

**January 26, 2020 8:30 & 10:45**

**3rd Sunday After Epiphany**

*The Baptism of Jesus*

Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, at the hands of John the Baptizer, publicly identifies Jesus as the Christ – the Messiah, the Anointed, the Chosen One of God. This baptism also marks the beginning of the ministry for the long-awaited Messiah whose coming is foretold in Isaiah 42:1-9.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

\*Asterisk indicates to rise in body or spirit

**Gathering Music** **Hymnal 472 Near to the heart of God** *McAfee*

**Hymnal 496 Sweet hour of prayer** *Sweet Hour*

**Greeting**

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

**People: Declare God’s glory among the nations; declare his wondrous works among all people.** *Psalm 96:1, 3*

**Announcements**

\*10:45 **Introit**  Psalm 19: 14 *Karle Erickson*

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts

be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our rock and our salvation.

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: What a beautiful thing to be called to worship!

**People: What a gift to come together in praise!**

Leader: We are different people with different lives and different stories.

**People: But, in Christ, we all are one.**

**… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

\***Hymnal 173 Christ, whose glory fills the skies** *Ratisbon*

**\*Opening Prayer (in unison)**

**God of creation, your heavens and earth shout out the amazing news of your power and glory. God of justice, your laws of mercy and goodness reveal your vision of harmony for all people. God of love, your Son Jesus Christ proclaims the amazing news of your liberation for all who are hungry, poor, or oppressed. May we join with all of creation to become your message of love to the world. Amen.**

**Silent Prayer**

\***Response Come and find the quiet center** (stanza 2)*Beach Spring*

**Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,**

**God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,**

**making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,**

**raising courage when we’re shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.**

Shirley Erena Murray © 1992 Hope Publishing Co.

**… TO CELEBRATE THE FAMILY OF FAITH …**

10:45 **Sacrament of Baptism** page 39, Rev. Strandburg, officiating

*Wells Maverick Policz,*

*son of Mike & Haley Policz*

***Congregational Response:***

Pastor: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life

and include *Wells Maverick* now before you in your care?

**People: With God's help we will proclaim the good news  
     and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround** *Wells Maverick* **with a community of love and forgiveness,  
     that he may grow in his service to others.**

**We will pray for him,  
     that he may be a true disciple,**

**who walks in the way that leads to life.**

**\*The Sign of Peace** *Please pass the peace to your neighbors as a sign of reconciliation and love.*

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Gathering Song *James Ritchie*

This, this is where children belong,

welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.

Water, God’s Word, bread and cup, prayer and song:

This is where children belong. WORDS & MUSIC: James Ritchie ©1999 Abingdon Press

**Message for Young Disciples**

All children are invited. Please sing as children come forward. After the children’s message at the 10:45 service, children ages 3 - 3rd grade may attend **Kids Praise** in the Welcome Center. Children will be escorted to and from Kids Praise by teachers. They will return to the sanctuary near the end of the service.

8:30 **Hymnal 344 Lord, you have come to the lakeshore** *Pescador de hombres*

10:45 **Handbell Anthem** Joy *Louise Frier*

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

Scripture Reading 8:30 Marcy Picardi 10:45 Joyce Magill

**A Lesson from the New Testament**

Acts 10:34-43 Luke records Peter’s introduction of Jesus as the Messiah

**Response**

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

\***Celtic Alleluia:** **Alleluia** (sing 4 times) *James J. Chepponis*

\*Scripture Reading

A Lesson from the Gospel

Matthew 3:1-6, 11-17 Jesus is Baptized by John

**Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

**… TO OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TO DEDICATE OUR LIVES …**

10:45 **Offertory** **Anthem**  *Psalm 27; Scott Perkins*

You, God, are my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

You are the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? One thing I ask of you, O God:

that I may dwell in your house all the days of my life; to behold your beauty,

and to seek you in your temple.

Teach me your way, O God. Hear me when I cry unto you:

have mercy upon me and answer me. For in the time of trouble

you will hide me in your dwelling; you will set me high upon a rock.

