

WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



The Baptism of Christ with Dove

Daniel Bonnell (American)

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

A SERVICE OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

JANUARY 8, 2023 10:30AM

Grace Notes

Welcome to WHPC! If you are visiting us today, we are so glad you joined us for worship. If you have not already, please take a moment to record your contact information on the visitor card you will find in the pew and drop it in the offering box or hand it to a greeter at the door. We are always glad to share the great things happening at WHPC!

If you are looking for a new church home and would like to join in fellowship with Westover Hills, please join us in the Parlor (outside the sanctuary doors) and we will gladly share more about life at WHPC or, if you are ready, receive you into membership.

Childcare is available in the nursery. Please check with a greeter.

WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

**Indicates the congregation is invited to stand.*

Bold text indicates unison readings.

WE GATHER AT GOD'S INVITATION

WELCOME & OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP Dr. Robert Wm Lowry, Pastor

PRELUDE David Austin, Music Director

CALL TO WORSHIP David Stricklin, Liturgist

Have you heard the news:

Get the news writers ready.

**Rearrange their headlines
with words of hope and expectation.**

Get the economists excited.

**Give them news of upturns and renewal
in people's values rather than market value.**

Get the politicians lobbied.

**Inform them it is time to measure
their new index of the nation's gross national happiness.**

Get the poor prepared.

**Invite them to find their place at table
and help themselves to a banquet shared with the rich.**

Get justice underway.

**Get busy crushing the darkness
and countering the now exposed half-truths of those in power.**

Get the bread of life baked.

**Get the wine of truth poured
and bring on the advent of God.**

Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

OPENING PRAYER

God of our new day, Lord of life, the path to you is straight, yet we waver and wander seeking our own way, our own truth, our own light.

Our hopes and dreams are often self-serving and materialistic as we rush through life seeking momentary pleasure rather than leaning into your eternal promises.

In this moment, on this day, help us slow down a beat or two. Invite us yet again into your peace so we might know a touch of your shalom.

In the name of the one whose generosity and kindness know no bounds, Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

†HYMN OF PRAISE #376 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" HYFRYDOL

Grace Notes

Trees and plants are frequently used as metaphors in scripture. Here the image of roots –strong and deep– are used to describe how God’s faith, hope, and love hold us fast in the world.

This chorus from a popular contemporary song is frequently used as a response to all kinds of prayer. Here we use it as a response to confession, but it could as easily be used as part of a pastoral or Eucharistic prayer as well.

CALL TO CONFESSION

If we say we are completely put together, the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our distractions, our errors, and our anxieties, God will meet us and renew us. Together let us confess our sins against God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION. (in unison)

When our faith is rooted deeply in you, God, our lives reflect your kingdom values. But sometimes our lives become so entangled in the priorities of this world, that your values take second place.

When our hope is rooted deeply in you, God, our lives reflect the generosity of your grace. But sometimes our lives become so entangled in the claims of this world, that your promises take second place.

When our love is rooted deeply in you, God, our lives reflect the promise of your love. But sometimes our lives become so entangled in the allures of this world, that your love takes second place.

Forgive us, loving God, and reconnect us to the Holy Spirit, source of truth and life.

Claim us again as you did in our baptism and root in us the firm and certain knowledge that you alone are the source of all hope, love, and grace.

And, claimed as your own, may we always bear witness to your promises breaking into our world once more.

Silence is kept

SUNG RESPONSE *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* CHILDREN PRAYING

Lord, lis-ten to your chil - dren pray - ing.

Lord, send your Spirit in this place. Lord, listen to your children

pray - ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

Grace Notes

Respectful of individual preferences concerning contact, please extend either a hand or a gesture of peace to your neighbors.

A new occasional element in the bulletin is the "Question at Stake." This is a snapshot of the question or questions that helped guide Pastor Robert in preparing for the day's sermon. They may also provide some fruit for further thought during the week.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

...in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

+THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ which passes all understanding be with you all.

