



**January 8, 2017 11:15 a.m.**  
**Baptism of the Lord**

*Gathering Song #276*

“Sing a New Song”

*Welcome and Living Our Faith*

*Passing of the Peace*

*Call to Worship*

As Jesus stood in Jordan’s muddy waters,

**we stand in the muddy waters of our lives.**

As Jesus submitted to John’s baptism,

**we submit our lives to God’s transforming touch.**

As Jesus trusted God’s Spirit to fill him with wisdom,

**we trust God’s Spirit to illumine our minds.**

As Jesus emerged from the Jordan to give his life to God,

**we will leave worship with a renewed sense of God’s presence in our lives.**

*Song #482*

“Baptized in Water”

*Prayer*

**Gracious God, we confess that we do not always live for you.**

**You have invited us into new life,**

**yet we have closed our eyes and ears to your invitation.**

**You have challenged us to step out of well-worn ruts,**

**yet we hesitate to venture onto a new path.**

**Enter our lives and renew our spirits,**

**so that we will muster the courage to make overdue changes in our lives.**

**We ask this in the name of Christ, who brings us hope for new life. Amen.**

*Scripture*

Matthew 3:13-17

Pam Wilson, Lay Reader

*Response:*

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Song #164*

“Down Galilee’s Slow Roadways”

*Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant*

*Opening Sentences*

*Reaffirming Our Commitment to Christ*

Do you accept Jesus Christ as your authority in life, and the one who leads us to abundant life? **I do.**

Will you strive to be Christ’s faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love? **I will.**

*\*Affirmation of Faith*

**We believe that in baptism the Spirit demonstrates and confirms God’s promise to include us, and our children, in the divine covenant, cleansing us from sin, and giving us newness of life, as participants in Christ’s death and resurrection. Baptism sets us in the invisible community of Christ’s people and joins us to all other believers by a powerful bond. In baptism, we give ourselves up in faith and repentance to become the Lord’s. Baptism is a reminder that God loves us long before we can love God. For both God’s grace and our response to it are not tied to the moment of baptism, but continue and deepen throughout life.** *A Declaration of Faith*

*Reaffirming Our Commitment to the Church*

Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

*Remembering Our Baptism*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord’s Prayer*

## Offering

*Please sign the blue friendship notebook and pass it to the person next to you.*

## Song #623

**“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”**

## Sending

## Response #480

**“Take Me to the Water”**

*Versus 1 and 4*

*Following the service, we invite you to join us in the Meeting Room for coffee, tea, and fellowship.*

**We are thankful for your presence and participation this morning.** Westminster has two worship options each Sunday. Our Traditional Service, held in the Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m., includes a choir, organ music and a brief Children’s Message. Our Alternative Service, Living Mosaics, is held in Rodney Chapel at 11:15 a.m. Both services include prayers, singing, scripture and sermon.

**Following worship, feel free to make a bouquet to brighten someone’s day.** Today's flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Helen Kelley's 70 years of active membership at Westminster given by her daughter Susan Kelley Timpson.

**Please remember in your prayers:** Audrey Hatfield and Frank Pickering.

**Children are welcome in worship.** You will find yellow worship bags for all children at the chapel entrance.

**Image:** 'Baptism of Christ' by Rosalind Hore, <http://www.commission4mission.org>

Pastors: Gregory Knox Jones and Sudie Niesen Thompson

Pianist: Paul Fleckenstein

Song Leader: David Price

Digital Artist: Bob Cox



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