Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

January 12, 2025
Baptism of the Lord



Obeying the word of our Lord Jesus,
And confident of his promises,
We baptize those whom God has called.

In baptism God claims us,
And seals us to show that we belong to God.
God frees us from sin and death,
Uniting us with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection.

By water and the Holy Spirit,
We are made members of the church, the body of Christ,
And joined to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice.

- from *The Sacrament of Baptism*
The Book of Common Worship

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
Baptism of the Lord Sunday
January 12, 2025 11:00 AM

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP/CALL TO LIFE** Don Collins

In the waters of baptism, we are claimed by the Holy Spirit
The voice of the Lord—Strong and Mighty,
powerful and full of majesty, calls to us in the water.
Water can cleanse, threaten, refresh, and invigorate.
Water can take different forms and hold different properties.
Water is an everyday miracle that is necessary for life.
The waters of baptism fall on us, claiming us:
God calls to us, calling across the water.
The voice of the Lord breaks forth in baptism:
to Jesus and to us: this is my beloved

***HYMN 475** "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"
NETTLETON

1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God, your waters of faithfulness fun deep, and we have been afraid they will overwhelm us. Your Spirit burns brightly and we fear we may be consumed if we show too much enthusiasm. We retreat to the safeplaces where we can avoid challenges, conflict, and uncertainty. We shrink from risks and we miss much. Free us for to live into Your calling for us. (Silent Reflection) **Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

...in the name of Jesus, the resurrection and the life, let us declare:
We are baptized; our sins are forgiven; we live in grace.

***RESPONSE** (sung) Hymn 483 verse 2

Your command is clear and plain, and we would obey it duly:
"You must all be born again, heart and life renewing truly,
born of water and the Spirit, and my kingdom thus inherit."

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Children and youth are invited to come forward.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Isaiah 43:1-7

ANTHEM **"**On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"
Michael Praetorious

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand our health restore,and make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.

SECOND READING Luke 3:21-22

SERMON Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini

***HYMN 488** "I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"
WATERLIFE

1 "I was there to hear your borning cry;
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."

2 "When you heard the wonder of the Word,
I was there to cheer you on.
You were raised to praise the living Lord
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun."

3 "In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise."

4 "I was there to hear your borning cry;
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold."

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** The Apostle's Creed
(in Baptismal Question and Answer Form)

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, the Son of God?
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 to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN 8** "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"
MELITA

1 Eternal Father, strong to save,
whose arm has bound the restless wave,
who bade the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

2 O Savior, whose almighty word
the winds and waves submissive heard,
who walked upon the foaming deep,
and calm amid its rage did sleep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

3 O Holy Spirit, who did brood
upon the chaos wild and rude,
and bade its angry tumult cease,
and gave, for fierce confusion, peace:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

4 O Trinity of love and power,
all travelers guard in danger's hour;
from rock and tempest, fire and foe,
protect them wheresoe'er they go;
thus evermore shall rise to thee
glad praise from air and land and sea.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

You have been baptized with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
We pray for courage to do what is right.
We seek the strength to witness for peace.
We are God's beloved children.
Let us seek to live in ways that are life giving and life sharing.
God has created us for good.
We will worship the God of power and strength.
Even now, God's hand of blessing rests on us.
Even now, the love of peace, descends.
We leave this time and place, renewed, refreshed, reminded:
Nothing separates us from the love of God through Christ Jesus, our Lord.

POSTLUDE

*Please stand as you are able

CHURCH STAFF
Laurie Furr-Vancini, Transitional Pastor
Ted Stewart, Interim Director of Music
Andrew Tripp, Church Administrator
Leslie Sayyar and Brent Roberts, Treasurers
Barbara Escalante, Bookkeeper

Elder of the Day: Natalie Daugherty
Sound/Video: Derron Daugherty
Coffee Hour Host: Joyce Cucinella
Greeter: Anne Dale
Liturgist: Don Collins

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

OFFERING Plates are available just inside the doors to the chapel as you enter and exit. Our gifts take many forms: open-hearted presence here, voices lifted in song, the prayers that rise in us, the material gifts we share with neighbors, and our willingness to live in a world as allies and advocates for those whose needs are overlooked. The monies we bring symbolize the offering of our lives in all circumstances.
A separate labeled basket is available each week to receive Our Daily Change offerings, formerly known as Five Cents a Meal hunger offering.

