

Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Celebrating the Baptism of the Lord and Our Own
Including the Sacrament of Holy Communion
Theme: Into the Light

Sunday, January 14, 2024



Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12

GATHERING

Prelude: “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee” Gordon Young

Greeting and Welcome to Worship

Call to Worship

Leader: On this day in Epiphany, we rehearse these ancient words, in the beginning, God...

People: Swept over waters, spoke light into existence, created day and night and called it good.

Leader: As the days and nights of creation filled with life, God...

People: Made humanity out of the dirt to love and tend creation, to be loved and tended by God.

Leader: As we lost our way, God...

People: Sent Jesus, Love Incarnate, to show us the way back.

Leader: On the day Jesus came to the banks of the Jordan River to be baptized, God declared...

People: “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Leader: Let us, then, follow Jesus into the waters, remembering our baptism in which God claims us...

People: God courageously claims us as beloved children, as the family of God.

*Hymn: #662 “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

*Prayer of Confession and Listening

Merciful God, we confess that we have not always loved you as our God, nor have we always loved our neighbors as ourselves. Our priorities do not

always line up with yours, and too often we wander from your path by trying to do things our way instead of yours. Forgive us, Lord. Your servants repent.

Merciful God, we also confess that we are too often complacent in answering your call to enact justice. You call us to enter the flow of your justice that rolls down like water, and instead, we inhibit the work of justice by choosing not to pay attention or believe the stories of suffering and need in our midst. Forgive us, Lord. Your servants repent.

Merciful God, we confess that sometimes we avoid you. We don’t want to hear your voice. We don’t want to receive your call. We are scared of what you might ask us to do and how letting your grace work in our lives might change us. So, we keep you at arm’s length, ready to run when you seem to ask too much of us. Forgive us, Lord. Your servants repent.

Merciful God, we confess that there are things that clutter our hearts and minds that we cannot say aloud or do not have words for, and so, we lift them to you now in silence.

(Offer silent prayers of confession)

Reconciling God, your steadfast love surrounds us, calling us into right relationship with you, with self, with one another, and with creation. As your reconciled and forgiven people, open our hearts to receive all that you have in store for us today and beyond. We pray in the name of Jesus who came to the waters, AMEN.

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Anthem: “Christians, Let Us Love One Another”

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-5 and Acts 19:1-7

Sermon: “Becoming the People of God”

*Hymn: #482 “Baptized in Water”

Renewal of Baptism and Sacrament of Holy Communion

(As you come forward by the center aisle, feel free to dip into the waters of the Baptismal font and mark the sign of the cross on the top of your hand or forehead, then receive the elements of communion. As you return to your seats, we will all partake together).

Response: #503 (vs.3 only) "Lord, We Have Come at Your Invitation"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of redemption and new life, we offer thanks for the gift of our baptism. As we move into the new year ahead of us, help us to live and give of ourselves as those who know every day what a great gift we have been given. May it move us to give our whole selves more freely! In the name of Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, we pray! AMEN

Announcements and Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

*Hymn: #475 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude: "Light of the World" Franklin Ritter
The End of Worship
The Beginning of Service

*Those who wish may stand

Rev. James Shuler, Interim Pastor
Mrs. Dianne Yuninger, Organist/Choir Director

**The Sanctuary Flowers are in Honor of Billy's Birthday
Given by Carol & David Berkhimer**

Prayers of the Congregation

Prayer Family this week: Louis & Esta Fisher

Leacock Presbyterian Church

*First met in Leacock Township in 1724, recognized by the Synod in
1740, moved to Paradise in 1840.*



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