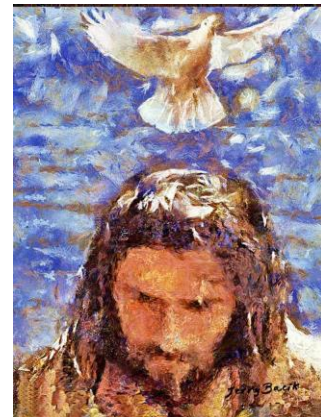


*Virtual Worship Service for the Lord's Day
Baptism of the Lord Sunday, January 15, 2023
Crossnore Presbyterian Church
200 Chapel Drive, P.O. Box 386
Crossnore, NC 28616*



Welcome and Church Family News (PDF attachment)

Choral Call to Worship # 20 *Jesus, Name Above All Names*

words & music by Naida Hearn

Acapeldridge: <https://youtu.be/ZxMmj7pdIjM>

**Jesus, name above all names, Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us, Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.**

**Jesus, Lord God almighty, Wonderful Counselor, Light of the world,
the Prince of Peace, Hope of Glory, Man of Sorrow, Lamb of God.**

Call to Worship: (inspired by Isaiah 43:1-7)

We have been claimed by the God who calls us beloved children.

We, the redeemed, have been called by name.

As with the Israelites, God promises to pass with us through the water.

We will not fear, for God is with us!

The rivers shall not overwhelm us for God is our guide and our protector.

Through God's saving grace, the waters that tested us are now the waters that wash us and nourish us.

Great is the Fount of Every Blessing,

ever flowing, ever redeeming, ever claiming us as God's children.

Come, let us worship the God who washes us in grace.

Hymn of Praise # 3 *Wonderful Merciful Savior*

<https://youtu.be/fK6sYVQCqhs> - Selah

words & music by Dawn Rodgers & Eric Wyse

Wonderful, merciful Savior

Precious Redeemer and Friend

Who would have thought that a Lamb

Could rescue the souls of men

Oh, You rescue the souls of men

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper

Spirit we long to embrace

You offer hope when our hearts have

Hopelessly lost our way

Oh, we've hopelessly lost the way

You are the One that we praise

You are the One we adore

You give the healing and grace

Our hearts always hunger for

Oh, our hearts always hunger for

Almighty, infinite Father

Faithfully loving Your own

Here in our weakness You find us

**Falling before Your throne
Oh, we're falling before Your throne**

**You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for
Oh, our hearts always hunger for**

**You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for
Oh, our hearts always hunger for**

Call to Confession:

Ever dependent on the grace of God, let us affirm our brokenness and trust God's goodness to carry us through to a new day, with a new name, and a new song. Let us confess our sins before God and each other.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

**God of our baptismal waters,
you sent John the Baptist to point to your Son,
but too often, we abandon his message and point only to ourselves.
We point to our status rather than the grace that makes us all equal.
We point to our values rather than the One who has always valued everyone.
We point to our traditions rather than to the One who calls us to let go.
We point to our past rather than to the One who calls us into the future.
Forgive us, Lord, for pointing in all the wrong directions.
(moment of silent confession).**

**God of our baptismal hope,
forgive us when we do not wait patiently for your direction,
forgive us when we are too patient with our misdirection.
Hold our gaze on your baptismal promise
sealed in the life, death, and resurrection of your Son.**

**Through the power of your Spirit,
give us the courage to speak what we have seen
and point to the One who takes away the sins of the world
and invites all into the new creation.
(moment of silent confession)**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon:

Through Jesus Christ we are healed of our fears, forgiven for our sins, and nourished to live out our baptism.
Thanks be to God!

**Response to God's Grace and Mercy # 792 *There Is a Balm in Gilead*
Solveig Leithaug, featuring Odessa Settles: <https://youtu.be/fd3CUzFMq0k>**

BALM IN GILEAD

Chorus:

**There is a balm in Gilead
To make the wounded whole**

**There is a balm in Gilead
To heal the sin-sick soul**

**Sometimes I feel discouraged
And deep I feel the pain
In prayers the holy spirit
Revives my soul again (Chorus)**

**If you can't pray like Peter
If you can't be like Paul
Go home and tell your neighbour
He died to save us all (Chorus)**

First Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

For 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.

