



The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ

January 12th, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Welcome to worship at Saint John's Episcopal Church.

Here are a few notes to make you feel more comfortable.

- Relax and allow your focus to be on praising God, not on the “right” way to do things, because there is no “right” way.
- If you are joining us on Zoom, please remain muted for the duration of the service unless you have a speaking role. All are welcome to unmute themselves during announcements.
- Above all, ask questions either in-person or through Zoom's chat feature, if you have them. Anyone in the congregation will be happy to try and answer them.

We gather quietly for a period of meditation and reflection.

The Liturgy of the Word

The service begins with three chimes of a bell, followed by the announcement of the opening hymn.

OPENING HYMN – 121 (*standing, as able*)

CHRIST, WHEN FOR US YOU WERE BAPTIZED

F. Bland Tucker

**1 Christ, when for us you were baptized,
God's Spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove and yet
as urgent as a flame.**

**2 God called you his belov'd Son,
called you his servant true,
sent you his kingdom to proclaim,
his holy will to do.**

**3 Straightway and steadfast until death
you then obeyed his call
freely as Son of Man to serve
and give your life for all.**

**4 Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord,
your cross on us be signed,
that, likewise in God's service we
may perfect freedom find.**

OPENING ACCLAMATION (*standing, as able*)

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant says

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (*standing, as able*)

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

People **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 43:1-7 (*seated*)

Reader A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 29 (*seated*)

Leader Let us read Psalm 29 responsively by whole verse.

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, *
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 2 **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; ***
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 **The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; ***
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; *
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 **he makes Lebanon skip like a calf, ***
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; *
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 **The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe ***
and strips the forests bare.
- 9 And in the temple of the Lord *
all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 **The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; ***
the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.
- 11 The Lord shall give strength to his people; *
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

THE SECOND LESSON: ACTS 8:14-17 (*seated*)

Reader A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22 (*standing, as able*)

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John 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. His 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." Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and 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."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON (*seated*)

The Rev. Christopher Richardson

THE NICENE CREED (*standing, as able*)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*standing, as able*)

Officiant Creator of the stars in the sky, the sun, and the moon, You are the light by which we wake and work.

People **Illumine our darkness, and keep us alert.**

Officiant Surround your church, her leaders, and people, with your armor of light. We pray especially for Sean, our presiding bishop; Kristin, Ken, Nedi, and Wendell, our bishops; and Christopher, our priest. Strengthen them as they reach out to you in prayer and hope. Open their hearts to your will.

People **Illumine our darkness, and keep us alert.**

Officiant We pray for our leaders: especially Joe, our president; Mike, our governor; and the Congress and courts of this land. Savior of the nations, guide those who govern, and awaken those they lead, that we may all live in the spirit of cooperation and share so that all have enough: food, care, and peace.

People **Illumine our darkness, and keep us alert.**

Officiant For people across the world whose spirits bend under the yoke of oppression and struggle, give the people of this community a sense of togetherness and support. Open our eyes to those who fall by the wayside and whose faces and needs remain invisible.

People **Illumine our darkness, and keep us alert.**

Officiant Lover of our souls, you continue to mold us in your image and hold us in your hands. We ask your blessing on those who struggle with illness, anxiety, grief, or isolation. Today we pray for Alyanna Bergunzi, Kim French, Brenda Groff, Bonnie Kettell, John Kissel, Christina Lampron, Angyl Mellon, Donald Nolan, Christopher Richardson, Nadya Richardson, Leslie Smith, Debbie Vandyme, Isaiah, and all of the people across the world affected by natural disasters, violence, and war.

People **Illumine our darkness, and keep us alert.**

Officiant Father of us all, we pray for those who have recently returned to your embrace and those who are broken with grief.

People **Amen.**

Officiant Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

The People may stand or kneel as able.

People **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People **Amen.**

PEACE (*standing, as able*)

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS (*seated*)

OFFERTORY SENTENCE (*seated*)

Officiant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

OFFERTORY HYMN – LEVAS 143 (*seated*)

WADE IN THE WATER

Carl Haywood

[REFRAIN]

Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
Wade in the water,
God's a-gonna trouble the water.

