



Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church
Baptism of the Lord Sunday, Year B
<http://www.lectionarypage.net/index.html>
10 January 2021

Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, welcome home, children of God. The Lord be with you.

Announcements

1. Most in-person activities, including gathering for Sunday morning worship, remain suspended.
2. Reminder—we are still collecting food items for the Greene County Food Bank.
3. Next session meeting—Sunday, January 17, 1:00; newly elected elders will be installed.
4. Begin worship by observing a few moments of silent reflection to quiet heart and mind before God and to notice ways God's presence and faithfulness have been made known to you in the last week. Please email or call Pastor Chris to add what you have noticed to the prayer list so that we all might be edified and encouraged.

Call to Worship

In the beginning, darkness covered the deep, and God said: Let there be light.
The voice of the Lord is over the waters!
Through the words of the prophet, the Lord said: When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you.
The voice of the Lord is over the waters!
Do not fear, says the Lord; I am with you. I have called you by name; you are mine.
The voice of the Lord is over the waters!
When Jesus was baptized by John, suddenly the heavens were opened.
The voice of the Lord is over the waters!
And as Jesus was coming out of the water, the Spirit of God rested on him like a dove.
The voice of the Lord is over the waters!
And a voice said: You are by beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.
The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Opening Prayer

Eternal God, at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan you 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; for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

+ + + LITURGY OF THE WORD + + +

Prayer for Illumination

Saving God, your Word is full of power and glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that we may receive your grace and live as your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading:

Mark 1:4-11

Sermon:

It's about Time

Prayers of the People

(Our prayers matter. Take some time for intercessory prayer.)

(Timber Ridge's prayer list is provided on the last page of this document.)

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Most Holy and Merciful God,

How do we even begin to pray right now? We can pray for our nation. We can pray for the families of those who died on Epiphany in Washington. We can pray for our presidents and vice presidents. We can pray for lawmakers. We can pray for our law enforcement, military, and first responders. We can pray for our children, and their future. We can pray for enemies across the globe and across the aisle.

Yes, we can pray these things; and indeed, we do. But Lord, if our prayers are words alone, they will do little more than clutter the air and numb our minds with lament, anxiety, fury, and sanctimony. And they will never be enough.

So, give human ears our prayers, O God. Help us to listen to those with whom we so passionately disagree. Help us to do more than to "agree to disagree," for that is simply to quit listening, to write off others as not worth our time, our effort, our honesty and love. And we have so thoroughly written off 'the other' these days that contempt has become a norm. And contempt is a fatal deafness.

Give human eyes to our prayers, O God. Help us to see beyond appearances. Help us to search our hearts and the hearts of others the way the Magi searched the skies and trusted what they saw. Help us to see the signs of your presence in a hurting and hurtful world and in all the lives around us—black lives, brown lives, white lives, poor lives, sick lives, comfortable lives, young lives, old lives, grateful and gracious lives, terrified and angry lives. If we cannot see the holiness of the lives around us, we cannot see it in ourselves. And not to see You in ourselves and in others is a fatal blindness.

Give human hands and feet to our prayers, O God. Help us to unclench our fists and to reach out in humble service to those most wounded by our communal pride, and greed, and fear. And help us to serve. Help us to follow Jesus, to trust Jesus, to love him and to share him, to walk where he walks. This is hard, and for some of us almost impossible, for our culture, even our Christmas culture, tells us that we are entitled to material excess and to violence. But these are the enticements of the world's selfish Caesars and brutal Herods who tempt us with shiny things, with mawkish platitudes, and promises of greatness and glory—things that must be held, carried, and protected with the hands and feet you have given us for lives of embodied prayer. To give into those temptations is to lose the reach of arm and hand, and the carriage of leg and foot. And such inaction is a fatal paralysis.

And Lord, give to our prayers the beating, fearless, human heart of Jesus who did not shy away from truth-telling, from challenging those who led the temple with self-serving piety, and from vexing those who led Jerusalem with resentment and intimidation. Saturate our hearts with your

Christ that they may push his own life-giving breath, your Holy Spirit, through our arteries and veins that we may raise our voices for peace, for righteousness, for justice, and equality throughout the earth and throughout this Creation which is so shaken, troubled, holy, and good. For not to live courageously and not to speak prophetically is a fatal silence.

God, help us make our prayers more than words. Help us make our prayers our living, our doing, our seeing, our hearing, and our speaking. Help us to claim our Belovedness in Christ, and to acknowledge that same Belovedness in all that you have made. Turn us that we might follow Jesus as his humble disciples, as redeemed and redeeming servants, and as loving neighbors.

Lord in your mercy, do more than hear our prayer. Resurrect us into embodied prayers for ourselves, our families, our neighbors, our communities, our nation, your Church, and your world. Amen. [A prayer from Allen Huff, pastor of Jonesborough Presbyterian Church]

Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

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Offering**

Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Eternal God, we praise you for your love in Jesus Christ, who came to heal this broken world. We give ourselves to you. Amen.

Blessing

May the peace of God guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Contact information for Rev. Dr. Christine T. Bohn, Interim Pastor:
cell # (423) 329-5822 [when in Greeneville]; home # (423) 487-5400; no texts.
email addresses: bohnchristine@rocketmail.com or pastorchris@trpctn.org.

**The ministry and mission of Timber Ridge continues. Please continue to give as the Lord leads, so that Timber Ridge can meet expenses and have resources to help in time of need. Tithes and offerings can be mailed directly to the receiving treasurer, Marilyn Brumley.

Food Bank: January – canned pinto beans

Samaritan's Purse: January – gloves, hats, scarves

+ + + INTERCESSORY PRAYER LIST (1/10/21) + + +

Prayer Requests

Ashton – health concerns
Ethan S. – protection & provision; awaiting results of final court appeal
Tenisha – home from hospital
Margie L. - health & well-being
Edwina C. - health & well-being
Tony B. - health & well-being
Doyle E. - health
Carroll H. - health
Ed B. (Beth's dad) - health/well-being
Ken & Inge H. - health
Family & friends grieving deaths –
Kortnee – adjusting to life at home
Brian – receiving treatment
Vicki's mom – health concerns
Joanne H. – health
Classmate of Blair's – non-Hodgkins lymphoma
Caregivers
Teresa – home recovering from surgery
Patricia R. – lung cancer has recurred
Micah B. – protection & provision
Katie – provision and guidance

Praise Reports

Kortnee has moved home
A gratitude pumpkin
Manna from heaven...in many ways
Bennie—praises for measure of healing and vehicle
Celebrating the life of Barbara Lambert

Peggy – eye health
Those looking for work
All aspects of the coronavirus pandemic
Kathleen B. - health
Vicki T. – health
Amy – health
Judy – health
Maria (Chris' niece) – debilitating nerve pain; doing a bit better
Julie (Chris' niece) – cancer; returning to work (online) in January
John B. – rescued little girl from possible drowning at great cost to his own health; home from hospital
Anonymous family – needs prayers
Andy – a difficult divorce
Bennie – continuing to improve
Dave – treatments for leukemia; also pray for wife Nickie
Friends who have tested positive for Covid
A friend starting chemo for stage 4 leukemia
Anthony – torn bicep tendon; recovering from surgery
Darwin J. – seriously ill, in hospital

Please email/phone (or post on the online forum) new prayer requests and praise reports, as well as updates, to Pastor Chris so that they can be added to this list. Thanks!