\***Hymnal** **94 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow** (standing) *Lasst uns erfreuen*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God, the source of all our gifts!**

**Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!**

**Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

adapt. © 1989 The U. Methodist Publishing House

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon** “The Baptism of Jesus” Rev. Kimberly Greway

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**\*Benediction**

\***Hymn At the font we start our journey** *Lauda anima*

**1. At the font we start our journey, in the Easter faith baptized;**

**doubts and fears no longer blind us, by the light of Christ surprised.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Hope held out and realized.**

**2. At the pulpit we are fashioned by the Easter tale retold**

**into witnesses and prophets, by the power of Christ made bold.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Faith proclaimed, yet still untold.**

**3. At the altar we are nourished with the Easter gift of bread;**

**in our breaking it to pieces see the love of Christ outspread.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Life embraced, yet freely shed.**

**4. At the door we are commissioned, now the Easter victory’s won,**

**to restore a world divided to the peace of Christ as one.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter’s work must still be done.**

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**Today’s Services**

**The flowers on the altar** are given by the Lonsinger family in loving memory of Dick Lonsinger, who died January 21, 2015.

**The flowers in the chancel** are given in celebration and love of John and Bunny Knabb's 50th wedding anniversary on February 3rd by their children and grandchildren.

**Greeters 8:30** Gale Seymore **10:45** Jim and Linda Hoover

**Special music for the 10:45 service** is provided by the Chapel Bells, directed by Nancy R. Lutz; and the Chancel Choir, conducted by Ryan A. Keeling.

**Acolytes** Anna Rhoton and Jacob Lowe

**Worship options for children** We encourage children to participate in the **Children’s Sermon** at both services, and in **Kids Praise** during the 10:45 service. **Nursery services** are offered in Room 204 of the Education Building. Ask ushers or greeters and follow signs for direction.

**Podcasts of Sunday Sermons**  Catch up on messages from MLUMC with a podcast of Pastor Tom’s and others’ Sunday sermons. Sermons can be found at http://mlumc.buzzsprout.com or navigate to the site from the link on our webpage, [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org). Sermons also will be posted to iTunes. Full recordings of the service are available upon request.

**Honor or remember a loved one with a flower donation.** The flowers that grace the sanctuary each week are generously donated by our church family members. This is a great way to honor or memorialize a special person, event, or milestone in your personal life or in the life of the church. If you are interested in donating flowers on a particular Sunday, contact Lizzie Diller , 412-860-3614. The cost is $33 for the altar, narthex, or columbarium, and $66 for the chancel.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**Acts 10:34-43**

34Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. 37That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; 40but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

**Matthew 3:1-6, 11-17**

3In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 2“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” 3This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” 4Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, 6and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 11“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

13Then 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?” 15But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. 16And 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. 17And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

**Keep in Prayer**

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Bonnie Amos, Providence Point

Ed Clarke, Asbury Heights

May Frederick, Baptist Home

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Woody Kimmel, Providence Point

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Doris Trimble, Providence Point

Olivia Woods, Baptist Manor

Anne Hoffman, Providence Point

**Convalescing at Home**

Bishop George Bashore,

Jean Boyer, Mary Caldwell,

John Dean, Joseph Festor,

Ezra Gibson, Leon Grant, Jr.,

Steve Howard, Dave Lewis,

Susan Lichtenfels, George Lindow,

Bob Mallery, Carol Van Sickle,

Arlene Stewart, Peyton Wisterman

**In the Military**

Matt Lewis, USMC,

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown,

**Maj. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC,**James Iantelli, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz,   
S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell,

Sgt. Brendan Lamport,   
Sgt. Matthew McConahan, Thomas Orda,  
David Poncel, Sgt. Steven Reitz,   
Capt. Scott B. Rushe, Pastor Rick Townes,   
Maj. Azizi Wesmiller,

Maj. Matthew C. Wesmiller,  
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski,

Sgt Michael Zimmerman

**In Sympathy**

The congregation offers its sympathy to Condolences are also offered to the

Matt Baker and family in the death of his family of Theodore Hardy, who passed

wife, Heather Baker, who passed away away on January 22nd. Words of

January 21st. Prayers and words of sympathy can be sent to his wife, Ann

comfort can be sent to the family: at:

Matthew Baker Ann Hardy

477 Old Farm Road 100 Adams Ave. #510

Pittsburgh, PA 15228 Pittsburgh, PA 15243

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, JANUARY 26 THRU SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1**

**SUNDAY 1/26**

8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

8:30 am The Gathering Asbury

9:30 am Sunday School Various

10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

10:45 am Kids Praise Welcome Center

11:45 am Youth Choir Choir Room

5 pm Youth Group Wesley

**MONDAY 1/27**

7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

**TUESDAY 1/28**

6 pm **Terrific Tuesday Resumes** Asbury

7 pm Boy Scout Meeting Wesley

7 pm Boy Scout Board of Reviews Network

**THURSDAY 1/30**

6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**SATURDAY 2/1**

10 am Food Pantry/Food Lift Free Market Food Pantry