And also with you.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 3:1-17

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the desert of Judea announcing, "Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!" He was the one of whom Isaiah the prophet spoke when he said:

*The voice of one shouting in the wilderness,
"Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight."*

John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey.

People from Jerusalem, throughout Judea, and all around the Jordan River came to him. As they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. Many Pharisees and Sadducees came to be baptized by John. He said to them, "You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don't even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham's children from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire. I baptize with water those of you who have changed your hearts and lives. The one who is coming after me is stronger than I am. I'm not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can't be put out."

At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River so that John would baptize him. John tried to stop him and said, "I need to be baptized by you, yet you come to me?"

Jesus answered, "Allow me to be baptized now. This is necessary to fulfill all righteousness."

So John agreed to baptize Jesus. When Jesus was baptized, he immediately came up out of the water. Heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting on him. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son whom I dearly love; I find happiness in him."

SERMON

"Baptized for a Reason"

Dr. Lowry

QUESTIONS AT STAKE

"Why are we baptized? What does it mean to be grafted into the body of Christ in the world?"

Grace Notes

Since at least the 8th century and perhaps as early as the 5th, the Apostles' Creed has been a creedal statement associated with the rite of baptism. It is the second oldest creed (after the Nicene) in the PC(USA) Book of Confessions.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+HYMN OF RESPONSE #492 *"Baptized in Water"*

BUNESSAN

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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.**

OFFERING

WE GATHER AT GOD'S TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SURSUM CHORDA

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

BREAKING THE BREAD

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

You are our good and loving God. Thank you for the blessing of this meal and the community that shares it. Thank you for the promise of generosity that always leaves room for one more to join the meal. Thank you for your many blessings to us and thank you for making us a blessing to the world. Amen.

Grace Notes

This contemporary hymn by composer and writer Ruth Duck uses images consistent with those of the Thanksgiving over the Water in *The Book of Common Worship*.

Duck was professor of worship at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary at Northwestern University where she was one of Pastor Robert's professors.

Elders will be in the Parlor (outside the sanctuary doors) following worship if you would like to learn more about WHPC or if you are ready to join as part of the congregation.

WE DEPART IN GOD'S NAME

+PARTING HYMN "Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters" BEACH SPRING



1 Wash, O God, your sons and daugh-ters, new - born crea - tures
 2 Ev - ery day we need your nur - ture; by your milk may
 3 O how deep your ho - ly wis - dom! Un - i - mag - ined,

(D) (Bm)
 F Dm



of your womb. Num-ber them a - mong your peo - ple, raised like
 we be fed. Let us join your feast, par - tak - ing cup of
 all your ways! To your name be glo - ry, hon - or! With our

(G) (D) (A)
 Bb F C



Christ from death and tomb. Weave them gar - ments bright and
 bless - ing, liv - ing bread. God, re - new us; guide our
 lives we wor - ship, praise! We your peo - ple stand be -

(Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (G) (A) (D)
 Dm Am Dm Bb C F



spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light. Fill, a - noint them;
 foot - steps, free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in
 fore you, wa - ter-washed and Spir - it - born. By your grace, our

(Bm) (G) (D)
 Dm Bb F



send your Spir - it, ho - ly dove and heart's de - light.
 liv - ing, dy - ing, by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs.
 lives we of - fer. Re - cre - ate us; God, trans - form!

+CHARGE & BENEEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY Pastor Robert Lowry, Music Director David Austin, Liturgist David Stricklin, and the Westover Hills Chancel Choir.

THE ART ON THE BULLETIN COVER “The Baptism of Christ with Dove” evokes images of the crucified Christ in this baptismal scene. The nod toward where the Christ story will ultimately lead is a reminder that the whole of the Christ story is true from the start. Even before the resurrection, Christ has defeated death and declared light and life to the world.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

MIDWEEK MANNA BIBLE STUDY has begun Wednesdays at 12:05. The weekly group will meet from 12:05-12:55 to give those who work and want to participate time to join during lunch. The study, on Romans, meets in the New Chapel and attendees are invited to bring lunch and join in the conversation. Access will also be available by Zoom; see the CareLine for the link. To learn more, contact Pastor Robert.

