

**The Presbyterian Church of Okemos**  
**January 12, 2025**  
**First Sunday After the Epiphany**  
**Baptism of the Lord**



**Gathering As a People of God**

**Preparation:** “Baptism is the first word of grace spoken over us by the church. . . . We are marked from our first waking moment by an identity that is given to us by grace: an identity that is deeper and more real than any other identity we will don that day.” – Rev. Tish Harrison Warren, *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life*, 2016

**Invitation to Our Shared Ministry**

Rebecca Mattern

**Prelude**

Prelude on *Rustington*  
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, organ

Charles Callahan

**Lighting the Candle**

**Choral Introit**

*Come, ye that love the Lord*  
PCO Chancel Choir  
Westin Sorrel, director

arr. Alice Parker

**\* Call to Worship**

Mitch Marcus, Liturgist

One: In the beginning, at creation, the Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep.

**All: In the waters of the flood, God cleansed the earth and humankind.**

One: God caused the waters to part so that Israel could cross from slavery to liberation.

**All: Jesus taught us how to live by washing his disciples’ feet in water.**

One: Jesus met a Samaritan woman at a well and offered her, and all of us, Living Water.

**All: Creating, liberating, cleansing, renewing waters are poured out on us at baptism.**

**Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, the Christ, and reaffirm our own baptism.**

**\* Hymn #484**

*Out of Deep, Unordered Water*, vs. 1-3  
[Rustington]

**Prayer of Confession**

Rebecca Mattern

One: The Gospel of Luke tells us that the sky opened up and the voice of God was heard saying, “You are my Son, whom I love; with whom I am well-pleased” God loves us with the same passion that we hear God express in today’s scripture. So trusting that good news, trusting that we are beloved, let us go to God in prayer.

**All:** Loving God, from the very beginning, you breathed life into us and called us good. However, somewhere along the way we replaced “good” with “not enough.” Somewhere along the way we turned the volume up on that phrase and began to doubt our own self-worth. Forgive us, for this is not what you have taught us. For when the world tells us we are not enough, you call us beloved. Show us how to return to that truth. Show us how to let go of our weariness and rest in that good news. Silent prayer. Amen.

**Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace**

Rebecca Mattern

One: Family of faith, God’s grace and understanding is deeper and wider than we could possibly imagine. So say these words of grace with me:

**All:** Our story begins with belovedness. Even when we lose our way, even if we stumble and fall, God never stops breaking through the clouds to claim us. We are known. We are forgiven. We are beloved. Thanks be to God! Amen.

One: As a forgiven people, let us greet each other, sharing the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

**All:** And also with you. *Please greet your fellow worshippers in ways you feel comfortable.*

**\* Act of Praise #581**

*Gloria Patri*

**The Word**

**Prayer of Illumination**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Still-speaking God, as these words from Scripture are read, may it be to us as if the heavens are opening, and we see your Spirit descending on us like a dove, revealing your love for us as your children. Amen.

**Children’s Message**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 43:1-7

Rebecca Mattern

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**New Testament Scripture**

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Sermon**

*Who is Jesus? One Who is Baptized*

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Special Music**

*Comme au Premier Jour*

Manami Takada

PCO Handbell Choir

Irene Shutt, director

Mike Moore, synthesizer

## Responding to the Word

### Thanksgiving for the Waters of Baptism

Rebecca Mattern

#### Congregation: Reaffirmation of the Baptism Covenant

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Beloved people of God, our baptism is the sign and seal of our cleansing from sin, and of our being grafted into Christ. Through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ, the power of sin was broken and God's kingdom entered our world. Through our baptism we were made citizens of God's kingdom, and freed from the bondage of sin. Let us celebrate that freedom and redemption through the renewal of the promises made at our baptism. I ask you, therefore, once again to reject sin, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, and to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we were baptized.

One: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

**All: I do.**

One: Who is your Lord and Savior?

