



# First Memorial Presbyterian Church of Dover

*Small enough to know you, big enough to care!*

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**January 8, 2023—BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

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-A TIME TO GATHER-

**Preparation for Worship, Including Prelude** *- Rachel Persenaire*

***Please be still and prepare your hearts to worship God...***

**PLEASE**

TALK TO GOD in PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP.  
WAIT TO TALK TO FRIENDS until AFTER WORSHIP.

**Call to Worship:**

*- Rachel Persenaire*

One: *In the beginning, at creation,  
the Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep.*

*In the waters of the flood, God cleansed the earth and humankind.*

**All: God caused the waters to part  
so that Israel could cross from slavery to liberation.**

**One: God formed Jesus in the waters of Mary's womb.  
Jesus taught us how to live by washing his disciples' feet in water...**

**All: Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, The Christ.  
God meant for Jesus to be the firstborn in a large family,  
(and as his large family, we worship him: the Son of God).**

- Adapted from "Call to Worship" as found in FEASTING ON THE WORD, WORSHIP COMPANION for year A, Vol. 1,  
© 2013 by Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, KY. Page 45.

**Praise Song:**

"O Church Arise (Arise Shine)"

**- Rachel Persenaire**

- Tomlin/Getty/Getty

**-A TIME FOR GRACE-**

**Call to Confession:**

**- Alan R. Schaefer**

**Prayer of Confession:**

**- Alan R. Schaefer**

**Declaration of Forgiveness:**

**- Alan R. Schaefer**

**\*A Disciple's Response No. 592:**

- Thomas Ken, 1693, 1709

"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.**

**\*Affirmation of Faith:**

- A portion of Chapt 8 of THE SCOTS CONFESSION, Book of Confessions  
which is Volume One of the Constitution of the P. C. U. S. A.

**That same eternal God and Father,  
who by grace alone chose us in his Son Christ Jesus  
before the foundation of the world was laid,  
appointed him to be our head, our brother, our pastor,  
and the great bishop of our souls.**

**But since the opposition  
between the justice of God and our sins was such that  
no flesh by itself could or might have attained unto God,**

*it behooved the Son of God to descend unto us  
and take himself a body of our body, flesh of our flesh,  
and bone of our bone,  
and so become the Mediator between God and (his children),  
giving power to as many as believe in him  
to be the sons (and daughters) of God... Amen.*

**\*Celebrating the Peace Jesus Came to Bring:** - Alan R. Schaefer

One: *The peace of Christ be with you all!*

All: *And also with you!*

One: *Remaining in the place where you now stand,  
please greet one another and proclaim God's peace,  
continuing this practice with all you meet or speak to  
this coming week.*

- Written by Alan R. Schaefer, 2021.

## -A TIME FOR INSPIRATION-

### **Children's Message**

- Megan Berg

### **Sung Prayer for Illumination:**

- Rachel Persenaire

*Jesus, name above all names  
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.  
Emmanuel, God is with us  
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.*

- © 1974, 1978 by MARANATHA MUSIC. All rights reserved.

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THE HYMNAL FOR WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION, No. 112.

### **The Lesson:**

- Megan Berg

*Today's lesson is taken from  
the Gospel According to Matthew,  
chapter 3, verses 13 thru 17.*

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to "the Church..."*

- Revelation 2:7

<sup>13</sup> *Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan,  
to be baptized by him.*

<sup>14</sup> *John would have prevented him, saying,*

***“I need to be baptized by you,  
and do you come to me?”***

***15 But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now;  
for it is proper for us in this way  
to fulfill all righteousness.”***

***Then he consented.***

***16 And when Jesus had been baptized,  
just as he came up from the water,  
suddenly the heavens were opened to him  
and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove  
and alighting on him.***

***17 And a voice from heaven said,  
“This is my Son, the Beloved,  
with whom I am well pleased.”***

– NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION Bible (a Translation),  
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One: ***The Word of the Lord.***

All: ***Thanks be to God.***

***Meditation:*** “Commencement” ***- Alan R. Schaefer***

Text: Matthew 3: <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus had been baptized,  
just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he  
saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

## -WE CELEBRATE GOD’S GLORY-

***Call For The Offering:*** ***- Alan R. Schaefer***

***Prayer of Dedication:*** ***- Alan R. Schaefer***

***Choir Offertory:*** ***- Rachel Persenaire***

“What Child is This” - Unknown

## **Joys and Concerns**

### **Prayers of & for the People, & Lord's Prayer...**

#### **Heavenly Father...**

**—whenever we say...**

**...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,  
forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.**

**Lead us not into temptation, deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory  
forever. Amen.**

## **-WE GOD'S "GOOD NEWS" TO THE WORLD-**

### **\*Hymn of Parting No. 70:**

**"Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized" - F. Bland Tucker, 1979**

### **\*Benediction:**

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**THE NEXT LORD'S DAY CELEBRATION  
OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION  
WILL BE ON FEBRUARY 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

***FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS,***  
***IN AN ATTEMPT TO KEEP OUR NATURAL GAS BILL DOWN***  
***DURING THE COLDER MONTHS,***  
***OUR WORSHIP SERVICES WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE CHAPEL***  
***UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.***  
***PLEASE ENTER THE BUILDING USING THE EAST TOWER DOORS.***  
***THE LIFT IN THE WEST CAR PORT WILL NOT BE OPERATIONAL***  
***DURING THIS TIME, BUT THE CHAIR LIFT IN THE EAST TOWER***  
***WILL PROVIDE EASY ACCESS FOR THOSE NEEDING***  
***ASSISTANCE NAVIGATING THE STAIRS.***