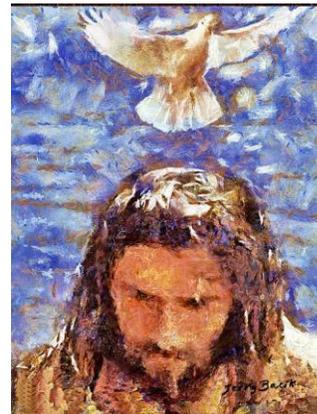


*Virtual Worship for the Lord's Day
Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, January 9, 2022
Crossnore Presbyterian Church
200 Chapel Drive, P.O. Box 386, Crossnore, NC 28616*



Welcome and Church Family News (PDF attachment)

Choral Call to Worship: *Down in the River to Pray*

<https://youtu.be/zSif77IVQdY> – Alison Krauss

Call to Worship:

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

When we pass through difficulties and stress,

God is with us and calls us by name.

When we are discouraged and feel lost and alone,

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

Blessed be God who knows us and calls us by name.

Hymn of Praise # 35 *Praise to the Lord the Almighty*

https://youtu.be/QkvFbn_Jk7w - Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Ashville, NC

LOBE DEN HERREN

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;

join me in glad adoration!

**Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!**

**Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
granted in what he ordaineth?**

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!

All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!

Let the amen sound from his people again;

gladly for aye we adore him.

Call to Confession:

To a world of brokenness, God speaks of healing. To a time of confusion, God tells of that future grounded in love. To a people longing for redemption, God comes to bring us home. Let us confess the many ways we have chosen other voices and not listened to God's voice.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

Everlasting 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 and in some behaviors which do not promote your love and peace. Forgive us for our blindness. Turn us around. 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 (moment of silent confession). For we pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

People of God, we are known and loved by the Creator. We are marked as God's chosen ones to bring hope and peace to others. So, let us be at peace and live in hope. Amen.

Response to God's Grace and Mercy # 18 *In Christ Alone*

Song by Adrienne Camp

Sing along with Keith & Kristyn Getty, Alison Krauss:

<https://youtu.be/16KYvflc2bE>

First Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-7

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. 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. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Second Lesson: Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

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.

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."

Sermon: "Beloved Child of God" (PDF attachment)

Rev. Kathy Campbell

Renewing our Baptismal Vows:

(Fill a bowl with water and place on the table where you are worshipping)

I invite you to join me as I lead you back to the water and the Sacrament of Baptism so that you can once again make your vow to the Lord.

Hear these words from Holy Scripture:

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27

Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4: 1-3

Sisters and brothers in Christ, we believe that baptism is an outward sign of what God is already doing in us and for us, not what we are doing for God. This grace is working in us before we are even aware of it, calling us into an eternal relationship with God. Let us remember our own baptism and renew our baptismal vows as we open ourselves to a new year, a new beginning, a new life...

Renewal of Baptismal Vows:

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

I do.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

I do.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

(Place your hands in the bowl of water and mark your forehead with the sign of the cross and remember your baptism)

Let us affirm our faith sharing the ancient words of the Apostles Creed:

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.

Hymn of Meditation # 463 *How Firm a Foundation*

FOUNDATION

<https://youtu.be/R8O5RyGRmx8> - Chelsea Moon with the Franz Brothers (a contemporary take on a classic hymn)

<https://youtu.be/CciKfk7VUh0> - Voice Male (a cappella men's group—includes additional verses)

**How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**

**"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.**

**"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."**

Prayers of the People

Before we are born, before we do anything or make something of ourselves,
before we make our first mistake or confess our first sin or fail majorly,
you claim us, God our Creator, and call us beloved.

We give you thanks and praise this Sunday for Jesus' baptism and for ours,
for the sign and seal of your claim on us and the sacred water
from which we emerge newly born in Christ.

That you come so close, Holy God,
close enough to kiss our forehead with holy water and Holy Spirit, is astonishing.
How can we comprehend a love such as this? How could we ever earn this amazing grace?
You call us to you in love, O God, and send us to love others in Christ's name.

Hear our prayers this day as we hold the weary and the suffering in our hearts and minds.
We pray for those recovering and rebuilding from tornadoes and devastating storms.
Shelter and protect those who have lost their homes, God. Be their refuge and their strength.
We pray for refugees, for children and families, mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles seeking asylum,
safety and opportunity.
Your love knows no boundary or border, Holy God. Help us to love as you love.

We pray for the sick and their caregivers.
We pray for weary first responders and hospital personnel.
Give hope to those who are called to help and heal. Help us see this global pandemic to its end.
We pray for countries and communities without access to vaccines or affordable healthcare.

Help us, Holy God, to dismantle oppressive systems, systems that privilege and hoard.
Help us build new and just systems for all your children to know health and happiness.
We pray for those who move into this new year feeling hopeless and beyond repair.
Remind them, Savior God, that the night is not night to you.
Remind them, Covenant God, that you have called them by name, that they belong to you.

United as the Body of Christ we lift these prayers to you, Savior God.
Hear us now, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us by saying together, "Our Father ..."

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:

As we remember our baptism and renew our baptismal vows, let us see this as a new beginning to recommit
our time, our talents, and our treasures to God's ministry in this new week and new year. Let us receive this
morning's offering.

Doxology #609

Sing along: <https://youtu.be/Pt8vqxGZp-0>

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

God of new beginnings, as we move into this new year, stir in us the feelings of expectation! Kindle our hearts and minds to see possibilities for our world and for your kingdom. Help us to believe that the world we have can be better: more loving, more just, more compassionate, and looking much more like the world you've imagined for us. Lord, may our offerings this day blessed by you bring life and hope to those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. In the name of Christ, Savior and Redeemer, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn # 300 *We Are One in the Spirit*

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

<https://youtu.be/p1X-81-0Ho> Taiwanese/American Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Hillsborough, NJ

We are one in The Spirit, we are one in The Lord.

We are one in The Spirit, we are one in The Lord.

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Chorus:

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.

And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. (chorus)

We will work with each other, we will work side by side.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side.

And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride. (chorus)

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,

and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,

and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: (chorus)

Charge and Benediction:

Remember, you are God's beloved,

called and claimed to love as you have been loved.

May God bless you and keep you,

this day and in the days to come. Amen.