

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for the Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord

Jan. 7, 2024

Pre-Service Music: *Simple Gifts* - Nigel Williams

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *Song of Peace* - Matt Schinske

Introit #827: *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* v. 1 Chancel Choir

Call to Worship

This little light of mine

I'm going to let it shine.

This little light of ours

we're going to let it shine.

This little light of the world

has overcome the darkness.

We have followed the light to this place,

and the glory of the God's presence is among us!

Let us worship God!

Prayer of the Day:

Great God, Magi from the east were looking for Jesus. Herod was looking for Jesus. We are looking for Jesus, and we are overcome with amazement that you became one of us in the Christ-child. Teach us what it means to surrender what we have, to fall on our knees, and to worship you. As we move from this place to our diverse homes, help us to carry our adoration with us, that we might not be tempted to reject the love that brought us here. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn #744: *Arise, Your Light is Come!* (please stand)

Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

God, our rock and refuge, we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.

You are God's beloved.

Amen.

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Glory Be to the Father #581:

Anthem:

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People

Worship leader will lead the prayers.

God of grace. **Receive our prayer.**

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world.

God of grace. **Receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings (please stand)

Offering #711: *Lord of All Good* *vs. 1 and 3*

Prayer of Dedication and Illumination:

**Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we
receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus. As we turn to your Word
for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our
hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.**

Scriptures for the Day

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 1:1-5

Epistle Lesson: Acts 19:1-7

First Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

Second Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:4-11

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *The Second-Best Time* Jonathan Kimball

Communion Hymn#510: *We Gather Here in Jesus' Name* v. 1 v. 2 (fine)

Invitation to the Table and Prayer of Thanksgiving

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!
People will come from north and south, from east and west,
to sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, blessed it, and broke it and gave it to them.

Their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust in him to share the feast that he has prepared.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and our great delight to praise you, O God. We thank you for your steadfast love in spite of our human sin. We join with the heavenly choirs and the faithful of every time and place to sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and give it to his disciples saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way Jesus took the cup saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising
you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

According to Christ's commandment:

**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen**

Let us pray:

**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

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.
Jesus said: I am the vine, you are the branches.
Come to me and never be hungry;
believe in me and never thirst.
The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God. *(take the communion)*

Prayer After Communion

Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. Amen.

Sending Hymn #163: *Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice*

Benediction:

(remain standing)

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
Bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

Postlude: *Joyful Hymn of Praise* - Faye Lopez

Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by the Chancel Choir, Jeff Sandquist and Lorie Francis. Worship led by Maudanne Pursley and sermon provided by Jonathan Kimball. Portions of the service reprinted by permission of Presbyterian Press from Call to Worship®. Copyright 2023, and Sundays and Seasons 2023, Augsburg Fortress Press, Copyright 2023.