**All: Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**

One: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

**All: I will, with God's help.**

One: Remember your baptism and be thankful. In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### Reaffirmation of Baptism and Renaming Liturgy for Zach Nawyn-Hellinga

Pastor Lisa Schrott, Rebecca Mattern & Dorinda VanKempen, Clerk of Session

One: In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), individuals are baptized once in their life. One may choose later to reaffirm their baptism. With much personal prayer and the support of this community, and the communities represented here, our beloved congregant Zach Nawyn-Hellinga reaffirms his baptism today. As with baptism, we celebrate reaffirmation of baptism in the midst of a congregation, so that we, as a community, can bear witness to God's great love and faithfulness.

One: In your baptism, God acted out of grace and love for you. You entered the covenant God established. You were joined to Christ and welcomed into the household of faith.

**All: The grace of God is eternal. Nothing can separate you from God's love. You are God's child, and God cares for you.**

One: I ask you therefore, once again to reject sin, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, and to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we are baptized.

*Questions of reaffirmation as included above.*

One: We turn to these waters again remembering God's promises to all of us, and especially to you today. You were first brought to the waters of baptism with a different name, and we return today to remember God's promises continue with you throughout all of life. We gather around these waters as a community to mark your name change. By what name shall you be known?

Zach: Zachariah Irene Nawyn-Hellinga

One: The congregation is invited to join in recognizing this moment by saying, "We see you, Zach."

**All: "We see you, Zach."**

One: Bear your name, Zach, in the Name of Christ. Share it in the name of mercy. Offer it in the name of justice.

Zach, remember your baptism and be thankful and be free.

O Lord, uphold Zach by your Holy Spirit.

Daily increase in him your gifts of grace:

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,

the spirit of joy in your presence,

the spirit of freedom and love, both now and forever. Amen

**\* Affirmation of Faith**

Dorinda VanKempen

One: With the whole church, let us confess our faith sharing together in the Apostle's Creed.

**All: 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.**

**Offering**

Rebecca Mattern

**Invitation**

**Offertory**

*Shall We Gather at the River*

arr. Donna Gartman Schultz

PCO Chancel Choir

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,  
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

**Refrain:** Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river  
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,  
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. **(Refrain)**

Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down,  
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown.

Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease,  
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. **(Refrain)**

**\*Doxology #606**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Prayers of the People**

Mitch Marcus, liturgist

One: Lord in your mercy.

All: **Hear our prayer.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

in unison

**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.**

### **Sent Out As a People of God**

**\* Hymn #482**

*Baptized in Water*, vs. 1-3

[Bunessan]

**\* Benediction**

Pastor Lisa Schrott

**Postlude**

*March in D Major*

Elizabeth Turner

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker

*\* Please rise in body or spirit*

The Call to Worship is adapted from *Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion Liturgies for Year A. Volume 1*, Westminster John Knox Press. 2013. The Confession and Promise of the Gospel are adapted from words by the Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed The liturgy for today's Reaffirmation of Baptism is adapted from the *Book of Common Worship, PC(USA)*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2018. The Reaffirmation of Baptism and Renaming Liturgy was created by Rev. Len Scales, in consultation with Slats Toole, and published in *Call to Worship* Volume 55.4, 2021.

**Ushers:** Gary & Trudy Sturk, Jeff & Michele Arbour

**This Morning's Fellowship Team:** Thank you to Shirley Rumminger and Mickey Martin for supplying our snacks, to Edward Ennen for making coffee, and to Gary VanKempen for cleaning up after fellowship time today.

**Education Hour:**

Children through 4th grade: (Room 116)

Middle School & High School Youth: Soup Bowl Making: (Offsite)

Adult: Sermon Talk-Back - Understanding the Sacraments in the Presbyterian Tradition led by Pastor Lisa; (Room 108)

**Next Week: January 19, 2025**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 62:1-5; John 2:1-11

**Education Hour:**

Children through 4th grade: (Room 116)

Middle School Youth 5th-8th grade: Middle School Room (107)

Adult & High School Youth: Intergenerational Bible Study (Board Room)

Adult Education: Signs that Jesus is God's Son (Room 108)

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Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott (she/her), Pastor/Head of Staff

Rebecca Mattern (she/her), Coordinator of Pastoral Care & Youth Education

Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist

Westin Sorrel (he/him), Chancel Choir Director

Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director

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