

### Worship Note

The text of Hymn 490, which is used in today's worship service, was written by Ruth Duck. Rev. Duck passed away on December 26, 2024, at age 79 after a long career of hymn writing. An ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, she wrote over 200 hymn texts that appear in hymnals worldwide, including 16 included in our *Glory to God* hymnal. In 1973, Rev. Duck made history at the Ecumenical Women's Center of Chicago, which produced the first 20th Century collection of original and adapted hymns that promoted the use of non-sexist language in worship. Throughout her career, Rev. Duck was a leading champion for and promoter of inclusive language sources that welcome all into the experience of worship of God. The Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, PCUSA pastor and author of the text of our closing hymn and over 400 other hymn texts, said of Duck, "Her books have been a blessing for all of my ministry. The whole church will be blessed by her wonderful, faithful work for years to come."

—Joe Chrisman, Minister of Music—

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## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

### WELCOME & OPENING SENTENCES

Leader: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to God.**

### PRELUDE

*Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth*, arr. M. Sedio<sup>1</sup>

*Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world.*

*Creator, source of every breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.*

*Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light,  
grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace.*

*Mothering Spirit, nurturing one, in arms of patience hold me close,  
so that in faith I root and grow until I flower, until I know.*

—Jean Janzen, b. 1933—

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*From Psalm 29; Luke 3:21-22*

Leader: The voice of God resounds upon the water.

**People: The Spirit of God hovers over the stream.**

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

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

Leader: Ascribe to God the glory of her name.

**People: Let us worship God in holy splendor.**

## PRAYER OF ADORATION

### \*HYMN 760

*Bring Many Names, Westchase<sup>2</sup>*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**God of knowledge, by whom all actions are weighed, 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 turn inward, following selfish goals, and deny that our way of life harms others and hurts your world. Renew us in your living waters and draw us outward to rest in love and embody that love for others (continue with silent confession) Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Beloved, God forgives your sins; know that you are pardoned and be at peace to love the Holy One and serve the world.

**People: Thanks be to the One who raises up the poor and lifts the needy!**

### \*ACCLAMATION HYMN 485 (verse 1 & 2) *We Know That Christ Is Raised, Engelberg<sup>3</sup>*

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.

Embraced by death he broke its fearful hold,  
and our despair he turned to blazing joy. Alleluia!

We share by water in his saving death.

Reborn we share with him an Easter life

as living members of a living Christ. Alleluia!

### \*PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Please turn to the back wall and wave to our online worshippers, offering them the peace of Christ and then greet each other.

# PROCLAIMING THE WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the One Who Lifts the Lowly, she who created you, O Jacob, she 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 Mighty One 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.

### NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

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."

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*After the message, children may follow the teacher to room 11 for Spiritual Adventures.*

### SERMON

*Beloved in the Waters and the Wilderness*

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### \*HYMN 490

*Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters, Beach Spring<sup>4</sup>*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns  
Pastoral Prayer  
The Lords Prayer

## PRAYER RESPONSE HYMN 474 (refrain)

*As a Child Rests, As a Child Rests*<sup>5</sup>

*After the choir sings the refrain once, the congregation will join in singing the refrain.*

As a child rests in its mother's arms, so will I rest in you.

As a child rests in its mother's arms, so will I rest in you.

## CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

## OFFERTORY SENTENCES

### OFFERTORY

*I Was There To Hear Your Borning Cry, arr. J.Helgen*<sup>6</sup>

### \*DEDICATION HYMN 608 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow, Praise God*<sup>7</sup>

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**O God, at his baptism, you acknowledged Jesus as your beloved Son, and through him you opened to us a way to become your children by grace. May these gifts we return to you be a sign of our dedication to live as your faithful daughters and sons, born in the waters of baptism by the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

## SEALING THE WORD

### \*HYMN

*John Was Preaching in the Desert, Nettleton*<sup>8</sup>

1. John was preaching in the desert, calling people to repent.

When they heard his word of judgment, many wondered what it meant.

