

We are precious in your sight, yet we often forget that we are your beloved. We confess that our love is fickle and inconstant. We follow selfish goals and deny that our way of life harms others and hurts your world. We are sorry and we want to change. Create in us a clean heart, strengthen our resolve, reconcile us one to another, and bless us with your peace. Amen.

****Assurance of Forgiveness**

****Hymn “Gloria Patri”**

“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,

as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen. Amen.”

****The Passing of the Peace of Christ**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us share this peace with one another.

Time with Our Youngest Saints

THE WORD

Unison Prayer for Understanding

Glorious God, when Jesus was baptized for your healing mission the heavens opened in a flash of glory as vision and voice blazed upon the waters. May your Spirit so burn in us that we hear your word translated into deed and follow Jesus in paths of justice, right relationship, and peace. Amen.

The Reading from the Gospels

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

15As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

21Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 22and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Liturgist: The gospel of the Lord for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

A Gift of Music

Sermon **“What Does This Mean?”**

****Hymn 411** **“Arise, Your Light is Come!”**

THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Star Word Liturgy

God who revealed yourself to wise men following a star,

Guide all who search and journey towards your light today,

God who unveiled yourself in the gift of a son,

Show yourself to all who seek after justice and righteousness today,

God who was baptized with those who declared their repentance in the Jordan River,

manifest yourself to all who come with repentant hearts today,

God who fed the five thousand with a handful of fish and loaves,

Satisfy our hunger with your word of truth and love,

God who changed water into wine at a wedding,

Fill all who thirst with the free gift of the water of life.

God who caused a star to shine leading wise ones to the young Messiah,

Cause our word to bless and teach us this year. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer **(debts/debtors)**

“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 debts, as we forgive our debtors,

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

****Hymn** **“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”**

*“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above,
ye heav’nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!” Amen.*

****Prayer of Dedication**

THE SENDING

****Hymn 339**

“Be Thou My Vision”

****Charge and Blessing**

****Postlude**

*****please stand as you are able***



First Presbyterian Church of Lancaster

Order of Worship for

the Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

January 12, 2025 ~ 11 a.m.

Liturgist: Mrs. Lita Leavell

Interim Organist—Mr. Jim Parrish

Ushers—Mrs. Joyce Bryant and Mrs. Cheryl Denney

Pastor—The Reverend Michael Denney

Please silence your phones prior to worship.

THE GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

****Call to Worship**

Liturgist: The voice of God resounds upon the water.

People: The Spirit of the Lord hovers over the stream.

Liturgist: The Son of God is named, "Beloved."

People: And all who worship shout out, "Glory!"

Liturgist: Ascribe to the Lord majesty and strength.

People: Let us worship God in holy splendor.

****Prayer of the Day**

****Hymn 142** *"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"*

****Call to Confession**

****Prayer of Confession**