes find your words hard to hear. After all the gift giving and heavy-laden holiday tables, the instruction to give away all we do not need sounds harsh in our ears. Forgive us for holding on to things that offer only the illusion of security, even as you reach out to hold us in your hand. Turn our hearts and minds, and then our lives, to your way. We ask in the name of Jesus the Christ, who is the Way, Truth, and Life. Amen.

Time for Silent Personal Confession

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God is faithful in all things, and gracious in all deeds. The Lord upholds those who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down. These baptismal waters remind us that Christ has washed away all of our sins. God claims us, forgives us, and restores us. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God, I declare, in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS #582

“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines On Me”

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:1-22 (NRSV)

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” 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.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 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 thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 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.”

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 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.”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Pastor Meg

ANTHEM

Partita No. 2 in D minor
J.S. Bach

Maddy Vanderwall

SERMON

Pastor Derek

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor Meg

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WORSHIP WITH OUR GIVING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Laura Sawyer

Our offerings are an act of worship in which we express our gratitude and reliance upon God. With gladness, let us present the offerings of our life and labor to the Lord.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Accept these offerings, O Lord, and may they remind us of how we are connected to the work of your Kingdom. Grant that as we serve you now on earth, we may one day rejoice with all the saints in your kingdom of light and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

SENDING OUT INTO THE WORLD

WORSHIP IN SONG #100

“My Soul Cries Out”

BENEDICTION

WORSHIP IN SONG

“Go Now in Peace”

POSTLUDE

Brandon Clayton

Announcements:

- Session has unanimously voted that we continue with video worship through the month of January. Most regular in-person church meetings remain on hold until further notice. The ministry of the church, however, continues!
- Pam is primarily working at home with her computer so please email her instead of calling

the church office - thank you! pamr@firstpreslogan.org

- If you have any need, you may call Pastor Derek on his mobile phone: 435-881-8535. We have many people in the church who have offered to help others in any way that is necessary. Please let us know if you have a need.
- There is not Adult Sunday School this afternoon. It will return next Sunday.

| Weekly Financial Update through 12/31/20 | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Week of | Weekly Contribution Needed: \$6,169 |
| 12/13 | \$30,365 |
| 12/20 | \$3,151 |
| 12/27 | \$5,037 |
| 1/3 | \$4,223 |
| Current Contributions for 2021: | \$2,383 |
| Current Expenditures for 2021: | \$1,127 |
| Operating Budget for 2021: | \$320,816 |
| Do you know that you can contribute via check, cash, direct deposit, Venmo, or RMDs through your retirement account? Your offerings support the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Payroll is paid on last business day of the month. | |