



BLESSED

January 11, 2026, 10:30 am
Baptism of the Lord

Welcome to worship! Led by the Holy Spirit, we glorify God, nurture the faith with each other, and witness the fullness of Christ's love in the world. Beyond the pews, we hope you will grow in faith with us on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. Our service today includes the celebration of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. All are invited to share in this joyful feast of the people of God by coming forward to receive the elements. Children are welcome in the Sanctuary, with childcare available for infants through 4-year-olds in the nursery on the 1st floor of the Education Building.

We are glad you are here as we give glory to God together!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

❖We rise in body or spirit.

We say words in bold together.

GATHERING

Heavenly Gift

Prelude

Juliet Calkins

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

Gathering Prayer

Living Spirit who moved on the face of the waters at the beginning of creation, immerse us in your love, that we may be your sanctified people, through the grace of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Call to Worship by Jeffrey W. Cornwell

Liturgist: Matt Milford

We are a people of the water!

We worship a God whose love flows through water.

Love, like a rain shower, awakens the soul's sleeping seed and lures it to blossom.

We worship a God whose love flows through water.

Love, like a wading pool, inspires the delight of children, jumping, splashing, spraying each other, shivering with joy.

We worship a God whose love flows through water.

Love, like a hot shower after a long day's work, cleanses us, reawakens us.

We worship a God whose love flows through water.

Love, like little drops, drips from fingertips to forehead.

Through baptism, the family of faith makes room for more.

⌘ Hymn 475

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**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 the 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.*

⌘ Prayer of Confession

God of glory, your voice thunders over the waters as you claim us in radical love. But we confess that we have not lived into the freedom of our baptism. We remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from one another. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another. We allow the past to hold us captive. In your loving-kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin. As you ordered the chaos of creation, so order the chaos of our

lives. Speak to us tender words of love and forgiveness through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

✠ Assurance of Pardon

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

✠ Joyful Response (Hymn 839, verse 1) *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!*

***Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
This is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.***

✠ Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: *Matthew 3:13-17*

p. 3 in the pew Bible

Moment with the Children
Remembrance of Baptism

Natasha Taylor, Faith Formation Coordinator

✠ 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 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.**

Anthem

On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand Dale Grotenhuis, arr.

*On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, and cast a wishful eye to Canaan's fair and
happy land, where my possessions lie. I'm bound for the promised land, O who
will come and go with me? I'm bound for the promised land. All o'er those wide
extended plains shines one eternal day; There God the Son forever reigns, and
scatters night away. No chilling winds of pois'nous breath can reach that*

healthful shore; And sickness, sorrow, pain and death are felt and feared no more. When I shall reach that happy place, I'll be forever blest, for I shall see my Father's face, and in His bosom rest.

Scripture Readings: *Psalm 29*

Isaiah 42:1-9

p. 621 in the pew Bible

p. 820 in the pew Bible

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Blessed

Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

¶ Hymn 408

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

*There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.*

*REFRAIN: Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.*

*There are blessings you cannot receive
till you know him in his fullness and believe;
you're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way." [Refrain]*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation and Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Mary Bielen

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 our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise, O God, . . . Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God, to transform us for your service . . .
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

... and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors...

Breaking of the Bread and Communion of the People

Today we will celebrate communion by intinction. You are invited to come forward with cupped hands to receive the bread and take an individual cup. We will serve the outer pews front to back first, then center pews front to back, then those who remain seated in the pews. Those seated in the balcony will be served upstairs. All the bread is gluten-free and the cups contain grape juice.

Prayer After Receiving

SENDING

Moment for Stewardship

Paul Kukla

⌘ Hymn 547 *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

during the last verse, children and youth are dismissed to the Ed Building for choir

“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.

In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”

“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.

Here you heard my dear Son’s story; here you touched him, saw his glory.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”

“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.

Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here my Spirit’s power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

⌘ Charge and Benediction

⌘ Postlude

Festive Postlude

Robert J. Hughes

Go in peace, holding quiet space for those who wish to reflect and pray.



The flowers on the pulpit are given by Linda and Steve Spratt

to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Linda’s father, Fayette C Wiatt.

Videographers: Trey Talmadge, Les Johnson

Serving in Worship Today:

Choirmasters: Mary Ann & Larry Casey

Organist: Amy Shirk

Ushers: Tristin and Robert Fidler

Elevator Assistant: Bill Stewart

Communion Servers: Connie Barnes, Mike Gibson, Bruce Harvey, Barb LeRoy, Adam

Sanctuary Guild: Gaye and John Copley

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