

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

BAPTISM of THE LORD

GATHERING

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome all to the Service of the Lord's Day. This Sunday is recognized as the Baptism of the Lord.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, Holy Spirit, fill this place

All: Shower this place with the water of Your Son's Baptism to renew and restore our relationship with God.

One: Come, Holy Spirit, into our hearts and minds.

All: Shower our hearts and minds with the water of Your Son's Baptism to renew and restore our relationship with God.

Come, Holy Spirit, come!

***OPENING HYMN** “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” GtG 610

1. **O for a thousand tongues to sing
my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of God's grace!**
2. **The name of Jesus charms our fears,
and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears,
brings life, and health, and peace.**
3. **Christ speaks, and listening to his voice
new life the dead receive;
the mournful waken to rejoice;
the poor in heart believe.**

(continued)

4. **My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of thy name.**
5. **To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heaven.**

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl Gotthelf Glaser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839
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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

“Why do you bother, Jesus, when we are so certain that we can create life for ourselves?

When we try to pretend that we aren’t frightened of those different from us, that we aren’t driven by our insecurities and greed, that we aren’t overwhelmed by life and its challenges?

Why do you still come to us?

Why do you send us your messengers?

Why do you invite us into the water to be refreshed, washed, and changed?

Why do you embrace stables and crosses to offer yourself as Shepherd to the lost sheep we are?

Somehow, it seems, in ways that we may never understand you really are a God of infinite grace;

Somehow, your judgement and your grace are not opposites, but expressions of the same surprising reality,

That you always seek to save, to restore, to renew; that your forgiveness and your commandments together offer us a way to be fully alive.”

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Unison: Lord, thank You for Your Forgiveness and Love for all of us, as demonstrated in Your Son's Birth and Baptism. We can hear you saying, "This is my daughter and son, my beloveds, with whom I am well pleased." We are forgiven!

THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.
All: And also with you.

(From your seat, a brief sign of peace may be shared: a wave of the hand, a nod of the head, etc.)

*HYMN "God Is Here!" GtG 409 (Verse 1)

1. God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.

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THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to hear Your Almighty Word, so that we may be transformed by it. In the Name of Jesus, the Christ, we pray.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament: Isaiah 42:1–9 (NRSV)

GOSPEL:

New Testament Acts 10:34-43 (NRSV)

SERMON "A Lit Path to Righteousness" by Rev. Paula Cooper

*HYMN “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” GtG 119 (*Verses 1&2*)

1. **Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with the th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

(Refrain)

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

2. **Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see;
Hail the th'incarnate deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.**

(Refrain)

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855; *Public Domain*.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*The Nicene Creed*)

**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.**

(continued...)

For us and for our salvation

He came down from heaven.
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

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,

who with the Father and the Son

is worshiped and glorified,

who 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.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Prayer of Dedication*

Lord, use these offerings and us as we offer ourselves in this Eucharist to build Your Kingdom...

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table –

All who are grateful for God's Son, whether from the East, West, North, or South; no matter what our economic and social background, are welcome to this Banquet Table where Christ is the Host.

(continued...)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
One: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to the Lord.
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(The prayer continues...)

The Lord's Prayer (Contemporary)

Our Father, who art in Heaven,
hallowed be Your Name,
Your Kingdom come,
Your Will be done,
on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the Kingdom, the Power,
and the Glory are Yours
Now and forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

“Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’”²⁵ In the same way, he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).”

Communion of the People

(With the passing of the bread, please wait until all have been served so that all may partake together, reflecting our unity in Christ.)

(With the passing of the cup, please partake as soon as received as an expression of our personal relationship with Christ.)

Prayer -

Father God, let this meal be transformative for our hearts and minds, so that we may walk with the Light of the Word, Your Son, Jesus, the Christ!

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” GtG 119 (*Verses 3&4*)

3. Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.

(Refrain)

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

4. Come, Desire of nations, come!

Fix in us Thy humble home:
Rise, the woman’s conqu’ring seed,
Bruise in us the serpent’s head;
Adam’s likeness now efface,
Stamp Thine image in its place;
Second Adam from above;
Reinstate us in Thy love.

(Refrain)

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

POSTLUDE