THE SECOND WEDNESDAY SPIRITUALITY DISCUSSION GROUP will meet next Wednesday, January 11, from 5:45 to 6:30 pm in the New Chapel. Discussion will center on what we wish for our spiritual lives this year. All are welcome.

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CARELINE, please contact Ray Stephens or Liz Branch.

NEW YEAR NEW YOU YOGA has begun meeting Thursdays in the New Chapel at 10am. This low-impact exercise is for all-comers and is a great way to keep in shape and stay flexible during the chilly winter months.

PASTOR ROBERT WILL BE LEADING the Second Presbyterian 1st and 3rd Monday book group in January and February. The first meeting is January 16 and the book study is Eugene Peterson’s “A Long Obedience in the Same Direction.” For more information contact Pastor Robert.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE is available year round. Presbyterian Women make fair trade products available to the congregation not as a moneymaker but as one of our missions. The price we pay for coffee is the price we charge. Purchasing fair trade coffee helps more money reach the hard-working farmers. Contact Carolyn Nash with questions or to purchase coffee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE BULLETIN may be emailed to the office at office.westoverhills@gmail.com To ensure their inclusion in the Sunday bulletin, please send any

UPDATE OUR PRAYER LIST FOR CARELINE BULLETIN. As we again update our list, we ask that if you wish for yourself, your loved one or friends to remain on the prayer list, please contact the church office with this information. Please respond by January 17, 2023. Those not heard from by that date will be removed from the new list to be posted. The list can be modified at any time,. Any member or WHPC friend who wants a name included on the general WHPC prayer list should contact the church office. The prayer list will be printed in the Sunday bulletin and also in Monday’s CareLine. The name will remain on the list until the office is notified to remove it or until the name is removed during the quarterly list update. Those who desire confidentiality for prayer requests and only want the Prayer Circle to be notified should contact Marianne Estes or Ray Stephens.

CALENDAR UPDATES AND SESSION DOCUMENTS should be sent to the office and copied to Candice Misenheimer.

PASTORAL CARE

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS these members and friends of Westover Hills Presbyterian: Sally Johnson and family (death on January 4 of Sally's brother, Grif Stockley, who lived in the Washington, DC area); Ollie Naylor (broken wrist and nose); Barry Wood (Sydney McEwen's grandfather— blood infection now affecting heart) Rev. David Schaller (brother of Marcey Berry - ankle surgery); Susan Mauney (health issues); Ralph Cotham (recovering at home); Suzanne Carroll (mother of Tammy Miller – recovery from a fall); Kade (awaiting test results - Pastor Robert Lowry and Brian Smith's four-year-old great-nephew); Elizabeth Borgman (cancer – step-daughter of Kay Stephens's sister, Ginger Borgman); Laura Whitmore (broken leg and ankle); Vivianna McAtee; Ulysses Neyland (back injury); Jane Estes (Long haul Covid); Chriztina and the people of Ukraine (Ukraine collaborator with WHPC PW on 2013 water project; has moved to Hungary for safety) - for assurance of God's presence; Ljubica and Stanislav Radovic (volleyball coach Tanja Eckart's parents, who live in Croatia - anxiety over nearby war); Christiana Esem-Kuwong's family in war torn Cameroon; Andrea Campbell; TLC (at home) members; Church staff: Pastor Robert, Ulysses, David, Tammy and Shawn; Preschool kids, families & staff; The people of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central America, Puerto Rico and Haiti; Victims of hurricanes in Florida and the Carolinas, Central America, Cuba and Puerto Rico.

DEACONS FOR JANUARY are Charlotte Frith and Kay McCollum.

CALENDAR

The church calendar is available on the website

(scan QR code to be directed to our website)

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