3 Look over yonder, what do I see?
God's a-gonna trouble the water.
The Holy Ghost a-coming on me,
God's a-gonna trouble the water.
[REFRAIN]

1 See that host all dressed in white,
God's a-gonna trouble the water.
The leader looks like the Israelite,
God's a-gonna trouble the water.
[REFRAIN]

4 If you don't believe I've been redeemed,
God's a-gonna trouble the water.
Just follow me down to Jordan's stream,
God's a-gonna trouble the water.
[REFRAIN]

2 See that band all dressed in red,
God's a-gonna trouble the water.
Looks like the band that Moses led,
God's a-gonna trouble the water.
[REFRAIN]

DOXOLOGY (*standing, as able*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures, high and low;
Give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.

The Holy Communion

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER C (*standing, as able*)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

Celebrant And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

(standing or kneeling, as able)

Celebrant And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Celebrant Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Celebrant Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

People **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(standing or kneeling, as able)*

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People **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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD (*standing or kneeling, as able*)

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died, and rose for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The ministers receive the Sacrament, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

EUCCHARISTIC HYMN –513 (*seated*)

LIKE THE MURMUR OF THE DOVE'S SONG

Carl P. Daw Jr.

1 Like the murmur of the dove's song,
like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigor of the wind's rush,
like the new flame's eager might:
come, Holy Spirit, come.

3 With the healing of division,
with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the power to love and witness,
with the peace beyond compare:
come, Holy Spirit, come.

2 To the members of Christ's Body,
to the branches of the Vine,
to the Church in faith assembled,
to her midst as gift and sign:
come, Holy Spirit, come.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER (*standing or kneeling, as able*)

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE BLESSING (*standing or kneeling, as able*)

Celebrant May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

People **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN – LEVAS 141 (*seated*)
SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER

Robert Lowry

1 **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**

2 **On the margin of the river,
Washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever,
All the happy golden day.**

[REFRAIN]

3 **Ere we reach the shining river,
Lay we ev'ry burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver,
And provide a robe and crown.
[REFRAIN]**

4 **Soon we'll reach the shining river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease,
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.
[REFRAIN]**

DISMISSAL (*standing, as able*)

Deacon **Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.**

People **Thanks be to God!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- All are invited to join us in our meeting room following the service for coffee and fellowship.
- Mission Council Meeting is today, Sunday, January 12th, following the morning service at 11 a.m.
- On January 28th, we will host a conversational meet-up surrounding the needed and ongoing work of Sanctuary Night. Sanctuary Night is an organization that provides outreach to vulnerable women on the Westside of Columbus. They have been working in this initiative since formation in 2017. We are inviting you into our space to learn more about Sanctuary Night's mission and goals, alongside area stakeholders. We intend to hold space during this time for community member questions and concerns, as well as to vocalize support. Ultimately, our intent is to provide room to facilitate such a conversation where we can learn from one another and find ways to work together in love! Please join us at 1003 West Town St. from 6-7:30 p.m.
- Anyone eight years-old or older is invited to become an acolyte to assist with leading worship services. If you or anyone you know is interested, please reach out to Sam, our administrator, or Christopher, and they will make sure to schedule a training session to figure out what roles the new acolytes are willing to undertake.
- We are currently seeking dedicated volunteers to serve as Street Church Liaisons—a vital role that coordinates with our hosts in engaging with and serving the community. If you feel called to serve, please contact Sam at stjadministrator@st-johns-columbus.org.
- You can now enroll in Kroger Community Rewards. This is a way to raise funds for St. John's simply by shopping at Kroger. If you need assistance with this process, please contact Sam at stjadministrator@st-johns-columbus.org.
- Street Church meets at the PNC on the corner of Central and Broad on Sundays at 1 p.m.
- If you know anyone in assisted care, please reach out to us! We would love to keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

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Saint John's Worships on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Staff:

The Rev. Christopher C. Richardson, *Priest-in-Charge*
Sam Meade, *Church Administrator*
Darrell Forren, *Pianist*

Mission Council Members:

Julie Farr
Cheryl Mellon
Kristyn Quiroga
Gay Roberts
Kurt Wacker
Nadya Richardson, *Treasurer*
Sam Meade, *Clerk*

Mission Statement:

St. John's is a body of Christians, where all are welcome, giving thanks to God through traditional worship in an informal setting and serving God, fully dedicated to being in ministry with our neighborhood and beyond.

Vision Statement:

St. John's envisions a world of equity, peace, and compassion. At St. John's you can be yourself, while experiencing God's love, without fear of judgment.

Who We Are:

St. John's was founded in 1873 as a neighborhood mission and continues to strive to be fully engaged in the Franklinton community through worship, service, and relationships. We do not do outreach; everything we do reaches out into the larger community and invites the community into the life of the congregation.

