

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**Baptism of the Lord**  
**January 12, 2025**  
**10:30 AM**

PRELUDE *Down to the River/Shall We Gather at the River?* Pepper Choplin  
Mary Jo Cox, piano

WORDS OF GREETING

One: I am with you, says the Lord.

**All: Do not fear.**

One: I have called you by name.

**All: Do not fear.**

One: You are mine.

**All: Do not fear.**

WELCOME

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mark Cox

One: Holy Triune God, author of community,  
come baptize us.

**All: Remind us what it means  
to belong to one another.**

One: God who tears the heavens, come baptize us.

**All: Reveal to us your power that ushers  
in new realms.**

One: God who calls us beloved, come baptize us.

**All: Declare to us your great delight  
and hold us in your pleasure.**

One: God of vulnerability, come baptize us.

**All: Welcome us into the paradox  
of strength that comes from weakness.**

One: Together, let us remember this day.

**All: In the Creator's love we are held,  
into Christ's body we are baptized,  
and by the Spirit's power, we are  
claimed. All glory to God. Amen.**

\*HYMN No. 475

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

\*CALL TO CONFESSION  
(Silent Confession)

\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We are precious in your sight, yet we often forget that we are beloved. We confess that our love is fickle and inconsistent. We follow selfish goals and deny that our way of life harms others and hurts your world. We are sorry and we want to change. Create in us a clean heart, strengthen our resolve, reconcile us one to another, and bless us with your peace. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

\*RESPONSE No. 143                      *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*                      (v.4)  
**All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king!**

CHILDREN'S OFFERING; BLESSING

**Congregation:     May the Lord go with you as you  
                              worship and learn together.**

Children:             May the Lord be with you as you  
                              worship here.

**Congregation:     Go in peace.**

Children:             We go in peace. Amen.

*During the response to the Passing of the Peace, newborns through 5th grade are invited to come forward to the chancel steps for the blessing. After the blessing, they will be dismissed to the Nursery and to the Children's Worship Center in the lower level for the Children and Worship time. Please pick up your child from the Nursery or Worship Center when they have finished their time of worship.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Psalm 1*  
Mark Cox, tuba

Emma Lou Diemer

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

“What Might We Learn from Jesus’ Baptism?”

Andrew Miller

Question of the day: What does baptism mean to you?

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.15*

**God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God’s love. Amen.**

\*HYMN No. 482

*Baptized in Water*

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(If you have a prayer of concern or joy, please text 989-954-3297.)*

MORNING PRAYER AND 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 sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*HYMN No. 408

*There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*The purpose of the meeting is to approve the Pastor's Terms of Call, endorse the 2025 Budget, and approve the Corporate Officers of the church for 2025.*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE No. 748 *Go With Us, Lord*

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way  
through this and every coming day,  
That in your Spirit strong and true  
our lives may be our gift to you.**

\*POSTLUDE

*Come, Thou Fount*

Jason D. Payne

\*NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS, SO GO IN PEACE AND SERVE THE LORD

Notes:

Worship Leaders: Mary Jo Cox; Mark Cox; Andrew Miller

The Prayers and Concern of the Congregation are extended to:  
Jennifer Miller Sheffield (Andrew Miller's sister), Kolton Hutson, J T Schmitt (Barb Lindley's son-in-law), Nick Baker, Wendy Shugert, Mike McNabb, Scott Campbell (Andrew & Martha Miller's friend), Betty Gempel, Jillian & Flynn Gray, Martha Loubert (sister-in-law of John, Pete, and Sheri Loubert), Lois Miller, Jaime Love (brother of Kevin Love), Louisa Ellis (Jeff & Cam Ellis granddaughter), Olivia Geisthardt (friend of Anna Clare Miller), Suzanne Hand, Charles Loubert, Jim Gilbert, Verna Russell, Lois Kerr, Sarah Gilbert, Joyce McNabb, Lavona Osborne, Cathy Chang, Juan Lopez, and Noah Lapp, Vowles Elementary, First Presbyterian Church of Maple Ridge, Twining, MI, United Church of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, and the Food Pantry of Community Compassion Network.

### Offering

If you are joining us for worship in-person and would like to give an offering, please place your offering in an offering plate. You can also give your pledge, per capita payment, or offering by mailing it to the church office: First Presbyterian Church, 1250 Watson Road, Mt. Pleasant, 48858. You can also give an offering by going to the church's website, [www@fpcmp.org](http://www@fpcmp.org) and hit the "Give Now" button or use the QR Code,



### **American Red Cross Blood Drive at First Presbyterian Church**

In the Witherspoon Room  
Saturday, January 25, 2025  
9AM-2PM

Sign up by going to the following link

[Schedule a Blood, Platelet or Plasma Donation | American Red Cross](#) or scanning the QR Code.



### **Called Congregational Meeting**

The Session has Called a Congregational Meeting today, Sunday, January 12 at the end of the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the Pastor's Terms of Call, endorse the 2025 Budget, and approve the Corporate Officers of the church for 2025.