John said, "Someone who is greater comes with fire and Spirit, too.

See! I baptize you with water; he will make your whole life new."

2. Jesus went down to the Jordan — to be baptized on that day.

All at once, the heavens opened as he paused to humbly pray.

Then a voice came down from heaven — with the Spirit, like a dove.

At those waters, God affirmed him — God's beloved, sent to love.

3. On this day when we remember how our Savior was baptized,  
God, we pause and pray and wonder at the ways you change our lives.  
As your Son went through the waters, We rejoice! We're baptized, too.  
We are called your sons and daughters; may we go out serving you.

## **\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

*We Know That Christ Is Raised*, arr. R. Hobby<sup>9</sup>

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4. Text: Ruth Duck, 1987. ©1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company). Music Harm.: James H. Wood, 1958. ©1958, ren. 1986 Broadman Press/Van Ness Press, Inc. (admin. Music Services). Used by Permission. All Rights Reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.
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### **Leaders Today:**

Preacher: Lynnette Berkhimer  
Minister of Music: Joe Chrisman  
The Chancel Choir  
Ushers/Greeters: Doug Evans, Judy Graham, Kate Fletcher, TBA (Deacon)

Liturgist: Roger Fletcher  
AV/Tech: Josh Mou  
Dorothy Blotz, flute



## WPC ANNOUNCEMENTS January 12, 2025

### **Pastoral Coverage**

The new interim pastor, Rev. Sara McCulloh Tonje, will be starting February 1.

In January we are blessed to have coverage at the pulpit:

1/12 - Lynnette Berkhimer (Tortorich)

1/19 - Rev. Devon Reynolds (new Presbytery Executive)

1/26 - Rev. Sandy Nuernberg

If you have pastoral needs in January, you may contact Rev. Sandy Nuernberg at [sn333@aol.com](mailto:sn333@aol.com) or 608-695-4248.

### **Today's Preacher**

We are grateful to have member, Lynnette Berkhimer (Tortorich) as our preacher this Sunday. Lynnette is a Master of Divinity student at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. She also works at the Salvation Army Women's Shelter in downtown Madison. Thank you Lynnette for stepping in today.

### **The Racial Equity Book Study Kicks Off in January**

The Racial Equity Work Group is sponsoring a four week book study on the *The False White Gospel*. We will begin on January 19th for the first session that will cover the section of the book from the beginning through Chapter 2 (through page 78). This book discusses the Christian Nationalism movement in America and helps us better understand what it is and how we should respond as Christians.

The book is available in the church office for a discounted price of \$5. The book study will take place on 4 Sundays after worship (11AM) on January 19th through February 9th. We hope you can join us for this important discussion.

### **Coins for a Cause - December**

Thank you to everyone who brought in their coins in December. We raised \$232.32!

Amy and the kids of Spiritual Adventures have decided to purchase: 1 fishing kit, 2 shares of a garden well, and 2 sapling sets from the Presbyterian giving catalog.

These gifts will support people around the globe. The fishing kit and saplings will help the environment and provide nutritious food. The fishing kit will provide food and income and the well will provide a clean and reliable source of water.

## **2025 Dine with Nine**

We will be kicking off another season of meeting/eating with your Westminster family. As in the past, we will form groups of 9-10 which will meet several times over the year for fellowship and food. Groups can meet at the church, in homes, at restaurants, at a park, etc. Each group decides the venue and the menu! This is a great opportunity to get to know your Westminster community better and in a fun setting!

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you can email Katie in the office or Juanita. Each year we mix up the groups so you can get to know a new set of fellow Westminster community members better. We will have a kick-off potluck at the church on February 21. Any questions, contact Juanita Halls (jjh71152@gmail.com).

### **\*IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS\***

**Care List:** Sally & Vern Forsberg, Jack Hamann, Gloria Hanson

**Members & Friends:** Jerry Tarr, Fred DeWitt (Beth Testa's father)

## **Online Giving**

Collection plates will be passed around, but if you prefer to donate online, feel free to use this QR Code. Thanks!



