

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Baptism of the Lord

January 21, 2024

11:00 a.m.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."

- Martin Luther King, "Loving Your Enemies," 1963

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

I've Just Come From The Fountain

Arr. Richard Bellingham

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Leslie Sayyar

At the beginning of God’s creating
of the heavens and the earth,
when the earth was wild and waste,
darkness over the face of Ocean,
rushing-spirit of God hovering over the face of the waters—
God said: Let there be light! And there was light.
God saw the light: that it was good.

At the beginning of his ministry,
Jesus was baptized by John.
The heavens opened,
and the Spirit descended like a dove.
**Then God said: This is my beloved Son,
in whom I am well pleased.**

At the beginning of this day
we have come,
trusting that God still hovers over the chaos,
and descends into our hearts.
Surely God is creating us still.
Surely God also calls us “Beloved.”

Let us worship the living God.

Gen. 1:1-2 (translation by Everett Fox), Mark 1:1, 9-11

*HYMN 15 (verses 1-4)

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Margaret LaMotte Torrence

Ever-faithful God,
We imagine that we are in familiar territory,
that we know what to expect of this hour—
that we will leave much the way that we came.
In mercy, do not abandon us to such a vision,
for you are the God who startles us with life.

With clarity, illumine our darkness;
With compassion, call us home—
until your unlikely call sets our course,
your improbable word issues from mouths,
and we offer our lives for the sake of your coming.

(Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (responsive)

Beloved of God,
nothing you have done, nothing you will ever do,
is enough to separate you from the One who loved you into existence,
and who will love you past death.

In the name of Jesus, the Living Water, let us declare:

Our stories are known; our sins are forgiven;
our work has just begun.

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL

All those children and youth who are present are invited to come
forward at this time.

FIRST READING

Genesis 1:1-5

ANTHEM

Hymn # 297:

“In Christ Called to Baptize”

ST. DENIO

Stanzas 1-3: Choir;

Stanza 4: Congregation joins Choir to Sing.

SECOND READING

Mark 1:4-11

SERMON

Margaret LaMotte Torrence

Beginning with the River

*HYMN 475

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

NETTLETON

SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION,

James Storey and Donald Collins

STATEMENT ON ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Do you believe in God, the Father?
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate
Was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

QUESTION FOR THE CONGREGATION

Clerk of Session

Sally Broughton

Do we, as members of the church, accept these elders, chosen by
God through the voice of this congregation, to lead us in the way
of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to
follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is head
of the Church?

We do.

PRAYER OF ORDINATION

DECLARATION AND CHARGE

*HYMN 401

“Here In this Place”

GATHER US IN

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Please stand as you are able

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CHURCH STAFF

Margaret LaMotte Torrence, Transitional Pastor
Ted Stewart, Interim Director of Music
Donna Eagle Joslin, Church Administrator
Leslie Sayyar, Brent Roberts, Treasurers
Barbara Escalante, Bookkeeper

Coffee Hour Host: Vicki & Don Collins
Liturgist: Leslie Sayyar
Elder of the Day: Sharon Lytle



WarrenWilsonPC



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WarrenWilsonPresbyterianChurch

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME VISITORS! If you are worshiping here for the first time today, welcome! We are glad to have you with us on this joyous day. Please consider filling out a visitor information card, located on the right as you enter the chapel.

PRAYERS GO OUT FOR: Mary Kells family, on her death; Catherine Showalter and family, on John’s death; Tacci Presnell-Smith and family, on her mother Anna Marie Smith’s death: Betty Smith’s family, on her death; Martha Dugger; Beth Newman; Susan Runholt, Steve’s sister; Salyna Morgan; Blake Joslin and his parents, Carol Lee and Brooks; Houston Huggins, Beth Meriwether’s brother; Bartley Spencer, Sandy Brauer’s brother; Jackie Wintle’s sister, Judy Reynolds; Pat Crumpler; Shane Reece, Nancy Garrison’s son; Pat Wilson’s son, Kell; Erika Lytle; Jackie Ligon Cole; Rick Garrison; Fran Roberts’ sister-in-law, Linda Briggs; Flo Bishop; Jon Hettrick and his family; Marjorie Hettrick; Kim Reece, daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison.

CALLING TREE WWPC employs a Calling Tree for use when announcements are time sensitive. That list is currently being updated given all the recent interesting, inclement weather forecasts.
A print copy is available in the narthex this morning. Would you please check to make sure that your contact information is correct?. If you’re not on this print copy and want to be added, please include your phone number.

Warren Wilson
Presbyterian Church



January 21, 2024



Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

101 Chapel Lane
Swannanoa, NC 28778
(828) 298-9092
www.warrenwilsonchurch.org

At Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church we are mothers and fathers, single and married, gay and straight, young and old, black and white, prosperous and poor, uncertain and sure, broken and whole - and everything in between. Together we are the many faces of humanity, yet as a joyful, caring and loving community of faith, we are one in Christ!