**Special Music: *Down to the River to Pray*
Sung by Alison Krauss: <https://youtu.be/zSif77IVQdY>**

Second Lesson: Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

Sermon: “Beloved Baptism” (PDF attachment)

Rev. Kathy Campbell

Remembering Our Baptism:

In the waters of baptism, we remember Jesus’s baptism by John in the river Jordan, and the life-giving water promised to each of us through our own baptism. Some of us have been baptized by sprinkling, others by immersion, all with the water of life.

As we remember our baptism,
we share in the mystery of Jesus’ death and resurrection
and the unconditional inclusion into God’s eternal family.
We also share in the freedom from bondage
to all that separates us from the love of God,
and to the opening, the revealing,
of a deeper relationship and purpose in Christ.

Let us pray:

Eternal One,
Thank you for the Spirit, the Spirit of joy,
that teaches us and leads us into all truth.
Thank you for gathering us into church,
a community with a heart for love, hope, peace, and justice.

Thank you for each person in this community,
named and interwoven into this body,
signed and sealed through the Spirit
in grace through faith.
May our renewal of baptism vows today
bring renewed direction and purpose to our lives,
lived out as your people. Amen.

(fill a bowl with water and place it where you are worshipping)

Renewal of Your Baptism 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.**

Who is your Lord and Savior? **Jesus Christ.**

Do you trust in him? **I do.**

Relying on God's grace, will you be a faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

In baptism, we become part of the church universal, for we are one in the body of Christ.

Do you affirm your desire to be part of the body of Christ? **I do.**

You are invited to place your hands in the bowl
and in touching the water, remember your baptism.
Also remember that God calls you "beloved child"
and commissions you to live out that love in your life in the world.

Close with your own prayer of thanksgiving for God's presence and power in your life
and to empower you through the Spirit in your calling.

Hymn of Meditation # 485 *We Know That Christ Is Raised

ENGELBERG

<https://youtu.be/bYS491Bpuac> - First-Plymouth Church Lincoln Nebraska

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

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

Prayers of the People:

Your voice, O Lord, your voice is powerful and sweet,
tender yet awe-inspiring,
sometimes challengin, sometimes unheard.
We give you thanks that you spoke the world into being,
and that you continue to speak through your people and your creation.
We give you thanks for the Word Made Flesh,
and pray that your word would be made flesh again in this place.
Come into our world again, God, and speak your healing word—
to those who are ill,
to those who are broken,

to those who are grieving,
to those who need work,
to those who despair,
to those whose lives are marred by violence or hate,
to those who struggle through flood and flame.
Remind them and us again and again and again:
“You are my beloved, precious and treasured,
and I am with you to the end of the age.”

Speak, Lord, that we may be whole.
Lead us again beside your still water, O Lord,
and then stir those waters with your Spirit
that we might find there your living water,
refreshment and strength as we seek your way.

Open our ears and eyes to you, O God, in the most unlikely of places...
in promises made and kept, in still small voices and in loud laughter,
in the clink of forks against plates, in warm socks, in tired smiles,
in a drip of water...
open our ears and eyes.
Help us to listen and to see deeply.

We pray these and all things in the name of Christ,
who taught us to pray together, Our Father...Amen.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:

One of the ways we live out our baptism is by offering our lives, our time, our treasures to be blessed by God and used to spread the Love of Christ throughout our community and the world. What will you offer of your life to be blessed by God as you begin a new week? Let us receive this morning's offering.

Doxology # 608

PRAISE GOD (Hopson)

<https://youtu.be/BKcnin5iIJI> Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Asheville, NC

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

***Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

**Through the power of your Spirit, bless these gifts that they might be used to the glory of your name.
Seal us in our baptismal waters to put them to faithful work that they might support the ministry and mission
of our calling as your church. This we pray in your abundant name. Amen.**

Closing Hymn # 475 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

NETTLETON

<https://youtu.be/XKOoeTbjSel> - Celtic Worship

**Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;**

praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal *it* for thy courts above.

Charge and Benediction:

Jesus has told us who needs us to care.

As you go out into God's world,
keep your eyes open for those who are physically/spiritually hungry,
thirsty, lonely, exposed, sick, suffering, or imprisoned.
See Christ in them and help them.

And remember you are God's beloved.

The Holy Spirit lives in you.

Christ's compassion shines forth in what you do.

Live as those who know and have experienced God's goodness.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

be with you and with this beautiful and broken world. Amen.