HURRICANE RELIEF Session has set up a **fund to provide aid to neighbors most affected by Hurricane Helene**. There are handouts in the narthex explaining these giving opportunities.
COMMUNITY JOYS AND CONCERNS: If you would like to add or update a prayer request, please contact the church office.

We celebrate: New member Dennis Riley, and his wife, Cindy, who is an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Covenant Church ◦ encouraging results in **Jon Hettrick's** most recent round of medical tests

We remember in prayer: The family of **Jack and Sue Allison,** on the death of **Jack's brother Robin.** ◦ The family of **Thurman Slone**, **Joyce Cucinella's brother,** following his death on December 22 ◦ The family of **Margaret (Judy) Laney, John's sister,** following her death on December 15 ◦ **Salyna Morgan,** recovering from surgery for a broken arm ◦ **Dina Taylor, Barbara Escalante's sister,** recovering from surgery in California on December 2, for a brain bleed. ◦ **Wynee Bullerdick, daughter of Rodney and Sharon Lytle** as she collaborates with her doctor to determine the cause of her illness. ◦ all who continue to be affected by loss caused by recent storms. In our congregation, we remember especially **Andrew Tripp, Cindy and Dennis Riley, Jackie Wintle, Joyce Cucinella,** and **Bob, the father of Natalie's partner Jeff** ◦ **Donna Eagle Joslin,** healing from wrist surgery. ◦ **Amanda Branscombe,** as she continues to recover from spinal fusion surgery ◦ **Bill Christy,** as he continues to heal following a heart transplant ◦ **Susan Laney**, receiving therapy at home ◦ **Bubba Lytle, Rodney and Sharon's son**, making excellent progress recovering from a serious motorcycle accident ◦ **Jackie Ligon Cole** ◦ **Pat Crumpler** ◦ **Martha Dugger** ◦ **Rick Garrison** ◦ **Houston Huggins** (**Beth Meriwether's brother**) ◦ **Erika Lytle** ◦ **Fran Roberts' sister-in-law, Linda Briggs** ◦ **Jon Hettrick and his family** ◦ **Marjorie Hettrick** ◦ **Shane Reece** (**Nancy Garrison's son**) ◦ **Pat Wilson's son, Kell**

HABITAT VOLUNTEER DAYS IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH Faith partner volunteers, including 10 from our church, made great progress helping Habitat build new affordable homes in Arden last fall, and there is a new opportunity for volunteers to help from February 4-March 22. We have spaces reserved on the volunteer schedule for Fridays Feb 14 and March 7, and Saturdays Feb. 15 and March 8, and many other dates are available. No special skills or tools are needed, only a willingness to help. If you have questions about this important mission project, contact Larry Griswold (larrygris@gmail.com).

NEWSLETTER We are working on a **Winter Edition of the Newsletter** with a submission deadline of **January 24th.** Please send any articles or other content suggestions to Andrew in the church office.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS We meet **Sundays at 9:30 in the Adult Ed room**. The book that we are currently focusing on is John Pavlovitz's Worth Fighting For: Finding Courage & Compassion When Cruelty is Trending. This book seems particularly relevant in these days in which we are living. Contact Beth Meriwether (828-777-2867) with any questions. All are welcome.

TOGATHER Beginning on Tuesday, January 14 we will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month through May at 1:30 PM in the chapel parlor. Please know that all are welcome and there are no expectations. This is a time to build and strengthen relationships, spend some time in quiet reflection and prayer, learn and practice calming and relaxation skills, and share resources. January would be a great time to begin. Contact Beth Meriwether (828-777-2867) for information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Greeters welcome worshipers, offer bulletins and other worship resources to guests, and assist with after-service cleanup.
Liturgists typically lead the Call to Worship, offer the Prayer for Illumination and the First Reading, and lead the Affirmation of Faith. All texts are supplied to readers.
Coffee-Hour Hosts make coffee (provided by the church), and put out snacks, juice, and water. (Hosts may choose to use snacks at the church or bring refreshments to share.) Hosts have access to the parlor kitchen for clean up. Susan Daugherty and the Congregation Life Team are available to answer questions or provide assistance.

WWPC 2025 BUDGET There is still time for last minute stewardship commitments to be included in the WWPC 2025 final budget. Submitting a commitment form or contacting receiving treasurer Brent Roberts by Sunday January 19 will ensure that all commitments will be included in the 2025 budget to be approved at the Session meeting on January 21. The budget team wishes to express our thanks for the generosity of this congregation which sustains the church's operations and mission to the wider community.

Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WarrenWilsonPC WarrenWilsonPresbyterianChurch @WarrenWilsonPC

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!