**Jan. 8, 2023 Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord 11 AM**

 

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**PRELUDE** Praludium in G Minor D. Buxtehude

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, Lord God, to receive our worship. Come, Lord Jesus, to receive our praise. Come, Holy Spirit, to receive our thanks. Come, eternal three-in-one God, come where we are gathered to celebrate our unity as your body, the church.  
**We share one faith and are of one soul and one mind, which belong solely and wholly to you.**  
We are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup.  
**We confess one name above all other names; we are obedient to one Lord, who frees us from the tyranny and hatefulness of the world.**We share one hope, one comfort, one goal.  
**We are one people, united--despite any noticeable differences--by our faith in you, Lord Jesus.**  
We are one people, united by your love and mercy to stand against any power that would try to tear us apart.  
**We are one people, united in blessing and in suffering, united in joy and in sorrow, united in strength and in weakness. Receive our praise!**Lisa Vander Wal. Used with permission

**Opening Prayer**

Lord God, you are a redeeming God.  
It is not your desire that any of your children should suffer.  
You hear their cries and you come from heaven to save.  
As we gather to remember your saving purposes for all who are oppressed,  
give us minds, hearts and wills to hear your word to us, and then to live it.  
We pray this in the name of Christ the Savior. Amen.  
Eunice T. McGarrahan, A Study of the Belhar Confession and its Accompanying Letter (Louisville: Office of Theology and Worship)

**HYMN #401** “Gather Us In”

1. Here in this place, new light is streaming,

now is the darkness vanished away.  
See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in - the lost and forsaken, gather us in - the blind and the lame.  
Call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2. We are the young - our lives are a mystery,  
we are the old - who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in - the rich and the haughty, gather us in - the proud and the strong.  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

3. Here we will take the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth.  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you.  
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away,  
but here in this place, the new light is shining;  
now is the Kingdom, now is the day.  
Gather us in - and hold us forever, gather us in - and make us your own.  
Gather us in - all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Although God has given the church the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ, we fall short of God’s call to be salt of the earth and light of the world:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison):

**God, our fears and prejudices run deep. Sometimes we can only see our own point of view. We stick with those who are like us, rarely venturing outside our comfort zones. We do not hear those crying for justice and true peace. We blame those who are suffering and in need, instead of standing by them. We deny the power of your gospel to unite us with those who are different from us. Lord, give us eyes to see and ears to hear. Open us to new possibilities of life for all of your people, and use us to enact the new life given in Christ.**

**ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE**

**One**: God’s life-giving Word and Spirit conquer the powers of sin and death. Thanks be to God for the Good News:  
**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**  
Barbara Hedges-Goettl. Used with permission.

**RESPONSE: HYMN #582** “Glory to God”

1Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,

and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,

and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
 As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

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

**PEACE**

Let there be peace on earth.

**And let it begin with me.**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**RESPONSIVE READING** Psalm 29 (NRSVUE)

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,   
    ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.🕈

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;  
    worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;  
    the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.🕈  
**The voice of the Lord is powerful;  
    the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;  
    the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.🕈  
**He makes Lebanon skip like a calf  
    and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.🕈  
**The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
    the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl  
    and strips the forest bare, and in his temple all say, “Glory!”🕈

**The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
    the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.**

May the Lord give strength to his people!  
    May the Lord bless his people with peace!

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 42:1-9 (NRSVUE)

1Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.  
**2**He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street;  
**3**a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice. **4**He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching. **5**Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: **6**I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;

I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people,a light to the nations, **7** to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. **8**I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.  
**9**See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

**SECOND READING** Matthew 3:13-17 (NRSVUE)

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. 14John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” 15 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. 16 And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

**GUEST PREACHER**  Charmaine Massiah

**HYMN #482**  “Baptized in Water”

1 Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;heirs of salvation,  
trusting the promise, faithfully now God's praises we sing.

2 Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
dead in the tomb with Christ our King; one with his rising,  
freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praises we sing.

3 Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
marked with the sign of Christ our King; born of the Spirit,  
we are God's children; joyfully now God's praises we sing.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH 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 Spirit, 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 at 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 Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**OFFERING/OFFERTORY** Pastorale in B ♭ Major P. Hayes

**OFFERING SONG #328**  “Praise God, All You Nations” **(**DaNase)

Praise God, all you nations. People of God, sing praise!  
Praise God, all you nations. People of God, sing praise:  
God’s love is great and endures forever.  
Praise God, all you nations. People of God, sing praise!

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CLOSING HYMN #697** “Take My Life”

1 Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love; take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.

3 Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King; take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee, filled with messages from thee.

4 Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold; take my intellect and use  
every power as thou shalt choose, every power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne, it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** Sinfony de Fanfare Jean J. Mouret

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**UPCOMING CALENDAR**

Please welcome today our guest speaker, **Charmaine Massiah,** Advocate for the Presbytery of New York City's Justice Ministries.

**MONDAY,** **7:00 PM** – Meditation & Prayer Group, sanctuary – **T/B/D**

**First Presbyterian Church of Forest Hills**

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**David Barnett**, Admin.718-268-4036 **Jeff Courter**, Pastor,

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**‘Cil Brewer**, Clerk of Session   **Hannah Lin,** Guest Organist

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***Building a Community of Faith, Hope, and Love***